

UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.



To whom it may concern

EXECUTIVE BOARD

FROM
Haico te Kulve
T +31(0)53 489 3352
h.tekulve@utwente.nl

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16-07-2018
OUR REFERENCE
CVB UJT- 3525/S&B

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ATTACHMENTS
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SUBJECT
Position of the Executive Board of the University of Twente regarding the research assessment of Applied Physics

In March 2018, the research unit Applied Physics belonging to the Faculty of Science and Technology at the University of Twente was visited by an international review panel as part of the research review of Applied Physics. The panel followed the 2015-2021 Standard Evaluation Protocol for research evaluations at universities in the Netherlands. The committee consisted of: Prof. D.E. Wolf (Universitat Duisburg-Essen), Prof. T. Puig (Institute of Materials Science of Barcelona), Prof. E. Guazzelli (CNRS – Aix-Marseille Universite), Prof. S. Blugel (Forschungszentrum Julich), Prof. P. Uhd Jepsen (Technical University of Denmark). The committee was supported by Peter Hildering, who acted as secretary on behalf of QANU.

Governance and strategy

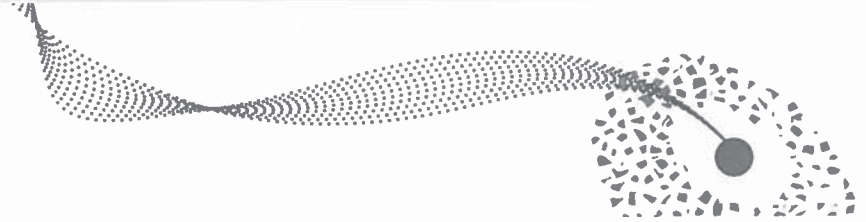
The committee positively evaluated the unit's strategy and praised the vision expressed by the faculty management and senior researchers in the interviews during the site visit. The committee considered the current governance model at the University of Twente and the cluster model at the Faculty of Science and Technology as an appropriate model to further strengthen the research unit. The tenure track policy at the University of Twente was seen as a good practice for talent management.

Research quality, societal relevance and viability

The committee considered the unit as producing world-class research quality which is very well-recognized within the academic community. The committee was equally impressed by how the unit conducts research and interacts with industrial partners, generates spin-off and supports outreach activities. According to the committee the unit is currently in an excellent position in terms of finances, scientific capabilities and personnel. The main challenge will be to maintain this position and to venture into new research areas. The committee shared the concern of the management and researchers regarding the funding of research infrastructures and supported the attempts to acquire funding.

PhD programmes, Research integrity and Diversity

The committee positively evaluated the research unit's ability to create a professional and pleasant environment for PhD candidates. The committee was positive on the role the Twente Graduate School



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plays in the training of PhD candidates and the unit's dedication in supporting candidates to finish on time. The committee considered that research integrity appeared to be well-embedded in the unit. The committee was very positive on the ability of the unit to attract staff and PhD candidates from various international backgrounds.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The committee concluded that the research unit Applied Physics conducts world-class research and that its staff is internationally recognized. Research quality, Relevance to society and Viability are all evaluated as excellent. The committee formulated a number of recommendations. These are listed in the table below.

Topic	Recommendations of the committee
Research area, objectives and organisation of research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">continue to develop the research clusters in order to become internationally competitive units. It encourages the cooperation between research groups to support the smaller groups within the unit and to promote even further their International Visibility;hire tenure track researchers on the level of the research clusters rather than the research groups in order to encourage research groups to think about new tenure track positions in terms of emerging topics and challenges;no specific recommendations
Research quality and Relevance to society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">expand on and invest in the emerging topic of low-power electronics, and to consider hiring a theoretical physicist in this area;aim at consolidation of the current size of the large research groups rather than to aim for further expansion to keep these groups manageable;lobby for new funding tools for the funding of medium-sized equipment and infrastructure;
Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">secure that all PhD supervisors are aware of their role in co-shaping the PhD programme of their PhD candidates;
PhD programs and graduate schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">pay attention to research integrity, ethics and data management for new research staff on all levels rather than only PhD candidates;
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">continue efforts to improve the gender balance within the unit.
Diversity	

The Executive Board highly values the thorough and careful assessment of the committee of the research conducted at Applied Physics at the UT. The Board values the appreciating comments of the committee regarding the world-class research conducted at the UT. The Board equally values the recommendations offered by the committee which will support Applied Physics to uphold and improve its high quality. The Board shares the concerns of the faculty and the committee regarding the funding of facilities and infrastructure to ensure continuation of the high-level research conducted by Applied Physics and other units at the University of Twente. The Executive Board will discuss the recommendations with the faculty and stimulate the uptake of the recommendations in its quality management processes.

The executive board of the University of Twente expresses its gratitude to the international committee for its efforts and the unit for preparing the research assessment. The Board congratulates the Faculty of Science and Technology and the staff of Applied Physics for its outstanding performance as evident from the assessment report.

On behalf of the Executive Board,



Prof.dr. Thom Palstra
Rector Magnificus