

## **Plan of action to improve quality of education BMS (version 6-3-2018)**

### *Introduction*

In the letter of the Board of the University regarding the approval of the budget 2018-2020 of BMS, paragraph 2 mentions the Quality Appointments and Quality of Education. This paragraph makes clear that the Ministry of OCW will make available additional budgets from 2019 as part of the student dependent part of the financing of education. The aim of these means is to enable investments in the quality of higher education. In agreement with the coalition agreement and the agreement on the financial study support for students, the additional resources should be connected to quality appointments. These quality appointments will be valid from 2019 and have a duration of 4 years (so the years, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022). This means that also the Faculty of BMS must formulate quality appointments.

### *Right of assent on quality appointments*

The quality appointments will be made on the level of universities. In the coalition agreement, it was agreed that universities themselves will be allowed to formulate targets and quality indicators. However, a number of principles have been determined by the Ministry of OCW with regard to the themes, which are relevant for further elaboration in the quality appointments. This includes the quality areas of intensity of education, study success, differentiation in education, teacher quality, guidance of students and educational facilities. Between relevant authorities, such as the VSNU and national student associations, it was agreed that the teacher and students involvement will be organized by giving the Programme Committees the right of assent and by involving the Programme Committees in making plans for the quality appointments. Within the UT it was agreed that the right of assent will be executed by the decentralised assent committee (Faculty councils) and the OLC's and that in the management report attention will be paid to the improvement of education quality.

### *UT wide project quality appointments*

At the UT, a separate project will be set up to achieve quality appointments, in the form of detailed targets and indicators. In January 2018, in the letter about the approval of the budget, it was reported that the Faculty of BMS would be informed on the design and planning of the project. To date (March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018) still no further information on the design and planning of the project has been provided to the Faculty of BMS. This does not mean that no initiatives can yet be taken within the Faculty of BMS to improve the quality of education. Based on the decentralized right of assent, the Faculty of BMS does have to make clear how this right will be organized within the Faculty of BMS. To the UR it has been promised that the decentralized right of assent on the quality appointments will be properly organized. Separately from the exact budgets, the FR and the OLC's will need to be convinced of the value of the actions that have been formulated to improve the quality of education. Based on the quality appointments, these actions will be monitored in the management reporting.

### *Nature and type of the quality appointments within BMS*

The previous paragraphs indicate that the focus of judgement has shifted from an understanding of the precise allocation of available additional resources to a more general judgement of the FR (and the OLC's) on more general quality appointments, that fit within the framework of the Ministry of OCW and the UT. This broader perspective is also important because the additional resources have descended

into the generic BMS education funding. Because these resources have not been earmarked, it would also be difficult (if not impossible) to link the resources to specific activities that could be judged by the FR and programme committees on effectiveness and desirability.

*Process to achieve quality agreements within BMS*

As for the generic quality measures, the Vice Dean Education in the coming months will take action to be able to formulate some specific quality indicators for BMS. To start with the Programme Directors will be consulted in their regular meeting on the relevance of specific indicators for the BMS educational programmes. Based on the considerations of the programme directors, a preliminary proposal will be formulated. This proposal will be offered to the programme committees for advice and consent. The programmes committees will also be given the opportunity to mention additional quality appointments that should be taken into account. Based on the advices from the programme committees OLC's a second proposal with quality appointments will be formulated and, after discussion of the second proposal in the regular meeting of the programme directors, the list of quality indicators for BMS will be finalized. This final list will be sent to the FR for assent. This final list will also take into account UT wide initiatives and indicators. We hope to be able to reach a final list of quality indicators that will be compact and well-organized.

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