

Official Minutes of the 188th Meeting of the Applied Mathematics Programme Committee

Tuesday 27 February 2024

15:45 – 17:15 hr. ZL 2126

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Present: Members: Prof.Dr. F.P. Schuller (Chair), Dr. B. Manthey (Vice-Chair), Dr. K. Proksch,
Dr. C. Pérez Arancibia, L.S. Lanting, J.P. Boon.

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Guests: Prof. Dr. A.A. Stoorvogel (Programme Director), Dr. J.B. Timmer (B-coordinator),
Drs. J. Schut (M-coordinator), N. Luijten (Protocolist).

Absent: M. Snoeren with notice
E. van der Veer with notice

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1. Opening

The chairman opens the meeting at 13:09.

2. Minutes 187th meeting 26 January 2024

i) Changes

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Page 1 Line 5: Judith Timmer was not absent, just late

Page 3 Line 111: Nonlinear Optimization and Learning
Line 120: Members members

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The suggestion for the beautiful tutorials is on the table with teachers. Last meeting first
ideas were discussed, but a real proposal is yet to be made.

With these changes, the minutes are approved.

ii) Action points:

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- 486: Remains on the list
- 487: Can be removed from the list
- 488: Remains on the list
- 489: Can be removed from the list
- 490: Can be removed from the list

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3. Confidentiality and final deletion of audio recording of meetings

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The committee decided that the protocolist is responsible for keeping the audio recordings
and their contents confidential and that the audio recording of a meeting is deleted by the
protocolist on the same day on which the respective official minutes are approved. In case
the minutes are not approved by the committee, the recording is kept until the underlying
disagreement has been clarified. This rule is effective immediately.

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4. Dissatisfaction with the SEQ questionnaires

45 The committee discussed at length the reasons for the significant dissatisfaction of the SEQ questionnaires. The questions asked in the questionnaire are of such generic nature, and often so unrelated to the course or programme, that they provide no useful information to the teacher or committee. The extremely low return rates strongly suggest that the students share this view and do not bother to fill in the questionnaires.

50 The committee discussed elementary requirements that must be met by such a questionnaire, including course-specific questions on the understanding of students of the key topics of the course and the use of one single numerical scale for all quantitative questions. It is pointed out that the low quality of the SEQ has been an issue for many years and that the committee leans towards designing its own evaluation questionnaire since a solution does not seem forthcoming.

60 The PD told the committee that the PDs of the EE and TCS departments are running a pilot with a new questionnaire in the present quartile and that the new questionnaire will be available in two weeks. The PD asked the committee to wait with independent proposals until then.

65 The committee feels that it cannot exercise its task of monitoring the quality of the programme without reliable data and will act decisively if there is no substantial and visible progress until the next meeting.

5. Sharing of documents

It is agreed that the documents for the committee meetings ought to be shared the Friday before the meeting the latest.

70 6. Pilot assessment screening

The chair sees a lot of paperwork coming up in the context of a purported method for assessing the quality of exams which the PD, B-coordinator and chair of the Examination Board learned about in a course and consider to establish programme wide in order to produce paperwork for the upcoming accreditation.

75 The idea of the assessment is that first, the examiner of a course provides information about the study units' assessment. This information has then to be presented in a matrix form such that educational experts who are not content experts can understand it. Then one or more screeners assess the quality of the assessment via the matrix. Lastly, the examiner and the screeners have a conversation. Finally, a screener writes a report and sends it to the relevant parties. The PD emphasizes that the accreditation requires a certain amount of paperwork and that the chair of the examination board came up with this proposal to produce such paperwork.

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85 The chair expresses strong scepticism concerning the validity of such a schematic
assessment process and asserts that a high-resolution assessment can only be conducted by
a mathematical expert, on the basis of equally high-resolution information such as the
lecture notes and exam questions. He underlines that an excellent way to improve the
appropriateness (not too difficult) and quality (not too easy) of an exam is to only set an
90 exam that has been assessed by another mathematical expert before the exam is taken by
the students. He remains highly critical of the idea that anyone can judge university lectures,
tutorials or exams without understanding the subject that is taught and examined.

7. Mastermath

95 - *Minutes EC-meeting 14 April 2023*
Geerts attended the meeting.

- *Draft minutes EC-meeting 10 November 2023*
Manthey and Lanting attended the meeting. They reported that almost no students from UT
100 take courses.

8. Follow up on the proposals for Beautiful Tutorials

On the initiative of student members of the committee, the chair agreed to meet with them
to cast the recommendations for beautiful tutorials into concise written form, with the aim
105 to distribute them to lecturers and professors. The chair agreed to do that with the
understanding that the text intends to be a possible inspiration rather than an official
recommendation.

9. Closure

110 The chairman closes the meeting at 17:17.

Nr	Description	Meeting	Responsible
486	Meet and come up with a reordering of when we discuss which module evaluations, taking previous years into account.	26/01/2024	Chairman & PD
488	Have a conversation about the midterm accreditation.	26/01/2024	Chairman & PD
491	Send an email to all committee members and guests to ask for input about the evaluation points.	27/02/2024	Chairman
492	Ensure earlier sending of the documents.	27/02/2024	Chairman
493	Meeting with PC-AM members in order to further shape the collected recommendations on Beautiful Tutorials and cast them into written form for distribution.	27/02/2204	Chairman, Boon, Lanting