

To the Executive Board

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datum 18 September 2019
bijlage(n)
cc.
onderwerp Research Ethics Policy

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Dear Executive Board,

The University Council has reviewed and discussed the proposed Research Ethics Policy. Overall, the document was found to be well written and clearly formatted. The introduction of a Research Ethics Policy at the University is a valuable step toward forming responsible and conscious students. With this Policy in place, it will be easier for students to learn and develop the critical ethical thinking required to perform researches at a *people-first* University.

However, it was pointed out that the Research Ethics Policy does not explicitly state the values behind the policy itself. It was mentioned that the values required for the ethical review are not based on the values of the University, but rather based on the values provided by the ministry on research integrity. If the intend of the document is also to provide an educational approach for students on ethics, it is vital for students to clearly understand the difference between code of conduct and ethics. Thus, the Research Ethics Policy should indicate the established values that provide the standard for employees to judge violations during an ethical review.

Additionally, the University Council has warned the importance of carrying out a careful implementation of the policy. Since each faculty's involvement with ethics varies and that regulations are continuously evolving, implementing the Research Ethics Policy may be complex.

UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.

DRAFT ADVICE:

The University Council,

seen:

- Research Ethics policy UR 19-120;

heard:

- The discussion in the Internal Committee Meeting OOS, 4 September 2019;
- The discussion in the External Committee Meeting OOS, 11 September 2019;

considering:

- state which values are used for the ethics policy or provide a link to their source;
- ensure that the implementation of the policy is thoroughly prepared;
- facilitate the procedures and requirements by digitalizing the process as much as possible;

decision:

the University Council advises positively for Research Ethics Policy.

Overall, the University Council suggests facilitating the implementation of the policy by providing digital tools to students to self-assess as early as possible. Since all students will be required to do an ethical review, automating the initial procedures will hopefully be enough to cope with the increase of applications.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the University Council,

P/O

*dr ir H. Wormeester,
Chairman*

