

**Minutes 192Bth PC-AM-meeting  
Wednesday 16 October 2024  
12:30 – 13:45 hr. ZL 2126**

5 *Present:*

*Members:* Prof. Dr. F. P. Schuller (Chairman), Dr. B. Manthey (Staff), Dr. C. Pérez (Staff), E. van der Veer (Student), Dr. K. Proksch (Staff), M. Snoeren (Student), L.S. Lanting (Student), J.P. Boon (Student), E. Leering (Abacus)

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*Guests:* Dr. H. Meijer (Interim-PD), Dr. A.M. Schaafstal (Vice-Dean), N. Luijten (Protocolist), L. Van den Broek (M-coordinator)

*Absent with notice:* Dr. J. B. Timmer (B-coordinator)

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**1. Opening**

The chairman opens this extraordinary meeting at 12:36.

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This second extraordinary meeting had to be called in order to allow the PC-AM to co-formulate the Assignment Form also in the name of the committee, as explicitly requested by the Executive Board and contrary to its representation as a TAO form not requiring consent by the committee.

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**2. Additions to the Agenda**

The interim-PD asks to have the sent-around data added to item 3.

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The Vice-Dean of Education asked to briefly comment on recent news in the Dutch press, concerning a letter from the minister of education to parliament on the de-internationalization of higher education in the Netherlands. Based on this letter, the Vice-Dean estimates that the situation faced by the faculty may well be worse than previously thought, since the TAO criteria appear to be implemented more strictly than originally expected, expressing now the worry concerning the chances of all programs in the EEMCS faculty, including AM, for passing the TAO.

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The interim-PD explained that there are four reasons for exemption. The first one is regional, where we can argue that the UT is a university in a decreasing region regarding the number of inhabitants ("krimpregio"). Then there is international unicuity and international position. These will be dealt with more strictly according to the news article. Lastly, there is the labour market argument. It is proposed to argue that English matters in an international-oriented labour market. Schaafstal and the interim-PD worry, however, that this argument

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would be harder to make now, since there were Dutch-taught programs that also delivered students to an international work environment.

45 The chairman raised the question if it was strategically better to go for an English track, instead of English only, in order to both serve the intent of the draft law and the needs of the programme. The Vice Dean points out that the TAO must be passed even if we only aspired for an English track. Manthey summarizes that we have to try to pass the TAO. If we pass, we offer the program in English. If we do not pass it is Dutch anyhow. Pérez asks what  
50 would happen to our students if we fail the TAO. If we are going to ask the students to be proficient in Dutch, then we lose a big part of the program. The PC completely agrees. Schaafstal says the letter stated that all students and staff should be highly encouraged by the universities to learn Dutch.

55 The chairman summarizes the agreement expressed by all parties at the table we will still aim for a TAO geared towards an English-only programme.

### 3. Assignment Form Section 2 (why offer Programme in English)

60 The chairman underlined that in recent applications, there were almost no Dutch-speaking applicants. Twente seems to be a region where Dutch-speaking staff does not flow to. To teach the students who are here, we are lucky to have international staff. Schaafstal said the counterargument from the parlement is that the current teachers have time to learn Dutch. The chairman sees the point, but to deliver high-quality university-level education in Dutch is an entirely different requirement than achieving even an advanced language proficiency that  
65 would suffice to merely receive that education. Pérez adds that all international staff are highly skilled academics in their field, who would rather move than compromise much needed research time on learning Dutch at a serious academic level.

70 It is argued that there is clearly a need and room for an English-taught Applied Mathematics program. The Vice-Dean pointed out that there is already a Dutch AM programme in Delft with 150 students per year while Eindhoven had around 100 students per year. With UT delivering around 45 students per year.

75 Our programme is comparatively small and almost half of our freshmen are international students, with a very good number of them staying in the region after graduation, which means that we deliver people from outside the country to a “krimpregio”. Pérez added that there is a shortage of mathematicians in the country. The chairman says that the fear of taxpayers paying for the education of international students here was obviously and explicitly countered by the fact the students stayed here after their studies. Leering adds  
80 that indeed the overwhelming number of Dutch students themselves have a strong preference for an English education.

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85 The Vice-Dean confirmed that many programmes switched to English years ago because Dutch students preferred it. It is mentioned in the document that there is a sentiment among Dutch students that an English study prepares them better for the work environment. Lanting added that there are no hard numbers on this, but that a big group of the international AM students learn Dutch and become very proficient at it – ultimately – but would not be able to start their studies in Dutch and thus be lost for the krimpregio and the labour market who severely needs our graduates.

90 The interim-PD said that for the relevant circumstances in the labour market, he would add his data. Furthermore, he would track down where exactly in the Netherlands the students went for the regional argument.

95 **4. Assignment Form Section 1 (how to organise a Dutch track as per working definition)**

100 The committee discussed how the programme could be upheld if it had to be taught in Dutch. The PD estimates that around 50% of the staff are proficient in Dutch and that 14 additional Dutch-speaking staff members were required in order to make a Dutch-only programme work, even though lectures, textbooks and other material could be provided in English.

105 The chairman would like to see a detailed plan that substantiates any such estimates and emphasizes that such an analysis was required by the Executive Board since May and promised to be delivered by the previous programme management by mid-July.

The Vice-Dean strongly recommends to start this analysis with the necessary curriculum redesign and base the estimate for the consequences for students and staff on that.

110 The committee agrees to the inclusion of a preliminary rough sketch of a Dutch-only programme in the Assignment form by a 5 to 3 simple majority vote.

**5. Assignment Form Section 3 (Joint stance of PD and PC-AM on programme language)**

115 The committee agrees that the joint stance can be presented along the agreements made in the present meeting.

**6. Further procedure / Decisions**

120 A strategy day for education is intended to be organised by programme management in the spring, or preferably earlier, in order to discuss the Dutch education.

It is currently not known when the final TAO must be delivered.

The Assignment Form discussed in the present meeting will be submitted as soon as possible.

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## 7. AOB / Questions before closing the meeting

It was pointed out that the service teaching of our department will also be affected by the new draft law and that needs to be discussed as well.

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## 8. Closure

The chairman closes the meeting at 13:40.

*Next meeting: 19 November*

Nr	Description	Meeting	Responsible
488	Have a conversation about the midterm accreditation.	26/01/2024	Chairman & PD
501	Inform chairpersons of panel meetings to inform teachers of the outcome.	14/05/2024	Van der Veer
503	Write a letter to formulate the opinion of the PC on the information specialist.	11/06/2024	Chairman
504	Read the law, and point out where the 6 points from the OES mail are incomplete/complete or contradicted. Send a proposal to all PC members (not only pc-am@..) before the 11th of July.	11/06/2024	PD
505	Discuss if ML should remain a course.	11/06/2024	PC
506	Schedule the PC meetings for the next academic year soon.	11/06/2024	Chairman & Mirande
507	Write the M-EER approval letter.	11/06/2024	Chairman
508	Write the annual report.	10/09/2024	Chairman
509	Contact other universities and see if and how they make use of the information specialist.	24/09/2024	Manthey
510	Inform Mirande van der Kooij that Liesette van der Broek will have to be added to the PC.		Manthey

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