Concept-minutes
136ste OLC-TW-meeting
Tuesday 27 September 2016, 15:45 hrs.

5 *present:*   Nelly Litvak (chairwoman), Hil Meijer, Gjerrit Meinsma, Georg Still (temporarily replaces Marc Uetz), Lotte Weedage, Jelle Neeft, Stefan Horstink (temporarily replaces Hidde Wieringa), Dieuwertje Alblas, Jan Willem Polderman (OLD) (joined at 16.25 hrs), Marloes van Grinsven (M-coordinator) and Berend Steenhuisen (recorder)
   absent: Marc Uetz and Hidde Wieringa

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1. Opening
The Chairwoman opens the meeting at 15.50 hrs. As of this meeting, all minutes will be in English. Uetz is not present, Still will attend instead of him. Wieringa is replaced by Horstink.
Steenhuisen will make this meeting's minutes, Van der Kooij will no longer be attending.

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2. Minutes 135ste meeting 7 June 2016
Textual corrections:
p.3, l. 34: `Computation' should be replaced with `Computing'.
With this corrections, the minutes are accepted.
20 *In response to the points raised in the minutes:*
p.1, l.42-44: Neeft remarks that it has become easier to locate information on the website.
p3, l. 53: Weedage notices that publishing test results should be on the agenda, but it isn't. Litvak suggests to bring it up if there is enough time, otherwise it will be put at the top of the next agenda in November.
25 *Actions:*
204, 224, 225 (B-coordinator) will be given to the OLD after consultation, as Geveling is no longer a B-coordinator.
211, 212, 213, 220, 223, 224, 225, 226: the chairwoman will discuss with the OLD whether these points are still relevant and address them before the next meeting.
30 221: done, to be removed from the list.
222: not done, remains on the list.
227: on the agenda today, to be removed from the list.
228: BIT offers interesting courses, specifically Data Science and Machine Learning. Meijer knows of Machine Learning and thinks it should be doable for math students. Both should be interesting
35 and they should fit in the curriculum. The M-coordinator will add them to the list of suggested courses **[action M-coordinator]**
Advice and correspondence:
About the second advice concerning the OER TW 2016: Alblas remarks that the compensation rule should be revisited, but it makes sense to wait with this until it is on the agenda.
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3. Announcements
Change of Law concerning OLC's: The links in the email do not work. One can find the information with a little extra effort.
(extra announcements after the OLD joins at 16.25 hrs.):
45 The OLD reminds us that the OLC can only comment on the OER, and that this is the way for OLC's to execute their influence. However, they send their comments to the FR, who has to accept them and send them through to the UR. These are a lot of steps, usually only the points that result in unworkable situations remain in this last phase.
The OLD mentions that of the 49 new students this year, 9 were foreign, which is a good news.
50 Unfortunately, we also had a big drop in the number of female students, only 9 out of 49, about half the number we had last year. The reason for this should be researched. It could be the switch to English, although Groningen made the same switch and did not experience this drop. TBK in

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Groningen and PSY also made the switch but did not experience this drop. This might be a cause for concern.

4. Reaction Botchev to criticism Scientific Computing

A new evaluation has been conducted yesterday, the results are not available yet The following points came up in the discussion that followed:
Neeft says that the course should have been changed from the year before, but that didn't happen. According to Meijer, Mike didn't know that the informal evaluation by Wieringa was initiated by the OLC, he thought it was an initiative of Wieringa himself. The rule that the last grade is the one that counts is not conform the OER and has to be changed, the highest grade should be the one that counts. There was also a change in the grading system, when the teacher tried to meet requests of some of the students, therefore other students could feel that they were treated unequally. Also, Botchev was ill for a week just before the exam which made communications difficult.
The Chairwoman will talk to Botchev about what his plans are with this course, after we receive the new evaluation. **[action Chairwoman]**

5. Master OER: graduation supervisor

Currently, a graduation supervisor has to be a professor, but the daily supervisor can be any staff member. This leads to extra work for professors (e.g. they have to approve `green lights' be present at the defense, even if they did not participate in the project). Still finds it excessive effort, Meijer doesn't. Meinsma mentions it's difficult from a practical point of view, and the Chairwoman questions if perhaps we should change this rule. We conclude that while it is extra work, there are not sufficient reasons to change this rule, therefore we do not advice to change the current proceedings.

6. Evaluations.

Module 4:
It is remarkable that evaluations are worse this year than before, because the Module is given by the same professors. This is probably because the organization was different. The available information was often unclear, this should be improved. For one of the courses an extra resit was arranged because the students received the exam results one day too late to study for the regular resit. However, the panel meetings show that students are not as dissatisfied as it seems from the evaluations. The grade for the entire module from TN was higher than from TW. Also, the person in charge of communications was very busy and will get assistance next year. This will probably solve most of the problems.
The course "wetenschapsfilosofie" has presentations that are not graded, only checked off. There was no obligation to be present when the presentations were given, so only the students that had to give presentations that day would attend. This can be improved by giving students more incentive for better attendance. Also, the subjects can be made more interesting for math students. The OLD suggests that attendance should be obligatory and that students should have more say in choosing their topics. The Chairwoman will write a draft advice and send it to the members of the OLC
[action Chairwoman]
Module 8:
Weedage mentions there were not enough supervisors. The Chairwoman finds there is no sufficient reasons for an OLC advice. The OLC decides to take no action at this point.
Module 12:
The points of criticism will be resolved next year. No action needed.

7. Osiris description new course "Introduction to the Mathematics of Operations Research"

Because this is a pre-master course, no advice is required from the OLC. Regardless, the OLD welcomes comments and constructive criticism. It would be given in the second quartile and be worth 6 EC. Because it is a pre master course it is neither in the bachelor- nor in the master programme. The students pay tuition and are officially enrolled. The Chairwoman remarks that an extra course will mean attract students. Meijer notes that the number of topics is very large. This means the course will treat about one topic per week. This might not be enough time even for an introduction to a topic. Also, some subjects are not described clearly and unambiguously. The M-coordinator reminds that this will be only one course in a package of 30EC, so this could serve as

an introduction, while other courses could go deeper into the material.
Some details are missing in the course description, such as the teacher and the method of examination.
The Chairwoman will write a positive advice to the OLD, including the remark that extensive and attractive information needs to be included in the course description. **[action Chairwoman]**

8. Code of Conduct Applied Mathematics (first draft)
The OLD explains that this code is not only for students, but also for teachers. The whole programme must be in English and no foreign student should feel left out. This rule holds not only in classrooms, but also in the Educafé. Weedage argues that the code should request people to speak English only when non-native speakers are about, because otherwise it feels unnatural to the Dutch students. Meijer notes that we should not require from the staff to speak English at all times (that is, not only in the classroom but also e.g. also in the office). If Dutch is not allowed, then everybody must speak English only, so other languages such as German and Russian should not be allowed either. The meeting supports him that `English only'rule should hold in the classroom but not in the offices. The OLD believes that transition to English may cause problems only in the initial stage, there'll be no more problem when everyone is used to it. We want to be completely international, and speaking English is a big part of it. Weedage says that during the Introduction English was already used a lot because of the few foreign students, and that Dutch students automatically switch to English when a foreign student is present.
The meeting discussed formulations of bullet points 2 and 3.Sometimes faculty members are unable to provide help because of schedules. The conclusion is that these two bullet points should be combined into one, a formulation could be "a helpful attitude" in place of "willing to provide help". Weedage points out that all sentences are missing periods.

9. Other points brought up by the meeting attendees
There is not enough time to discuss how the test results should be published. This point will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

10. Questions
There are no questions.

11. Closing
The meeting closes at 17.22 hrs.

Actions

Nr	Description	Meeting	Responsible
204	Opmerkingen OLC over compensatieregeling terugkoppelen naar Module-coördinatoren	19/1/2016	PD
210	Advies opstellen over compensatieregeling	15/3/2016	Chairwoman
211	Advies opstellen over nieuw AM-vak "Makers of Applied Mathematics"	15/3/2016	Chairwoman
212	Advies opstellen over draaiboek panelgesprekken	15/3/2016	Chairwoman
213	Advies opstellen over samenstelling Module 3	15/3/2016	Chairwoman
220	Advies opstellen over Engels van docenten	7/6/2016	Chairwoman
222	Vakomschrijvingen Final Project en Traineeship verder uitwerken.	7/6/2016	Meinsma
223	e-mail sturen naar notulist tweede panelgesprek van Module 3 (verslagen dit jaar veel beter dan voorheen, maar niet modules tegen elkaar afzetten)	7/6/2016	Chairwoman
224	Contact opnemen met coördinator van Module 4 (meer overleg tussen docenten)	7/6/2016	PD

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225	Contact opnemen met coördinator van Module 8 ((duur) boek van Winston)	7/6/2016	PD
226	Advies opstellen over master evaluaties (niet tevreden)	7/6/2016	Chairwoman
229	Add Data Science and Machine Learning to the list of courses	27/9/2016	Grinsven
230	Talk to Mike Botchev about possible changes to Scientific Computing, after the new evaluation is available	27/9/2016	Chairwoman
231	Write a draft advice about module 4, send around to the OLC members	27/9/2016	Chairwoman
232	Write an advice on the course "Introduction to the Mathematics of Operations Research", addressed to the OLD	27/9/2016	Chairwoman

Adviezen en correspondentie

Nr	Omschrijving
102	Pre-master course Introduction to the Mathematics of Operation Research (5601)
103	Module 2 nav evaluatie Module 3 (verg 15/3/2016) (5607)
104	Makers of Applied Mathematics (verg 15/3/2016) (5609)
105	Draaiboek panelgesprekken (verg 15/3/2016) (5608)
106	Compensatieregeling (verg 15/3/2016) (5610)
107	Evaluation of the MSc-programme (5605)
108	English for AM teachers (5606)
109	Evaluation Module 4 (5603)

5   Aandachtspunten

Nr	Omschrijving