

MINUTES BITOC MEETING

Date: Tuesday April 30th, 2019
Location: Ravelijn 3411
Time: 12:40 – 14:00

Present: Luís Ferreira Pires (chairman), Niels de Groot (minutes), Maria Iacob (programme director), Marloes van Grinsven (programme coordinator MSc), Joyce van Baaren (programme coordinator BSc), Jos van Hillegersberg, Marten van Sinderen, Adina Aldea, Luis Ferreira Pires, Christian Versloot, Laurence Arnold, Nikki Zandbergen, Bernard Verheijen, Wessel Ammerlaan (education Inter-Actief)

Absent: -

1. Opening and Agenda

Luís opens the meeting at 12:47.

2. Announcements

a. New BITOC member

Nikki is a new member of the BITOC and introduces herself. Niels will take care of the minutes of the BITOC meetings and also introduces himself.

b. New coordinator M1 & change of pearls

Maria announces the new module coordinator of module 1 will be Erwin Hans. Computer Science wants to part ways concerning the pearls of module 1, since they think they cannot manage so many students together. This gives BIT the opportunity to design our own programming line. We should be careful in selecting the contents of the course. For instance, Python is important, since it comes back a lot in later modules, so we cannot skip it. The same holds for Java, as it is essential for module 2. On the other hand, computer networks and functional programming are not life-threatening, so maybe we could replace this with requirements engineering or something about AI, since it is a lot more relevant to BIT. Luis comments that some networking knowledge is essential for module 4. Maria questions whether it must be included in module 1 or if a small part of module 4 could be specifically dedicated for this. Luis thinks it would be better to leave the computer networks pearl as is. The new module coordinator has less knowledge of the specifics of the programming pearls, since he comes from Operations Research. Maria thinks it is her duty to make the design of the pearls work for the BIT students, which is also why she opens this up to the students attendance.

Nikki comments that some parts of the networking pearl could actually be replaced, since operating systems were also part of the pearl and do not seem relevant to her anymore. Christian advises against reincluding requirements engineering because it was removed earlier since it was thought to be redundant in combination with what students are already working on at the time. Perhaps we could include parts of the networking pearl in other programming lectures, so there is one week that is free to plan new stuff. Maria states that we do have a problem concerning resourcing, since the Computer Science teachers will be busy lecturing TCS and we should thus find a Computer Science teacher for all programming for BIT. Currently, there is no teacher available to do this.

c. Re-design BIT Master; DSM+FIS=ISR

Klaas is retiring this September, which has some consequences concerning core courses, and has consequences for the TER of the Master. There is also a wish from Marten to immediately start redesigning the Design Science Methodology course and merge it with Foundations of Information Systems, starting next year already, if possible. This is also due to resourcing problems, since, again, we do not have enough teachers to teach the courses. Maria thinks this is almost impossible to realize in such a short time span.

d. Double degree Munster

Maria mentions they are working on the double degree with Munster. There have been some meetings and a visit is planned for June. As a result of the initiative of Jos, we are contributing to a project proposal around a Fintech Master which will be integrated with the BIT Master. If all goes well, we should have about fifteen students following this specialization. This is all in the proposal phase, there are several universities participating in this Master. We are supposed to offer either the first year or the second year of the course in Enschede.

e. OLD-day & TOM2.0

A first meeting was held with the project manager of TOM2.0. The main message was that we should be actively working on the new TOM2.0. During this day, we had some discussion sessions concerning different aspects of education and another meeting is planned in one month.

f. Resource problem

Maria wants to point out once more that there is a serious resource problem. Marten comments that he still needs someone for Design Science, otherwise he has to redesign the course (if it is not merged with another course). There was a plan to redesign, but that was for 2020, not this year. The problem to find teachers is becoming more and more acute. Maria says that we are planning all kinds of fancy redesigns, but we should keep in mind that we should be able to find teachers for these courses too.

3. Minutes and Action Points

- **Minutes 26-03-2019**

Page 1: The date is wrong, it says 29th of January which should be changed into 26th of March.

Page 2: There are some questions about the sentence at 2b stating Maria her talk 'was also accepted by a Communication Science professional'. Maria explains her talk was positively evaluated by a communication science expert who Maria had asked to train her a bit. It says the decision will take place mid-April, but this should be at the beginning of May. Luis' name is not spelled correctly.

Page 5: It states 'it was a disaster again' and it says it was a quote of Maria, though it was said by the module coordinator. The sentence could use some more nuance to it.

- **75. Plan of action for improvement PDOB module:**

Jos has sent it, but there is no time to discuss this today. It should be discussed at a later meeting.

- **78. Student assistant pool:**

Laurence has been talking to several people about the student pool to gather information on whether this is needed for modules. Some people are interested, some are not. After we have considered all modules, we will work together with Inter-Actief to get something set up. Laurence is currently very busy with his internship, after that he has some more time to work on this project. Luis mentions he thinks it is a very good project.

- **79. E-strategizing report:**

The last news is that Maria discussed with the other teacher within the course. He is willing to take on a substantial part of the course. Luis mentions the action point can be removed, since this was already reported last meeting.

- **86. Invite Cynthia to BITOC meeting:**

Maria has invited Cynthia, but the invitation was declined. Maria comments that she will ask again, though she has been trying for quite some time already. Luis says the BITOC just wants to talk to her to get some information. Luis specifically wants to know how the quality assurance mechanism of the faculty works and comments it would be nice if we could give some feedback from our side.

- **89. Talk to Marieke about 2nd pearl M1:**

Considering the recent developments this action point has become irrelevant.

AP Maria will look for a teacher for the programming parts of M1.

- **91. Find a suitable date for the Master review session:**

A date was planned, and all BITOC members were invited.

- **92. Find replacement for Adam and Niek:**

Niels and Nikki have replaced Adam and Niek within the BITOC.

- **93. Send the evaluations of Master courses to BITOC:**

The evaluations were sent, but the BITOC did not receive any teacher reactions.

4. Language policy EEMCS

Luis proposes a positive advice. Christian adds that this should be under the condition that the policy will not be a strict set of rules, but rather a set of guidelines to which students and staff could adhere.

AP Luis will formulate a reaction concerning the language policy and send it.

5. Master Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER) 2019-2020

General part

Page 8: Laurence is curious why the part 'no older than two years' has been added. Marloes says it has been like that for ages, but it has been made more explicit on the Master marketing website a lot more recently. It is policy of the UT in general that we just follow. We don't make the rules in this case, but in practice we will still be able to make exceptions for US students who studied in Germany, for example. It would be ridiculous to ask those students to do a language test. Adina asks about English programmes from other countries. Marloes says that the level of English differs too much to take an English programme for granted. A language test is thus still required.

Christian mentions that the condition has been changed so it does not say anything about native speakers anymore. Example: native speakers who have lived in another country for their entire life and speak English with their parents at home. Marloes comments that speaking English at home isn't necessarily at an academic level, which is the argument for removing this line. The admissions office can still make an exception if needed. Christian says that, to him, it feels like this excludes native speakers in the sense that native speakers are not welcome unless they have studied in their home country. Luis comments that they are not excluded, but they do have to show a proof of language proficiency. Marten says these rules cover most cases and for other (edge) cases exceptions can be made, which is why he does not foresee any problems.

A URL was removed from the document and there are some questions about it. Marloes comments that the webpage the URL points to no longer exists, which is the reason it was removed from the TER.

Page 15: Luis comments that the first paragraph of article A4.7 is very confusing as it states the period of validity is 'infinite', though the next sentence talks about expiration, which is contradictory to using the term 'infinite'. He thinks the paragraph has more problems. For example, the paragraph does not state who falsifies the results. The paragraph should definitely be clarified. A possible rephrasing could be '(...) are valid indefinitely, unless (...)'.


There is an extensive discussion about how to specify the cases in which the result may not be valid anymore. Does the programme management decide when results are not valid indefinitely anymore, does the examination committee do this, or someone else? Furthermore, what happens if the course is no longer part of your examination programme, but you still have this result? There are also some questions concerning the phrase 'the knowledge or skills tested are (...) proven to have lost their relevance'. When is the relevance lost? Luis hopes a better formulation will be found.

Christian says that a valid end grade could possibly consist of invalid partial results. As soon as results are aggregated, the result is a final result. For this part too, some reformulation is of importance.

Page 17: Luis says it states 'in principle', which indicates it is not a rule. Removing 'in principle' should fix the problem and if needed 'needs to' could be rephrased to 'is expected to'. Christian comments on part 5c of article A6.2, saying that the first sentence is not finished.

Specific part

Page 10: Luis stresses the importance of stating that it is an example.

Page 12: The proposal to include Data Science in the core is discussed. Luis asks the BITOC members for their opinion. Christian thinks it is a great idea. Maria would like to know whether people think this a good idea for next year or also on the long term. Luis thinks this is a long-term thing, because Data Science is becoming more and more important.


Christian mentions the Data Science course is composed of several tracks and one track, the Visualization track, very much resembles the Tableau part of module 3 of the Bachelor. Perhaps this part could be intensified. Furthermore, some Data Science Management could be added, since these are now not included. Luis asks whether there will be any constraints Christian disagrees because if you are a BIT student and are very interested in the technical aspects of Data Science, it is feasible. Luis agrees, but Data & Science is also offered in Data Science & Business specialization. The idea is that, if it is included in the core, you should think about what is the essential knowledge that all students should have. If students are more interested, those courses are available separately. Christian thinks it should be possible to choose from a variety of subjects, and Data Science is interesting regardless of the level of technology.

Maria mentions that they still have to decide in what quarter the Data Science part should be taught, which has some consequences for the contents of the course. Maria would like to discuss the plans concerning the Data Science course in the core during the meeting on May 10th.

Page 16: Laurence is interested in why the second point at the bottom of the page was removed. Marloes explains this was needed due to other changes and the point is now incorporated in a different way.

The BITOC will give a positive advice concerning the Master Teaching and Examination Regulations. There are some comments concerning the language requirements for students from other countries and about the validity of (partial) results, as mentioned above. Maria will, for now, act as if the proposal concerning the core will be adopted.

AP Luis will formulate a reaction concerning the Master TER and send it.

6. Annual report BITOC 2017-2018

Luis understands that there is a template for the annual report and asks Maria whether she can send it to him. Luis will formulate the report and get in touch with Maria.

AP Maria will send the template for the annual report of the BITOC to Luis.

7. A.O.B.

There is no other business to discuss.

8. Closure

There is not enough time to discuss all points of the agenda. The points that were not discussed will be moved to next meeting.

Luis closes the meeting at 13:57.

A meeting concerning the Master TER is planned on May 10th, 2019.

The next BITOC meeting shall be on 28th May 2019, 12:40-14:00 in Ravelijn 3411.

9. Action Points list

The finalised actions points are in the style 'strikethrough'. Since multiple action points were found in duplicate in the minutes, two action points are merged to one action point list for clarity.

Nr.	Date	Subject	Leader	Status/deadline
75.	2018-05-29	Send the Plan of Action for the improvement of the PDOB module	Jos	Done, should be discussed during the next meeting
78.	2018-08-28	Ask Wessel and/or Adam about help with getting to the BIT students for the student assistant job pool through Inter-Actief	Bernard, Laurence	Discussion described under point 3. Will be continued.
79.	2018-08-28	Ask Ton or Marcus about the E-strategizing report on the complaints filed in the past years.	Maria	Discussion described under point 3. Will be continued.
86.	2019-01-29	Invite Cynthia to a BITOC meeting	Maria	Maria will invite Cynthia to the next BITOC meeting.
89.	2019-01-29	Talk to Marieke about organizing 2nd Pearl again for BIT students in the end of the module.	Maria	Discussion described under point 3. Action point cancelled.
90.	2019-01-29	Ask the coordinator of the Serious Gaming minor about his opinion on the evaluation of the module	Maria	Discussion described under point 3. Will be continued.
91.	2019-03-26	Find a suitable date for the Master review session and invite BITOC and Exam board members	Marloes	Done. The session will take place on May 10th, 2019. All BITOC members have received an invite.
92.	2019-03-26	Find the replacement for Adam and Niek	Christian, Wessel	Done. Niels and Nikki have replaced Adam and Niek.

93.	2019-03-26	Send the evaluations of Master courses to BITOC	Maria	Discussion described under point 3. Will be continued.
94.	2019-04-30	Look for a teacher for the programming parts of M1	Maria	New action point.
95.	2019-04-30	Formulate a reaction concerning the language policy and send it	Luis	New action point.
96.	2019-04-30	Formulate a reaction concerning the Master TER and send it	Luis	New action point.
97.	2019-04-30	Send the template for the annual report of the BITOC to Luis	Maria	New action point.