

DATE: 15 March 2021

OURREF: EEMCS21/BOZ/10244/KR

Minutes 165th PC-AM (OLC-TW)-meeting Tuesday 19 January 2021, 15:45 hr. TEAMS meeting

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Present: Hil Meijer (chairperson), Bodo Manthey, Gjerrit Meinsma, Frederic Schuller, Anouk Beursgens, Lavinia Lanting, Linda ten Klooster, Lisa van Dissel, Sem Geerts, Pranab Mandal (Programme Director), Jan Schut (M-Coordinator), Judith Timmer (B-Coordinator), Ginnie Renz (making minutes)

10 *Absent:*

1. Opening

The chairman opens the meeting at 15:47.

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The agenda is adjusted. Item 7 (Quality Agreements / WSV – money) is moved to after points 8 (Request approval new course “Capita Selecta – Statistics”) and 9 (Addendum guideline B-EER 2020 online surveillance and online proctoring). Furthermore, a point is added after point 6 (Supplementary - Advice Relaxation BSA norms).

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2. Minutes 164th meeting 17 November 2020

Page 2:

Line 70: The chairman announces

Line 71: quit, instead of quite

Page 4:

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Line 152: a little MATLAB introductory lecture

Action Points:

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376: done and to be removed from the list

377: done and to be removed from the list

378: to remain on the list

379: done and to be removed from the list

380: to remain on the list

381: done and to be removed from the list

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382: change to 382a as To discuss replacement/continuation of this course with the Data Science track coordinator and Johannes Schmidt-Hieber.

383: done and to be removed from the list

384: done and to be removed from the list

385: to remain on the list

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376 and 377: The Bachelor Coordinator explains why the teacher was not aware that he needed to give the lecture. In their meeting, they have agreed on the way to improve that. During the same meeting, several ways to make these lectures more interesting have been discussed as well.

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45 **3. Advices / correspondence**

- Mail to OXIE-AM about duration double degree programmes

4. Announcements

Frederic Schuller has been chosen to be the new staff member of the PC-AM.

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The Programme Director explains that before lockdown staff tried to have classes on the campus but this is no longer possible. In quartile 3, staff arranges some classes on the campus. All exams will be organised on campus.

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The Programme Director explains further that the master phase is organised mostly online. He also says that all on-campus classes from the master phase are organised online, even after lockdown finishes. There was one on-campus extra session, but this will not be organised anymore. It is also because the amount of student attending the on-campus extra session was decreasing. The Master Coordinator and the Programme Director explain that for teachers, it means that students are not interested in these classes. Geerts explains that there should be an announcement or email sent to students about this to take action if they want the classes to remain on campus.

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5. Evaluations modules 2020-2021

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- Module 6: Dynamical Systems

There are no remarks about the evaluation itself.

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There was a response from module coordinator of module 6 to this evaluation. The evaluation panel has received this response, but the Programme Director or Bachelor Coordinator did not.

Geerts also asks about students who write these evaluations reports. Chairperson explains that these reports have been anonymous for the past several years.

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[AP PD: To talk to Mirande van der Kooij about the instructions for panel evaluations.]

- Module 1: Structures and Models
 - i. Panel report 2
 - ii. SEQ-results
 - iii. Reflection reports from teachers

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The recurring problem of too few TA's during MATLAB sessions was also mentioned in this report. More TA's are needed during these sessions. This year it has been even worse, due to corona. Ten Klooster suggests that instead of having every exercise checked from every student, some exercises could be chosen that need to be checked. She explains that a different approach might require fewer TA's.

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Lanting points out that the evaluation reports do not reflect on the tutors that the teacher for Linear Structures I introduced this year. Therefore it is difficult to conclude if

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this was useful for students. The Programme Director explains that only a small portion of students spoke to tutors. The chairman explains that the teacher could have adjusted the questionnaire to get feedback on this specific part.

- 95
- Module 2: Mathematical Proof Techniques
 - i. Panel report 1

There are no remarks.

- 100
- Module 5: Statistics & Analysis
 - i. Panel report 2
 - ii. SEQ-results
 - iii. Reflection report from teachers

105 Meinsma points out that according to the panel report, the project in this module seems easy compared to the other modules. Lanting explains that it looks this way because the project gives a lot of freedom in choosing your data sets and statistical tests. The time the project is given is also relatively short in comparison with the other modules.

110 After a short discussion about the R part of module 5, the chairman proposes that this part of the module changes its form into tutorials with a little explanation and exercises that students solve. The other members of PC-AM support this proposal as this is the best way to learn to program.

115 **[AP Chairperson: To write advice about the R part of module 5.]**

120 Ten Klooster points out that students are busy with only the two courses at the beginning of the module, while later in the module, many things are added, making it a bit harder for them. She acknowledges that there is already an ongoing discussion about this between the teachers. Still, she also suggests introducing some of these additional courses a bit earlier in the module. The Programme Director explains it is a bit difficult to arrange, but he leaves it for the module coordinator to look into this. Van Dissel says that it would make a lot of sense to start the International Communicator and Prooflab earlier to have it more spread out. In her opinion, starting the project earlier in the module would not make much sense as the background knowledge learnt in the course Mathematical Statistics is needed to complete the project. The chairman concludes that this issue at this time can be left for the module coordinator to resolve.

6. Evaluations master courses (also from last meeting)

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- Pioneers of Applied Mathematics

135 The Programme Director asked explicitly for a reflection from the teacher, but he has never received an answer. The chairman says that it can be understood if the lectures were cancelled in the previous year because the teacher did not know how to deal with the corona situation. However, he points out that once a conversation with the teacher occurs, a plan for this course from the teacher is expected. The Programme Director suggests that perhaps the teacher needs a bit of help with online teaching.

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140 [AP MC: Discuss with the teacher of Pioneers of Applied Mathematics about his plans for the course this academic year.]

- Applied Queueing Models

145 Ten Klooster points out that it was hard for students to follow the online lectures. She mentions that if the lectures happen to be online again this year, some action should be taken. The chairman explains that the teacher has gained some online teaching experience over this academic year and believes this is enough to improve the online lectures for this course.

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- Minutes Master Evaluation first quartile
 - i. Beursgens has sent the individual part of each course to the corresponding teacher

155 Meinsma asks if the course Optimal Control is not supposed to be part of this evaluation. It is explained that it did not occur before the evaluation was organised, and therefore it is not a part of this report. The chairman points out that the course Applied Statistical Learning gives an impression of being easy. The chairman asks the Master Coordinator to keep this remark in mind to ask the students to evaluate this during the Data Science Master-track evaluation. The Programme Director explains that the course is focused

160 more on the application and therefore, might appear a bit easier than its predecessor, Statistical Learning. He also explains that the Applied Statistical Learning was never meant to replace Statistical Learning.

7. Supplementary - Advice Relaxation BSA norms

165 The Programme Director explains that this document was created due to recent development. The programme is to be offered in full, without any additional delay. However, now, the stress factor is also taken into account and reducing BSA norm to 40 EC does not go too far but should help students getting their BSA.

170 Lanting says that in her opinion, this rule would bring a bit of relief to the freshmen. She explains that this year is very different, and the guidance, even when taking into account all the teachers' efforts, does not feel the same.

175 Ten Klooster explains that already 40EC can show that a student is ready to follow this programme. She explains that this rule may also give students additional motivation to study, even if it would be just one subject difference. She further points out that this rule should not apply to the students who got their postponed BSA last year, because they already got their second chance.

180 Van Dissel agrees that the 40EC rule for first years and 45EC rule for second years with the postpone BSA would help students a lot.

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185 Geerts explains that the education system treats the students differently anyways, and therefore students have been already compensated a lot. He explains that he understands stress relief, but he would not say that education has become more difficult and that adjusting the BSA rule does not feel fair.

190 Manthey agrees that students, teachers and everyone involved are under a lot of stress. He says that a structure is needed for everyone, and it is his impression that any relaxation of rules may take away some structure.

195 The Programme Director explains that besides the stress factor, the motivation factor is also important to take into account when creating the relaxation of rules. He believes the adjusted BSA rules can give students some perspective and motivation to continue.

200 Beursgens agrees that the study did not become harder, and in her reasoning, it makes sense to relax the rules a bit because of the lack of motivation and lack of structure. She thinks that freshmen that are capable of doing the study, in the current situation, might not find enough motivation to study.

205 The chairman explains that the situation makes it challenging to find the motivation to study. He explains that this change makes sense to be implemented for this year. The Programme Committee's advice on this is that this can be implemented for this year, the reason specifically being the students' motivation.

[AP Chairperson: To write the advice on the document Relaxing BSA-norm academic year 2020-21.]

8. Request approval new course "Capita Selecta – Statistics"

210 This course will replace the course Optimal Transport, which was supposed to be given (for the first time) in quarter 2B but the teacher has left the UT, and there isn't anyone to take over that course. Therefore a proper replacement course is sought.

215 The proposal mentions two new staff members. They are not yet part of the staff but will arrive in March and April before 2B starts. This year the course will replace Optimal Transport.

220 The chairman asks about grading as it involves assessment by peers. He explains that the programme does not support grading by fellow students, as discussed earlier for a Mastermath course. He explains further that this grading is worth 30% of the final grade in this course, which is a lot.

225 Next, the learning goals are explained. The chairman explains that these are mentioned rather vaguely. Meinsma explains that it is confusing that the course is called Capita Selecta, which would imply every year a different topic is discussed, while the fact that a book for this course is chosen implies that every year the same issues will be addressed. Manthey agrees that the learning goals should be more specific for this course as some

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can be given for any course. It appears that this description was literally copied from the course “Capita Selecta Operations Research”.

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Beurgens also points out the Dutch abbreviations in the document that should be changed to English.

Judith Timmer leaves at 17:23.

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The chairman suggests not give any advice for this course yet. The PC-AM would like to see changes in the grading policy, aims and the learning goals.

[AP Chairperson: To discuss the details of the course “Capita Selecta – Statistics” with the contact person.]

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9. Addendum guideline B-EER 2020 online surveillance and online proctoring

This document has been given to the Programme Committee as information. This document applies to the bachelor. However, a similar document has been created for the master.

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[AP PD: Share the policy about online testing with the staff.]

10. Quality agreements / WSV-money

To be discussed during the next meeting.

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11. AOB / Questions before closing the meeting

There are no questions.

12. Closure

The chairman closes the meeting at 17:30.

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Next meeting on 2 March 2021

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Action Points:

Nr	Description	Meeting	Responsible
378	To organise the evaluation of the MDS track in February/March 2021.	15/09/2020	M-Coordinator
380	To talk to module 2 coordinator about scheduling of the exam and to invite him to a meeting in the future.	17/11/2020	Chairperson
382a	To discuss replacement/continuation of this course with the Data Science track coordinator and Johannes Schmidt-Hieber.	19/01/2021	M-Coordinator and Programme Director

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385	To ask a new reflection form from the teachers of Spatial Statistics, ask the teachers to focus on the improvement of teaching in both cases: online/on-campus education.	17/11/2020	Programme Director
386	To talk to Mirande van der Kooij about the instructions for panel evaluations.	19/01/2021	Programme Director
387	To write advice about the R part of module 5.	19/01/2021	Chairperson
388	Discuss with the teacher of Pioneers of Applied Mathematics about his plans for the course this academic year.	19/01/2021	Master Coordinator
389	To write the advice on the document Relaxing BSA-norm academic year 2020-21.	19/01/2021	Chairperson
390	To discuss the details of the course "Capita Selecta – Statistics" with the contact person.	19/01/2021	Chairperson
391	Share the policy about online testing with the staff.	19/01/2021	Programme Director