

### MINUTES BITOC MEETING

Date: Thursday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Location: Microsoft Teams (online meeting)  
Time: 12:40-14:00

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**Present:** Luís Ferreira Pires (chairman), Maria Iacob (programme director), Marloes van Grinsven (programme coordinator MSc), Tirzah Dekker (programme coordinator BSc a.i.), Jos van Hillegersberg, Marten van Sinderen, Thomas Hogema, Bernard Verheijen, Gustas Matijosius, Willem Schooltink (education *Inter-Actief*)

**Absent:** Joyce van Baaren (programme coordinator BSc), Adina Aldea, Deepika Jangamguravepalli Bramhanandareddy

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#### 1. Opening and Agenda

*Luís opens the meeting at 12:43.*

#### 2. Announcements & correspondence

##### a. Temporary policies

The Executive board has taken a number of decisions that have been communicated to the BITOC by Maria. The information provided include a temporary ban on preparing trips and signing contracts and learning agreements in the context of traveling abroad, regulations regarding online proctoring and examination, and information regarding COVID-19 and the guidelines of the EER 2021-2022.

The UT has also defined a policy regarding the use of proctoring. The UT does not encourage the use of proctoring, but if needed there are tools available for it now. Maria explains that there are two options for proctoring right now: Proctorio (which can be implemented in Remindo) or Zoom. Marten says that he received an email from the Computer Science department stating that the Zoom variant had not been fully implemented yet, so for now Proctorio is the only option. For Proctorio, recordings will be made which can be analysed for suspicious behaviour. For Zoom, the footage will be monitored live by teachers and/or student assistants.

Thomas says he believes the Proctorio approach to be far more intrusive. Bernard says he wonders if sufficient privacy regulations are in place for introducing proctoring software. Marloes says that there has been an addendum to the EER with privacy policy, and there is also a web page on the use of proctoring available from LISA. Maria says that BIT staff has been told only to use proctoring in case students are not able to come to campus for an exam. This means it is only for exceptional situations, and the main goal still is to hold exams on campus. Maria has sent the general UT guidelines regarding proctoring to the BITOC members.

##### b. Proposal for Cum Laude masters

There is a slight change in the cum laude regulation, in that there is a proposal to use weighted grades instead of the (unweighted) average to calculate the grade for a cum laude. This may be problematic

since there is a general opinion that it is fairly simple for students to obtain a high grade for an internship, which would count for up to 20EC. Maria and Marloes both do not necessarily agree with the necessity of the change but also do not object to it. According to Marloes, the problem is not necessarily with the internship, since the deciding factor for cum laude over the past years have mostly been the 9 for the thesis. Not that many students do an internship at BIT, so for our education programme this seems somewhat irrelevant. However, the programme management wants an advice from the BITOC on this point.

Another option is also possible, which is not to include the internship in the weighted final grade at all. Marloes says that this is actually the proposal that was chosen: you need to have an 8 or higher for the internship if you do it, otherwise the final grade is the weighted average that is also visible for students in Osiris since 2018/2019. That is also why it was a longstanding wish to use the weighted average instead of a normal average, as we always used the arithmetic mean, which yields a different result than the weighted average.

Thomas asks if he is correct in assuming the main reason to change this is the value shown in Osiris. Marloes confirms this is indeed the case. Luis says the goal will not be reached anyway, because if the internship is not taken into account in the weighted average at all, the Osiris grade may not match with the grade used for cum laude. In his opinion, the argument therefore does not hold. Marloes explains that the BIT programme does not have a mandatory internship and other programmes do. For other programmes it was therefore more important than for our students.

The BITOC, like Maria and Marloes, believes there is no real necessity for this change with respect to the BIT programme. However, as other programmes feel the need and this concerns an EEMCS regulation, there are no objections from the BITOC, and a positive advice has been given.

The BITOC gives a positive advice regarding the proposal to change the cum laude regulations.

### c. Pre-enrolments

The number of pre-enrolled students has increased for both the Bachelor and Master with respect to last year. For the Bachelor, there are 115 applications, most of which are international students, which worries Maria. However, Dutch students often show up later, so the ratio of Dutch versus international students will probably change. For the Master, a total of ~40 students have been admitted, of which over 90% are international students. On the one hand, we have enough students for next year, which is great, but Maria would like to have more Dutch students enrolled in the programme to create a more equal distribution of nationalities, among other reasons. As this increase is also taking place at TCS, it may mean we have to organise modules 4 and 6 separately from them, as there is simply not enough capacity to handle students from both programmes at once.

Marten asks if this means our retention rate is particularly bad. How many of our Bachelor students continue to the BIT Master? According to Maria, the retention rate Bachelor BIT to Master BIT is miserable, since most B-BIT students move to M-CS. Maria will investigate why this happens and also why students leave UT altogether. She says that the programme management encourage students to follow their calling, so if they really want to continue in another Master programme, that is fine. However, the BIT programme would also like to retain more students. Maria says she understands

when students really have plans, for example, to go abroad for a Master, and she cannot change their minds in this case. That B-BIT students mostly continue to M-CS worries her though.

Luís thinks it is important to understand that the Bachelor-Master system was introduced for people to possibly switch to something else after Bachelor. If we say we are not happy we are not retaining students, it seems like we are against the Bachelor-Master system. If it is in balance, meaning students come from somewhere else to do M-BIT, while B-BIT students leave to other Masters, then it is fine. However, we do not attract too many M-BIT students from elsewhere either.

Maria theorises that many B-BIT students do their Bachelor Project with CS supervisors, they get into CS topics, and then go to M-CS. Therefore, the final project could be more BIT focussed. Of course, the programme wants students to discover different disciplines, but BIT should be one of those too. Maria proposes that each BIT student should *also* have a BMS (business-oriented) supervisor for the Bachelor Project.

According to Jos, the CS programme has become a lot less technical but is still *Technical Computer Science*. It seems that their programme is starting to incorporate parts that would originally be seen as BIT topics. Jos wants to stress that this is just a theory. Marten names some examples of topics that he does believe can fit within CS. The M-BIT programme is also not found by B-IEM students, apparently. Jos says that this is weird because B-IEM students do a lot of BIT topics during their Bachelor Project. Luís believes it is an interesting discussion, but it had to be stopped due to time constraints.

Maria is going to think about how to get more B-BIT students to M-BIT. Furthermore, the suggestion came up to separate the Bachelor Project for BIT and TCS, so that BIT can have more influence on its own Bachelor Project. Finally, Thomas mentions the NSE (*National Student Inquiry*) asks questions about topics like study continuation and choice of Master programme, so he believes the programme management should watch that closely.

**AP** Maria will investigate why the Bachelor to Master retention rate is so low and why students leave the UT altogether.

### 3. Minutes and Action Points

- **Minutes 28-01-2021**

There are no comments on the minutes.

- **141: Produce documentation to request participation of BIT in Math teaching minor:**

Tirzah has some updates. A meeting is planned next week to discuss with field experts and finalize the documentation. The action point remains in progress.

- **142: Lunch delivery:**

BITOC members have received lunch for this meeting. Lunch will also be delivered for future meetings, for which Luís will ask for addresses of BITOC members who wish to receive lunch. Action point concluded.

## 4. Quality agreements (from last meeting)

Student members of the BITOC believe the document is clear and complete and believe it provides a good overview of the state of the quality agreements. Luís asks Maria whether there is anything special about measure 6 ('Professional mentoring of students'), as BIT is not mentioned there. Maria does not currently have an answer but will look into the matter.

The BITOC is thankful for the open communication and transparency regarding the quality agreements report.

## 5. Bylaws PC-BIT

Willem says the bylaws currently state that all BITOC members are allowed to vote. However, there are several people attending the BITOC meetings who are not allowed to vote. Luís explains that, to him, it is clear that with BITOC members he means those four teachers and students. Everyone else attending the meetings is not a member. According to Luís, the definition of 'BITOC member' may already be provided in the law. However, if this not clear, either a clause defining who exactly are the BITOC members can be introduced, or we could have a clause stating who are not BITOC members but rather advisors.

**AP** Luís will look into the definition of 'BITOC members' in the PC-BIT bylaws.

## 6. Evaluation Bachelor courses CEEP Q1 & SEQ Q2


The CEEP reports regarding the Bachelor course of Q1 do not provide a lot of extra information with respect to the SEQ evaluations discussed earlier. In a sense, this is positive as no major problems came forward in these reports in addition to the earlier SEQ reports.

The module Intelligent Interaction Design has been strongly improved. Earlier, the evaluations were relatively bad, but the average now goes towards a six, which is great. The evaluation was not split in BIT and CS, so Maria has some difficulties to understand what the BIT population thinks. Most criticism was regarding the AI theory. The lab sessions were good, but the theory was deemed boring by most students. Maria has a meeting with the module coordinator quite soon. The redesign has not resulted in the best module ever yet, but it has absolutely benefited from these changes. Niels adds that he participated in the course himself and he believes this year has been a huge step forward, and he would urge the module coordinator to keep going in this direction. Bernard comments that the Statistics part seems rushed as the course is spread over five weeks though the module takes ten weeks. Maria will discuss this with the module coordinator.

Maria adds that students also believe the module parts do not connect well enough to justify that they have not been split up under TOM2.0. Lastly, she is very glad the module has improved and hopes this will be an ongoing trend. Luís adds that he agrees but he would very much like to see this SEQ evaluation split so that we can only look at the opinion of the BIT students. Tirzah closes off the discussion by stating that only a small number of BIT students fill out the SEQ, and the programme management should think about how we can increase that.

Software Development (M2) has received a very nice grade (way above 7), and the feedback was very positive. The module coordinator is very involved, and according to Maria he has good plans to redesign the whole programming line in the first year and he is very ambitious. This is a great step forward and it also shows in the passing rate of students, which has increased to 60%, and this is not because the module was made easier since it was not. Having a separate BIT M2 is incredibly helpful, according to Luís.

## 7. Evaluation master courses



Maria believes all evaluations are quite positive. For Enterprise Security, Maria and Marloes were wondering if any students in the BITOC have participated in this course and could shed some light on negative feedback that came in. Deepika participated in the course but thought it was a good course, so she does not necessarily agree with the student Maria quotes from the SEQ responses who has some more negative feedback. According to Maria that is good to hear, and the grade is about an 8 so it is not necessarily something to worry about.

Luís states that Data Science has quite some negative remarks this year, which is not in line with previous years. He believes this may have to do with the ability to scale this course, as it has been growing quite a lot. Thomas did not take the course this year, but did last year, and he does agree that scalability may have played a large role in this year's evaluation.

## 8. AOB & questions

Tirzah says it might be her last meeting as Joyce is coming back from maternity leave soon, so if that is the case, she thanks everyone for the cooperation and hopes to see people again sometime in the future.

Deepika says that for BPIL a Hackathon was planned, but it got postponed. She wonders if anyone has an update on it. Jos says that the planning was to have it in a hybrid form, but the lockdown did not work out well for the event. This is now postponed to the summer and will not be used for a course grade anymore.

Thomas wants to thank Luís, Maria, and the faculty for organizing the lunch. Maria says that they will continue to arrange such a lunch for future online meetings. Maria says she hopes to meet on campus next time though, but Luís is less optimistic and thinks that will probably not happen before September.

## 9. Closure

*Luís closes the meeting at 13:46.*

The next BITOC meeting will take place on March 25<sup>th</sup>.



## 10. 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.

<b>Nr.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Status/deadline</b>
<b>141.</b>	2021-01-28	Produce documentation to request participation of BIT in the Math teaching minor	Maria & Tirzah	Ongoing.
<b>142.</b>	2021-01-28	Ask Mirande whether lunch could be delivered to BITOC members for future meetings.	Luís	Done.
<b>143.</b>	2021-02-18	Research why the Bachelor to Master retention rate is so low and why students leave the UT altogether.	Maria	New action point.
<b>144.</b>	2021-02-18	Look into the implementation of a definition for 'BITOC members' in the PC-BIT bylaws.	Luís	New action point.