Annual Report Programme Committee Applied Mathematics Academic year 2017-2018

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1 Programme Committee

1.1 Members

During the academic year 2017/2018 the program committee Applied Mathematics consisted of the following members;

Employees. Hil Meijer (Chair), Peter Dickinson, Gjerrit Meinsma, Judith Timmer

Students. Dieuwertje Alblas, Femke Boelens, Douwe Hut, Lotte Weedage

In addition the meetings are attended by the programme director (J.W. Polderman), the bachelor coordinator (Y. Veenstra), the master coordinator (M. van Grinsven) and the education officer of Abacus, Mariya Karlashchuk. Dickinson, Hut and Boelens were new members appointed in September 2017.

During a meeting with the chairman they were informed about the goal and the rights of the PC. Students discuss agenda items together before the meeting.

1.2 Communication

The staff represents the different groups within the department. Anything specific to a chair will therefor naturally be communicated within, to and from the chair. Students would discuss important items within the student association Abacus. They have a lunch meeting every year to recruit new members and to tell what the PC is about to all AM-students. They are certainly known to their peers as advice 125 was brought up by the students.

2   Meetings

We assembled seven times during the academic year.

Meeting	Main items
3 Oct 2017	(without PD) Validity of results, bachelor assignment, course evaluations (panel meetings and Mastermath)
28 Nov 2017	(without PD) Join-in minors, description Internship, Evaluation module 12 and Mastermath, Wet Versterking Bestuurskracht
23 Jan 2018	Panel meetings
13 Mar 2018	Master track Data Science, course description Spatial Statistics, Quality Agenda Ministry OCW, Evaluations, changes in Modules 1-5, level of English
24 Apr 2018	Master TER, coursed offered by SOR
29 May 2018	Bachelor and Master TER
19 Jun 2018	Discussions on course descriptions for Modules 1-5, Scientific Computing and Deep Learning and the Bachelor assignment. Several panel evaluations.

3   Advices and Recommendations

It should be noted that the Dutch "advies" as a legal term, still has no proper translation.

3.1   Asked

120   Advice on Teaching- and Examination Regulations (OER) B-AM 2017-2018
A special clause regarding the validity of results was added to the TER. This was approved.

121   Advice on executing the Bachelor Assignment during the first semester
The bachelor assignment may be executed during the first semester for the current academic year. The PC wanted to see a short evaluation afterwards. This evaluation was discussed in June 2018.

123   Advice on Join-in Minors
We agreed with a more extensive list of options for AM-students to choose for their minor.

126   Advice on the name for the CROHO registration B-AM
We agreed with swapping the Dutch and English name for the programme. Now only the English will come on the final diploma.

127   Advice on the new M1 – M5 curriculum B-AM
As two modules had to get swapped in the programme, several topics had to be redistributed. The PD asked for an advice. While we got a global description, we also wanted to see how things worked out more specifically. Our advice was two-fold; go ahead developing this, but also provide details when the draft-TER is discussed. These details never came during this academic year.

128   Advice on the Statistics Reader
Teaching material of the Statistics course was inadequate and commented upon previously, see also documents PC meeting 25-4-2016. The current reader was already better, but we advised

as students wished to improve the reader even more, i.e. less chaotic. The lecturer has made textual changes for the year 2018-19.

129 Advice on the Data Science Track

We gave a positive advice on the description of the new track, but we wanted to see better course descriptions for two new courses that should be part of it. The track was incorporated into the master-TER. We got new descriptions of the two courses, see below.

130 Advice language courses in the minor

We gave a positive advice on adding such possibility, e.g. Japanese, with the provision for the Exam Committee that ECTS should only be given if a concrete test was taken and passed.

131 Advice Bachelor TER 2018

We advised positively on the Bachelor TER noting some minor inconsistencies. We got the correct info later.

132 Advice Master TER 2018

We advised positively on the Master TER which involved reordering quite some courses to lower workload. This was implemented.

133 Advice on the Bachelor Assignment

The advice concerns two issues. First, to continue the pilot, see advice [121] above, but also to come up with definitive implementation for the year 2019-20. Second, to make clear that the project is an individual assignment, and that two students working on similar aspects should have clearly separate goals in their subprojects.

134 Advice on the course Deep Learning

A positive advice was given with some concrete suggestions to improve the description. This was implemented by the lecturer.

135 Advice on the course Scientific Computing

We were positive about the changes proposed by the lecturer. Implemented.

136 Advice on changes in Module 5

The project and Statistics course were organised differently. We agreed with this.

3.2 Not Asked

122 Advice on restructuring Mathematical and Continuous Optimisation (MO/CO)

The substantial overlap suggests to redesign both courses and they are taught by the same UT-lecturer. The issue is time for preparation that the lecturer does not have and the PD should consider a practical solution. No action has been taken on this issue, and at the end of the academic year the lecturer quit his job.

124 Course description Internship 191508209

A member of the PC noticed the description had changed without the PC being informed. A new text was proposed, and given a positive advice. The suggested changes have not been implemented.

125 Advice AM-Master; SACS-specialisation

It was brought up by students that the workload for a particular track was unreasonably high. We advised to make changes in the programme. In the end, two courses were moved to achieve a better workload, see advice 132.

4 Course Evaluations

Evaluation of the bachelor programme happens per panel meetings, once per quartile, as well as the institutional student evaluation (UT-SEQ). The latter does not come to the PC automatically. For the master, the evaluation of courses taught at UT is not really organised. No big issues arose, a few smaller are listed below. Courses taught within Mastermath are always evaluated, though responses rates vary. For Mastermath no specific points were raised, except for recommending video lectures.

- Linear Optimisation (part of module 2). Students point at differences between the book and the level of the test. The suggestion is to come up with a reader.

- Overlap of Mathematical and Continuous Optimisation, see advice 122.

- A particular class was cancelled due to incorrect scheduling by the lecturer. The PD has discussed this with lecturer and the timetable application has been mentioned.

- For Stochastic Models students use a book they find expensive given the amount of material they use. The PD discussed with the lecturer. Students and lecturer clearly have different opinions, and a good solution leading to cheaper material is not in sight.

- The lecturer of RSF did not provide sufficient practice material for the exam. The PC-chairman has mentioned this to the lecturer who will adapt this next year.

5 Self-Evaluation

The advice on the new curriculum [127] was not properly formulated. While we agreed with the plans in general, we also wanted more information, especially regarding the learning goals, as they had changed without notifying the PC. While this info was explicitly requested the PD went ahead with implementing the new structure as the TER itself was approved [131].
The advice should have stated that we would not give our final advice before having this information. And this should have had consequences for the Bachelor-TER too, but we were too lenient and concerned with the execution of the programme.