

Business Psychology Programme Committee Meeting
MINUTES
Rīga

20 December 2023

No. 23/6-2/3

Note: This internal RISEBA working document has been translated into English with AI support for EFQM assessment purposes, to provide a general overview of its content. Minor terminological inaccuracies may occur.

Meeting begins: 17:30

The meeting is chaired by: Valērijs Dombrovskis, Director of the 'Business Psychology' study programme;
Minutes taken by: Arita Veismane, Administrator of the Quality Department.

In attendance:

RISEBA representative:

Galina Zilgalve, Head of the External Relations Department, Mg.hrm.;
Dr Nellija Titova, Vice-Rector for Development.

RISEBA academic staff:

Associate Professor, Dr.psych. Solveiga Blumberga.

Employer representatives:

Liena Dumarane, HR Manager and Supervisor at SIA "Latakko", Mg.sc.administr.

Students on the programme:

Part-time (evening) student on the academic Bachelor's degree programme in 'Business Psychology'
Elviss Ozols;

part-time (distance learning) student on the academic Bachelor's degree programme in 'Business Psychology'
Elīna Sitenkova.

Not participating:

RISEBA academic staff:

RISEBA lecturer, Dr Jūlija Žakemo, Drsc.administr.

Graduates:

Alona Volodjko, graduate of the academic Bachelor's degree programme in 'Business Psychology';
Kristina Mironova, graduate of the academic Bachelor's degree programme in 'Business Psychology'.

Current students on the programme:

Viesturs Dupurs, a full-time student on the academic Bachelor's degree programme in 'Business Psychology'

Agenda:

1. Review and approval of the self-assessment report for the "Business Psychology" degree programme;
2. Review and approval of content changes to the modules 'Coursework in Business Psychology I' and 'Coursework in Business Psychology II' within the Bachelor's degree programme in Business Psychology.

1. Self-evaluation report for the "Business Psychology" study programme;

Contents of the report.

The programme director familiarised the meeting participants with the contents of the self-evaluation report.

2. Changes to the content of the modules 'Coursework in Business Psychology I' and 'Coursework in Business Psychology II' within the Bachelor's degree programme in 'Business Psychology'.

Contents of the report.

The Programme Director, V. Dombrovskis, outlined how both modules are currently being delivered and pointed out that, at present, they do not facilitate the development of the knowledge, skills and competences required to produce high-quality final-year projects.

V. Dombrovskis pointed out that the aim of the changes to the content of the study modules “Coursework in Business Psychology I” and “Coursework in Business Psychology II” is to distribute the scope of research skills to be learnt more rationally amongst students in their first and second years of study, as well as to improve the quality of final-year projects. The programme director proposed that,

- the first year of study be devoted entirely to research design – identifying the problem, conducting a literature review and developing the research design
- in the second year, to focus on developing the methodology for the theory-based practical component and conducting a pilot study.

In this way, in the first year of study, students would have the opportunity to focus more seriously on working with databases and analysing the literature, whilst in the second year they could devote more attention to the selection and development of empirical methods.

Discussion.

Elīna Sitenkova: welcomes the planned changes. She points out that the course ‘Coursework in Business Psychology I’ currently requires students to do things they have not yet learnt, and it is unclear what is expected of them. It would be beneficial to schedule the course “Scientific Research and Data Processing Methods” immediately before this course. The student supports the idea that, when carrying out practical research in the second year of study, the work should not be linked to a specific company.

Elvis Ozols: noted that the dropout rate in the second year would decrease. Students are unable to complete their first-year project and take a break from their studies.

Solveiga Blumberga: supports the changes and agrees that this could improve the quality of students’ final-year projects. The lecturer mentioned that project supervisors need to be informed about the new changes.

Valērijs Dombrovskis: stated that thesis supervisors will be briefed on the changes as soon as the course description and syllabus have been finalised. The course syllabus is being developed by the Head of the Business Programme, M. Veide.

Liena Dumarane: is not sure whether first-year students already know what they wish to research in their final-year dissertation.

Valērijs Dombrovskis explained that the idea was drawn from an experience-sharing visit (as part of the Erasmus+ programme) to the partner institution, the Estonian Business School, in Estonia. Estonian colleagues noted that approximately 30%–40% of students know what they wish to research. The programme director explained that the changes aim to teach specific skills, foster conceptual thinking and encourage structured work; therefore, the changes will be beneficial both to students who know what they wish to study and to those who have not yet decided.

At a meeting of the ‘Business Psychology’ study programme council, it was decided:

1. To approve the programme description for the ‘Business Psychology’ study programme for the 2022/2023 academic year.
2. To approve the content changes to the courses ‘Coursework in Business Psychology I’ and ‘Coursework in Business Psychology II’ within the ‘Business Psychology’ Bachelor’s degree programme and, as part of a pilot project, commence the development of the course “Study Project I”, incorporating the new idea.

The meeting ended at 18:10

Chair of the meeting

Valērijs Dombrovskis

Minutes taken by

Arita Veismane