

UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.

FACULTY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

DATE: 19 NOVEMBER 2024

OURREF: EEMCS23/BOZ/10943/NL

Minutes 193th PC-AM-meeting Tuesday 19 November 2024 15:45 – 17:15 hr. ZL 2126

5 Present:

Members: Prof. Dr. F. P. Schuller (Chairman), Dr. B. Manthey (Staff), Dr. C. Pérez (Staff), E. van Laar (student), Dr. K. Proksch (Staff), L. S. Lanting (Student), J. P. Boon (Student)

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Guests: Dr. H. G. E. Meijer (Interim-PD), L. Van den Broek (M-coordinator), Dr. J. B. Timmer (B-coordinator), E. Leering (Abacus)

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Absent with notice: N. Luijten (Protocolist), M. Snoeren (Student, replaced by E. van Laar), E. van der Veer (Student)

1. Opening

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The chairman opens the meeting at 15:49. The interim-PD would like to discuss item 11 before item 8.

2. Minutes

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1. 190th meeting 14 May 2024

No corrections.

2. 191st meeting 11 June 2024

No corrections.

3. 192 meeting 10 September 2024

No corrections.

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4. 192 A meeting 24 September 2024 EXTRA MEETING

The B-coordinator should be added to guests instead of members, as well as E. Leering from Abacus.

Line 80: List evaluation of complex function theory under bachelor courses

Initials G.E. should be added to H. Meijer.

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L. Van Den Broek, not Der.

5. 192 B meeting 16 October 2024 EXTRA MEETING

Action points 509 and 510 are missing from the action items list.

Action points 502 and 503 are duplicated.

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Action points:

- 488: *Stays on the list*

The Interim PD was informed about the accreditation. The preparation will start

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45 in January. He will contact the chairman for and organise a teaching afternoon where all teaching staff is invited to discuss current issues including the accreditation. It should also be discussed what the role of the PC will be regarding the accreditation. The proposed date on behalf of the programme management February 3, 2025.

- 501: *Can be removed from the list*

50 Erik knows this should happen, and it will be arranged for each panel meeting.

- 502: *Stays on the list*

The PD meets next week with the information specialist and his direct supervisor.

- 503: *Can be removed from the list*

- 504: *Can be removed from the list*

- 55
- 505: *Can be removed from the list*

The course evaluations of Machine Learning were not favourable. The thought at the time of writing the action point was that there are staff members in the Mathematics department proficient in the course, so we could perhaps teach the course ourselves. Furthermore, mathematics students typically do not pick the course. The interim-PD suggests that the M-coordinator and PD talk to the chairs of OR and Data Science to discuss if Machine Learning can be removed. The PC suggests to replace the course. The PD is not very keen on organizing a new course. Lanting adds that the complaint is that the course only covers the basics of Machine Learning, but that is also covered in other courses. Therefore it feels redundant. There are MasterMath courses on Machine Learning that cover more, so those could be chosen by the students.

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Action point 505A (PD and M-coordinator): Talk to the chairs of OR and Data Science to discuss if Machine Learning can be removed as an elective.

- 70
- 506: *Can be removed from the list*

- 507: *Can be removed from the list*

- 508: *Stays on the list*

This is in progress.

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- 509: *Can be removed from the list*

- 510: *Can be removed from the list*

3. Announcements/ incoming mail

80 Interim-PD mentions the following points:

- The Bachelor Open days were in October, and the Master Open Days will be this week. There was an extra session on Saturday due to the high number of interested students for the Bachelor Open Days.

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- The faculty has the TA policy that the number of TAs should be reduced by 35% relative to 23/24. Next year the reduction should be 50%. The preparation time has been economized as it went from 2 hours to 1.25. A reduction of 40% has been made this year. The extra 10% that should be reduced for next year have to be considered.
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- Abacus will have the option to have a camp during the kick-in.
 - A pilot is running regarding UT-SEQ. The lengthy SEQ is replaced by a few bullet points that includes the number of hours spent and tips and tops. The pilot has been used in Q1 and the programme management is happy with it.
 - There are 43 first-year students registered for the second quartile. This number is comparable to previous years.
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- The staff has received an email from Braaksma from the Examination Board. The EB will take a bachelor and master course every quartile and check for improvements but also if it follows the regulations. A random number generator selects the courses. Modelling and Programming and Complex Networks will be considered for Quartile 1.
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Lanting mentions that E. Van Laar is standing in for M. Snoeren at the present meeting. The first master graduation lunch has taken place and the minutes will probably be among the documents for the next PC-AM meeting.

105 **4. Advice / correspondence**

1. Advice and consent EER M-AM 2024-2025
No comments

110 **5. Bachelor evaluations**

Module 1, Linear structures

110 Leering asks if the chairman is working lecture notes for his course on Linear Structures for next year. The chairman says he is. Leering mentions that a student has made a summary of all lectures which is on the Abacus site. Lanting makes a point about the book recommended for the course. The book is costly is not used, while it is mentioned as mandatory study material on Osiris. The chairman explains that he wrote Osiris that he recommended the online version only since he was not planning on using it much. Lanting says that there are students who prefer paper, so they would still buy the book. Next time Osiris will refer to the lecture notes. The interim-PD says that Osiris should be updated in June.

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Module 5, Analysis 3

120 Boon says that students felt a lot of pressure in the tutor session. They do not ask questions, since you get graded and the students are afraid this will cost them points, so they learn less from the sessions compared to Analysis 1 and 2. The interim-PD will talk to the lecturer. We should pay attention to this remark in the final evaluations.

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Module 4

No comments

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Module 8, Markov Chains

Van Laar mentions that there was a lot of positive response on the style of the lectorial. Is this something that could be implemented in other courses? The Interim PD says this is not a priority. Checking if an assignment for Modelling and Programming and similar assignments really checks the understanding of the students is more important, especially with ChatGPT.

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Module 12

No comments.

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6. Mastermath

Lanting and Manthey have no comments as very few students from the UT follow courses from MasterMath in the second semester.

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7. Course descriptions for three electives in module 11

Topics in Sequential Decision-Making (elective MOR track)

The Interim PD thinks the course is well-written and defined. Leering asks how many assignments there are, as it is not specified. It is part of the assessment plan, and it should go to the Examination Board. The B-coordinator thinks they will require a more specific description of the assignments. The interim-PD will ask the teacher to make it more precise. The PC does not object to writing a positive advice.

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Action Point (Chairman): Write a positive advice on Topics in Sequential Decision-Making.

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Approximation of Large Dynamical Systems (elective SACS track)

Lanting says that contentwise it is a very good course, but that the learning goals need to be polished. Zwart has written his part of the lecture notes and is waiting for Geurts to add to them. The interim-PD thinks the learning goals are too vague, and not testable. The PC agrees. The course will come again in the Osiris version in January.

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Mathematics behind Data-Driven Methods: Learning Theory from First Principles (elective MDS track)

Again the learning goals are too vague and not testable. Lanting wonders how many students will choose the course, due to the very specific mentioning of ODE and PDE, which seem to have acquired a permanent negative connotation due to the quality of the respective earlier course. Differential equations are not a very big part of the course but it might scare students that are usually interested in the Data Science track. The

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Interim PD summarizes that the way it is phrased, the course might attract fewer students than it deserves. The teacher should think about how to position the course.

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8. Latest version of the TAO-positioning document

The Interim PD gives an update regarding the timeline. It is expected that the TAO will have to be submitted by next summer, August at the latest. After that, there is the right to appeal, and the coho has to be published. A change in coho should happen before October 1st, but the right of appeal comes after so changes in the programme language can only start in academic year 27/28 at the earliest. It is expected that the TAO should be submitted in clusters of common programs. The Interim PD talked with PDs of other AM programmes in the Netherlands and he is content with our arguments. Eindhoven will go for the Beethoven initiative. The chairman asks why we do not join that initiative. The PD says that the university board decided that we will not join it.

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9. Summary of various universities about how they handle the teaching of literature research and who takes care of this

This point is the continuation of the long-standing severe issues the PC sees with the qualification and appropriateness of a non-mathematician information specialist to teach and sign off on the way to research the scientific literature for the AM Master project, since we firmly believe this to require the competence and experience of the academic mathematics supervisor.

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Manthey sent out requests to other mathematics programmes and says that of all the received answers, nobody has an information specialist such as we do in the master programme. This is at odds with the long-standing claims by the programme management that putting the literature research part of the project needs to be handled uniformly by an information specialist in order to be able to demonstrate quality for the accreditation. If this was the case, other programs should have to face this as well, but do not employ an information specialist for this task.

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The interim-PD still thinks this to be essential for the bachelor assignment. But Proksch has talked to Delft, and they had it as "proper information retrieval" as a learning outcome but no assignment. The supervisor grades this. Uniformity between students remains an argument by programme management. The PC does not see from a teaching or academic point of view the additional value of the information specialist.

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Lanting thinks the information specialist adds something. He provided her with tools that the supervisor did not know. However, it was not useful for her anymore since it came too late, but it would have been helpful if it came on time.

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Manthey points out that there are three parts to this issue: (1) Could it be useful? (2) Does the procedure work? and (3) Is this formally required? Two and three clearly do not seem to be the case. Lanting proposes to combine the assignment with the course Pioneers of Applied Mathematics. Then the learning goals are achieved in a useful context and in a confined time. The bachelor students who have a confined time do not have these issues. The B-coordinator thinks the advantage of this proposal is that the

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210 students get all the information and the learning goals are achieved. The proposal will
be taken into account in the meeting next week.

215 Remove Action Point 502: Instead wait for result of discussion with the information
specialist concerning his one-time appearance during a course rather than signing off on
every student's graduation form. This would be a much desired change by the PC.

10. Changes in Analysis 1 and 2

220 Schwenninger would like some changes, which are mostly minor switches in material
from Analysis I to II and the other way around. It might have some consequences for
students that have to redo the course. The PC supports the changes but since the course
is running, it might have consequences for students. Van Laar has taken the new analysis
course as well as the previous version. She says the changes make sense, and it was very
doable to adjust.

225 **Action Point (Chairman):** Write a positive recommendation for the proposed changes in
Analysis 1 and 2.

11. AOB / Questions before closing the meeting

230 The PC would like to receive the documents earlier.

12. Closure

The chairman closes the meeting at 17:25.

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Next meeting: 14 January 2025

Nr	Description	Meeting	Responsible
488	Have a conversation with the chairman about the midterm accreditation.	26/01/2024	Interim-DPD
505A	Talk to the chairs of OR and Data Science to discuss if Machine Learning can be removed as an elective.	19/11/2024	Interim-PD & M-coordinator
508	Write the annual report for 2023/2024.	10/09/2024	Chairman
511	Write a positive recommendation for the proposed changes in Analysis 1 and 2.	19/11/2024	Chairman
512	Write a positive advice on Topics in Sequential Decision-Making.	19/11/2024	Chairman