

Workshop Proposal for SACLA 2010

Relevancy of ACM Curriculum for IS Postgraduate Courses in South Africa

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Higher education is an expensive process and the rate of success is often directly related to resources available and the quality of those resources. Resources in IS education are very often a limited and expensive commodity in many countries. Hence, it is important to use the limited resources wisely in order to develop an effective teaching environment.

Like the other four computing disciplines (Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Information Technology, and Software Engineering), the ACM has developed undergraduate and graduate curriculum recommendations for Information Systems. However, these recommendations have been developed mainly for the conditions of the USA and the ACM makes a caveat for the global viability of them; because requirements, resource availability and culture can be quite different in other parts of the world.

We are planning to conduct a workshop in SACLA to start discussing about developing a postgraduate Information Systems curriculum for the conditions of South Africa. To this end, we will distribute a pilot survey instrument to the participants in the workshop. The survey instrument will contain the courses and their brief contents for the proposed curriculum that has been developed based on the ACM recommendation. The workshop participants will be asked to mark the importance of each course for a postgraduate IS program as well as the availability of teaching resources such as qualified instructors and physical amenities. Additionally, they will be requested to add any other courses that they see appropriate. The survey instrument will then be finalized and sent to the IS lecturers in the country. The responses will be analyzed to develop a postgraduate IS curriculum for the conditions of South Africa along with the importance and resource availability for each course.