

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

Dr.ir. Jan Broenink

Cc: Merijn Snel

FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

FROM
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DATE
September 14, 2021

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SUBJECT
Positive advice regarding the initiative to start the MSc Robotics

Dear Dr. Jan Broenink,

In your email of September 3rd, 2021, you requested the Programme Committee (PC) of Systems & Control (S&C) for an advice regarding the initiative to start the MSc Robotics. Although we have not scheduled a formal PC meeting since then, the committee members have exchanged their thoughts about this initiative of which we had been informed before. The PC of S&C has concluded towards a positive advice regarding the proposed initiative.

We expect that the new MSc Robotics programme will be a full substitution of most of the existing MSc S&C programme. In the current programme the large majority of students chose the specialisation "Robotics and Mechatronics (RAM)" which is well covered in the new specialisation on "Mechatronics and Physical AI". This can also be recognised in the information that is gathered in the "Conversion Table Systems & Control => MSc Robotics". Furthermore, this table outlines clearly which courses current S&C students should select in order to be well-prepared in the case they prefer to graduate in the new Robotics programme once this has been approved and will actually start.

Furthermore, we appreciate the multidisciplinary approach of the Robotics programme, as well as all three specialisations of the new programme. Looking in some more detail, we would like to add some considerations to this advice:

- Our current specialisation on "System and Control Theory" is less visible in the new programme, but we expect that students with this interest can also combine adequate courses in the Robotics programme or alternatively in a mathematical master programme.
- We consider the rule for external master assignments to be rather strict as such assignments are only allowed in variant 3 of the second year where the internship of the standard variant (1) is replaced by four elective courses.
- We recommend that students have the possibility to do their master assignment in any group participating in the new programme. This can be encouraged by organising the course programme such that a final selection of this group can be taken in the course of the first year or an early decision can be still changed until the end of the year.

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We would appreciate a response on the above items. We are looking forward to the next steps to be taken for this initiative. In the meantime, we are willing to share our ideas. If you have any further concerns/questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Prof. Sarthak Misra
Co-chair S&C PC

Dr. Ronald Aarts,
Co-chair S&C PC

