



Special Interest Group

Business Analysis In Higher Education Organisations

Facilitated by: Christina Lovelock, University of Leeds

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THE CONVERSATION

The BA Managers Forum has introduced several Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The Higher Education SIG was well attended, 12 forum members from 9 Universities were joined in conversation by 2 forum members from other sectors.

CHALLENGES FACING BAS IN HE?

- Speed of decision making
- Levels and numbers of boards
- Variation in ways of working across the organisation
- Legacy IT, often unmanaged/ unsupported by IT function
- Understanding priorities.

HE AND AGILE DEVELOPMENT?

About half of our organisations are trying to use Agile, with appropriate Product Owners and existing governance structures cited as key challenges. The **University of Manchester** highlighted that a consortium of Manchester and Liverpool institutions are developing an Agile framework to aid the adoption of agile in HE.

HOW DO WE ENGAGE WITH STUDENTS?

Generally, organisations reported limited interactions with students – both in terms of student engagement in our projects and opportunities to contribute to relevant taught modules as practicing IT/ business change professionals. **Cardiff University** shared interesting and inspiring initiatives in both these areas, which were presented at IRM UK BA Europe Conference last year.

We agreed that this has benefits to students, BAs and our organisations and should be encouraged more widely.

WHAT ARE BAS WORKING ON?

Most BA practices sit within IT functions, but identified a range of projects BAs are involved in including: IT, business change, strategy development, estates. **Sheffield Hallam University**, where BA sits in central change function indicated the breadth of work BAs are involved in.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Most institutions are encouraging the development of BAs, supporting them to work towards the BCS International Diploma in Business Analysis.

WHAT NETWORKING DO WE HAVE?

We discussed that UCISA is not currently providing many opportunities in the BA space but **City University** are facilitating a HE BA Forum, current membership mainly centred around London/ the south. The positive response to this forum highlights the desire for BAs to share knowledge and create networks across the sector.

We felt that co-operation and collaboration between BA practices across organisations is incredibly beneficial and should be encouraged.

HIRING OUR OWN

Few organisations were offering BA Graduate schemes/ early career roles – but all felt this was a missed opportunity.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

To register your interest in attending a future BA Manager Forum event visit:

www.bamanagerforum.org/membership