



KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT
LEUVEN

The Faculty Senate

Challenges, Opportunities and Experiences in engaging with corporate representatives

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The Faculty Senate

- 1. Visitation conclusions
- 2. The Faculty Senate
- 3. Recommendations made by the Senate
- 4. Assimilation of the advices by the faculty
- 5. And further on...





1. Visitation Conclusions 2006

- explicitly positive with respect to the quality of the programs
- urge to make far reaching choices





Choice: width of coverage or profundity of content

- Up to now, education in BSE is characterized by very broad coverage of disciplines and subjects
- The recent evolution in led to unprecedented changes in terms of speed and impact
- Traditional disciplines should perhaps be left out in order to create room for new ones



Choice for social skills and new pedagogical methods

- Choice for competences that belong to the affective domain of social skills
- Choice for new ways of transferring knowledge
- Focus on the requirements needed for a professional career in a predefined sector



Choice suggestions

- rationalize the programs and reduce the number of options
- educate people who are able to realize the link between science, technology and economy at a time of converging disciplines, with special attention for sustainability
- By:
 - practical training in an industrial context
 - management skills
 - internationalization of the master programs
 - new pedagogical methods of knowledge transfer and acquisition



2. The Faculty Senate

- a group of leading representatives of different industries and institutions
- Structured framework that offers criteria for:
 - successful education
 - suitable answers relating to social questions
 - guidelines for
 - the design of research projects
 - the valorization of research results
 - for the realization of industrial practical trainings.



The Senate as an official organ

- described in the faculty reglementation as an advisory board
- the president is invited member of the board of the faculty and of the faculty council
- structural guaranty that the advices become clearly heard and considered



3. Recommendations made by the senate

- Starting from obvious evolutions
- Advised implications and possible actions





Obvious evolutions

- education in bioscience engineering is still focused on 'agriculture'
- feed and food recently show different accents
- biotechnology and molecular genetics play a larger part
- 'Engineering' becomes used in a new sense
- University education more focused on complementary disciplines and general competences
- to assimilate 'the state of the art' will in the future only be possible within the boundaries of a rather narrow specialization



Advised implications and possible actions

- Bioscience engineering should be defined in the broader perspective of bio-engineering, including biotechnology.
- education in bioscience engineering covers subsectors with a varying grade of exclusivity
- educational oversupply should be rationalized
- Profundity of the basic disciplines should be conserved and room should be created for acquiring general competences
- Alternative pedagogical methods have to be introduced more extensively in the programs
- Education in general competences and social skills has to be integrated in the master program
- Special attention to the required staff and succession perspectives
- The new vision on the profile of the bioscience engineer for the coming era needs to be brought out by an adapted strategy



4. Assimilation of the advices of the senate by the faculty

- The minor master study program in management skills (2008): 20 ECTS credits, 4 units:
- small business project
- communication skills
- leadership capabilities
- the context of leadership
- Rationalization of the study programs
 - » Bachelor 2010
 - » Master 2013





5. And further on...

- The Senate will
 - elaborate a vision on the profile of bioscience engineering
 - evaluate the proposals about the reduction of the master programs
 - give attention to the mutual interdependence of the faculty and the research departments

