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Advisory Board Collaboration for Curriculum Relevance in Higher Education – Experiences from Stockholm University’s HR Programs

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Muntlig presentation

Abstract

Bridging higher education and professional practice is vital for preparing graduates for today’s dynamic labor market (Pérez Zúñiga, Martínez García, & Oliva Ibarra, 2025). Research highlights the role of structured dialogue between academia and employers, including advisory boards, in connecting disciplinary knowledge with employability skills (Mello, 2019). At Stockholm University, the bachelor’s and master’s programs in Personnel, Work and Organization collaborate with an advisory board hosted by the Swedish HR Association. The board includes CEOs, HR directors, HR specialists, three program coordinators, and a student representative. Meeting twice a year, the board identifies emerging trends in the HR profession, including artificial intelligence, digitalization, and shifting workplace practices. Insights from these discussions inform curriculum development, ensuring the programs remain relevant for students, employers, and society. By aligning intended learning outcomes with skills valued in the labor market, the collaboration strengthens students’ employability. The partnership also fosters mutual knowledge transfer: practitioners gain insights into academic perspectives, while faculty and students benefit from practice-informed expertise. This dynamic exchange supports continuous program renewal and bridges the gap between theory and practice, as advisory boards have been shown to help align curriculum with industry expectations and enhance student outcomes (Zahra, Newey, & Shaver, 2011). This presentation will share experiences from our HR programs’ advisory board collaboration and reflect on broader implications for curriculum development in higher education.

References

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