Annual Report PC-CS (Programme Committee Computer Science) 2023-2024

The PC-CS is responsible for advising the Programme Director on the Bachelor Programme Technical Computer Science and the Master Programme Computer Science. The PC-CS consists of four staff members, four student members and a secretary. The Programme Director, Programme Coordinators, and the Officer of Educational Affairs of the study association have standing invitations to attend the meetings.

Members

The members of the PC-CS were in the academic year 2023-2024:

Staff members:
- Nikolaos Alachiotis
- Mohammed Elhajj
- Rom Langerak (chair)
- Anna Sperotto

Student members:
- Mariska Frelier (Bachelor student)
- Jakub Kościołek (Bachelor Student)
- Kryštof Mitka (vice chair) (Bachelor student)
- Mikuláš Vanoušek (Bachelor student)

Registrar:
- Sabine Padberg-Heskamp

Recorders:
- Felicia Burlacu
- Kishan Thakurani

Working Groups

Several topics may be prepared by Working Groups that meet prior to the PC-CS meetings. In this period, two Working Groups were active:

Working Group Curriculum

This Working Group has the task of checking and preparing the PC advice on proposals to modify the curriculum or parts thereof, such as changes to individual courses.

- Mohammed Elhajj
- Rom Langerak
- Anna Sperotto (chair)
- Mariska Frelier
- Jakub Kościołek

Working Group EER

This Working Group has the task of preparing the PC advice and consent on the Education and Examination Regulation of the B-TCS and M-CS programmes.

- Nikolaos Alachiotis
- Kryštof Mitka
- Mikuláš Vanoušek (chair)

Quality Assurance Interviews

In 2019 the PC-CS has introduced and implemented the concept of quality assurance interviews (QAI). The goal of these interviews is to have an informal conversation between two PC members (a student and a teacher) and a teacher about their course. This can either be a bachelor module or a master course. During the conversation the SEQ evaluations and the teacher's reflection are covered, as well as future planned improvements. After the conversation the PC members write a short report that is briefly discussed (for information) in the PC-CS.

The main objective is to promote reflection of the education on the part of the teachers, and to establish an ongoing dialogue between teachers and the PC-CS. In addition, QAI's may provide a sample assurance on whether the Quality Assurance procedures are in place.

The policy is to organize a QAI for two Bachelor modules and two Master courses in every quarter. The following guidelines are used to select the modules and courses for which an interview is organized:

- Rotation over the modules and courses over the years;
- Explicit requests from the side of the teacher, students, or programme management;
- One high-ranking and one low-ranking module or course from the SEQ of that quarter.

During the academic year 2023/2024, a QAI has been held for the following courses:

2022/2023 Courses:
- M-Q4: Advanced Logic
- M-Q4: System Security
- M-Q4: Information Theory and Statistics
- B-Q4: Intelligent Embedded Systems
- B-Q4: Programming Paradigms

2023/2024 Courses:
- M-Q1: Security and Cryptography
- Ba-Q1: Data Science and AI
- M-Q1: Design of Software Architectures
- M-Q2: Managing Big Data
- B-Q2: Cyber Physical Systems
- M-Q2: Data Science

Meetings

The PC-CS has held 11 meetings:

- 181: September 19, 2023
- 182: October 17, 2023
- 183: November 14, 2023
- 184: December 12, 2023
- 185: January 16, 2024
- 186: February 13, 2024
- 187: March 12, 2024
- 188: April 9, 2024
- 189: May 14, 2024
- 190: June 11, 2024
- 191: July 9, 2024

The PC-CS has had discussions (and provided recommendations) on a variety of topics, listed below, together with the number of the meeting where they have been discussed; details can be found in the minutes of the indicated meeting.

Changes in the Curriculum

- 181: Reflection components in M11 and M12
- 183: Career skills
- 183: Programme development TCS
- 185,186,187: New Master courses
- 187: Changes to Software Technology specialization
- 191: Bachelor TCS curriculum
- 191: Reflection in Internship

Changes in the EER

- 186: Meeting schedule EER
- 186: End of Sport Data Science specialization
- 187: report Workgroup EER
- 188: M-EER
- 188: B-EER
- 190: M-EER

Quality Assurance of Modules and Courses

- 182,184: Procedure course/module evaluation
- 182,189,191: CEEP reports
- 191: SEQ procedures

Working Procedures of the PC-CS

- 181: Composition PC
- 182: Elections for PC
- 183: Annual report
- 183: Template for QAI
- 184: Whatsapp group for students in PC
- 189,190,191: New PC members
- 191: New meeting dates

Miscellaneous Topics

- 186,187: Multiple Choice guidelines
- 186,191: Problems with Operating Systems
- 188: Industrial Advisory Board TCS
- 189: Communication for signing up to courses
- 190: Dutch tracks for BSc programmes
- 190: Benchmark Monitor
- 191: AI policy

Reflection on the PC-CS in the academic year 2023-2024

- Two major issues at the heart of our program that are currently very prominent are the debate about internationalization and the revision of the bachelor curriculum. It is obviously crucial to be informed about this, and this has worked well so far. However, the advisory role of the PC in the matter of curriculum revision can be strengthened.
- The working groups EER and Curriculum work well and will continue as before.
- The QAIs continue to be a good and well-appreciated instrument to keep in contact with teachers. We should continue to perform them. Due to the PC member turnover, incidentally no QAIs were held in Q3; we should improve our planning process to avoid this
- The PC-CS has seen a major turnover of members in the last months of the academic year: two staff members and three student members have left. A positive observation is that the recruitment of staff members has elicited quite some enthusiasm, and the four positions were easily filled. At the moment of writing, however, the student positions are not yet all filled.
- Given the number of new members, we should consider if a new round of training is required.
- The PC-CS has met online throughout all year for its official meetings, complemented with two in-person meetings paired with a small social activity. Online meetings were convenient for all participants and allowed the PC-CS to work quite efficiently. Nevertheless, there is a continued desire to meet in person to enhance involvement and a sense of belonging; therefore, for the upcoming year, we will try to schedule physical meetings where possible (while avoiding hybrid ones).