

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

THEO TOONEN

Dean, Faculty of Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences

CC: HENK BOER

Educational Director, Faculty of Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences

FACULTY COUNCIL, BEHAVIOURAL, MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (BMS)

FROM

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DEPARTMENT

Public Administration

DATE

4 December 2015

OUR REFERENCE

FC-BMS2015-12

YOUR REFERENCE

Kwatileitszorg

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SUBJECT: QUALITY CONTROL, EDUCATION

Dear Dean,

The faculty council has received and discussed the revised document on quality control of educational programs of 24.09.2015 and discussed the results with you in the faculty council meeting of 20.10.2015. In preparation for that meeting we collected opinions from the educational affairs committees (OLCs) of the faculty.

We note that the quality assurance plan submitted this fall was the result of an oral agreement made in the June 2015 faculty council meeting to revise earlier plans for quality control, with the specific intent to ensure that written reports would not be comprehensive and automatic for all courses and module components, regardless of how well they had performed in evaluations. It was therefore with great regret that the revised document we received in September appears not to adopted agreement as we understood it.

As you know, all but one of the educational affairs committees advised negatively on the Quality Assurance Plan in its most recent form based on this point. The remaining committee advised positively, but had reservations that echoed the reasoning given by the other committees. In short, the committees advised negatively because they felt that the system of Program Improvement Plans and Course Improvement Plans added much to the administrative workload without adding value to the current quality control system.

While the Faculty Council naturally supports measures to monitor and improve teaching quality and the fact that course and program improvement plans are a necessary component of that, it concurs with the majority of OLCs that the writing of comprehensive reports is less well suited to supporting improvements than selective

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FC-BMS2015-16

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reporting, planning and changes. After discussing this in the October meeting, we regret the decision to implement the plans without the advice and ask to be informed semi-annually on how the implementation of the plans has worked. Beyond this, this letter formally confirms the Faculty Council's negative advice, and puts it on record for the faculty's OLCs, as the relevant stakeholders.

Sincerely, on behalf of the Council,



Shawn Donnelly
Chair

