

Annual Report Board of Studies for the MSc Programmes 2019-2020

Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management – TU Delft

In this document the Board of Studies (BoS) MSc reports about its activities during the academic year 2019-2020. The BoS for the MSc programmes of the faculty of Technology, Policy and Management (TPM) consists of both staff and student members of the MSc of TPM. The three MSc programmes are: Complex Systems Engineering and Management (CoSEM), Engineering and Policy Analysis (EPA) and Management of Technology (MoT). The BoS advises both asked and unasked the Dean, Director of Education and the Programme Directors about subjects related to the quality of the education of the MSc programmes. An advice of the BoS is powerful because the students and the staff form a joint position. The tasks legally assigned to the BoS MSc are specified in annex 1.

Meetings and formal matters dealt with

During this academic year, the BoS MSc consists of six staff members and six student members. Also, a standing invitation to attend all meetings of the BoS MSc was sent to the Commissioner of Master & Career of Curius, the student association of TPM and to a member of the Faculty Student Council. The full list of members is given in annex 2. During the first meeting, a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary have been appointed. Maarten Franssen was elected as chair, Florian Schmidt as vice-chair and Yasmin Aruni as secretary. The BoS MSc met five times this year, where each meeting took about one-and-a-half hours. The first meeting took place on the 17th of October 2019. Subsequently, the other four meetings took place on 19 December 2019, 5 March 2020, 14 May 2020 and 25 June 2020. Due to COVID-19, the meetings of 14 May and 25 June took place via Zoom. During each meeting, minutes were made by the appointed secretary. These minutes and the other important used documents were used to make this annual report.

Main activities during 2019-2020

1. Issues falling under the right of approval of the BoS MSc

- (i) In the meetings of 14 May and 25 June, the BoS discussed the new TER for 2020-2021. Basically, the BoS has to see how things went last year and give suggestions for next year. During the meeting of the 14th of May, the BoS discussed about the mandatory registration for first year students. There are students from other faculties who want to do courses at TPM and are registered, but do not have permission to follow the course. The OC asked the dean to reconsider opening TPM courses. Also, the OC appointed three student members whom will go through the TER and schedule a separate meeting with Maarten Franssen. On the 25th of June, the BoS gave feedback on the TER 2020-2021. The points the BoS gave feedback on were:
 - a. HPM requirement: reason for HPM's exclusion of international students. All admitted international students have already fulfilled the 7,5 criteria.
 - b. Course registration: the OC think this rule is ok provided that they will show the information in the study guide.
 - c. 5 days rule: the OC think this is a logical rule, it makes sense if 2 exams are connected, content wise. Though they think there is a need to add some conditions. As an example: Art 19 (1) Essays - also included to written assignments.
 - d. List of CoSEM rules: the CoSEM list in TER is no longer an actual set of rules but only a link to a list of actual rules. The OC suggests referring to the graduation portal and not the link itself. They also suggest making sure that there is only 1 document to avoid inconsistency.
 - e. Unoffered courses: there are courses that are no longer offered but still included on the list. Maarten Franssen will ask them why.

- f. Course name changed: Bert Enserink (EPA) changed the name of his course (Advanced simulation/Advanced discrete simulation with new course number).
- g. Double degree & cum laude in TPM: the OC has some questions about difficulties with double degree – they want to bring it to attention to the BoE. Bert Enserink adds that there is an unjust treatment of double degree students. Several students who could have cum laude don't get it because they finish in more than 2 years. In CEG they get cum laude, in TPM they don't.
- h. Absence of cum laude in TER: the OC would like to see some information in the TER about content, grading etc. Judgement, examination, belongs to BoE.

2. *Issues of relevance to the general role of the BoS MSc*

- (i) In the meeting of 17th of October, the three program directors were present to discuss the 'Midterm Review'. EPA and CoSEM are going to have some course evaluations and MOT will make changes to the curriculum. There is a request from Neelke Doorn to have an external committee (whom are not involved in management). The OC agrees there needs to be a focus on the role of domains, efficiency, synergy, difference between programs and where digital skills should be. In the meeting of the 19th of December, the OC discussed the midterm review again (without the program directors). The discussion went about the methodology courses in the MSc programmes. The OC thinks EPA and CoSEM have implemented this kind of courses well. At MoT they are thinking about implementing more data analytics in one or more courses.
In the meeting of the 5th of March, the OC gave their advice about the midterm review.
 - EPA and CoSEM thesis topics became more dissimilar the last two years while the alumni are similar. MoT is different.
 - EPA has a clearer profile than CoSEM. At CoSEM there are more mix and match options.
 - MoT is the 'weakest' of the three programs. Their alumni are quite similar to TPM bachelor students.
 - There should be more attention for teaching mechanisms. More measurement, evidence based, more data, what are alumni doing and what about the job market.
- (ii) Evaluating thesis work every year has also been discussed during the meeting of the 17th October. The program directors and board agree that writing the thesis means academic freedom, but it's necessary to check theses whether they fulfil the learning objectives.
- (iii) During the meeting of the 5th of March, Robert Verburg was present to give an announcement about changes with the MoT curriculum. There will be more emphasis on methods and data analytics and the course 'Research methods' is shifted to Q2, so that the course 'High Tech Marketing' can also benefit from the methodology taught in Research methods. Also, the integration moment is going to be changed, the integration will happen after each period instead of the end of the year. The BoS agrees that there is a need to improve MoT and prepare students better.
- (iv) In the meeting of 5 March, the new regulation of the fifth exam period has been discussed. The BoS made a little committee with 4 people to discuss the outcome of the OR (and the proposal) and will send it to the dean.
- (v) Because of the COVID-19 virus, the meetings on the 14th of May and the 25th of June were held via Zoom. During the meeting of the 14th of May it was still unclear how many internationals stayed in Delft (or went home). In the meeting of the 25th of June, the OC MSc discussed about the proctored exams. The BoE decided to have online proctored exams, but it is not in favor to do. On campus exams were still not possible due to capacity problems and traffic. They didn't want to give students uncertainty.

3. *Issues directly related to the MSc programmes*

- (i) The main subject at CoSEM which has been discussed was the perceived unfairness with the thesis between Dutch and non-Dutch students. The BoE is very strict: if the students take longer of finishing their thesis, the grade should be less. Not every teacher evaluated in that way, but there is a trend going on.
- (ii) The main subject at EPA which have been discussed was the 'EPA in the Hague problem'. The OC wants EPA students to have the feeling of being a TU Delft student. They evaluated it with the FSC, but that's still an ongoing process. The OC decided to make a survey for teachers. Next year there also will be a lot of new module managers, it would be nice to get feedback from them.
- (iii) The main subjects at MoT which are discussed at several meetings were: the specializations overlap with the program itself and problems with cultural differences. Due to the overlap of the specializations, the OC advises that the specializations should be evaluated. At MoT there are problems with cultural differences. Non-Dutch students are sometimes anxious about what to do, how to reach out to teachers. A student member of the OC had the idea to start with an 'diversity officer'.

4. *Contacts and communication with other Faculty bodies*

- (i) In the meeting of the 5th of March, Mark de Reuver joined to discuss about the final report of the midterm review. Discussed points of the report are:
 - 1. Recommending making TB more technical, more attention to engineering and design. There need to be more elaboration about what technical is. In CoSEM and EPA they should improve a structured way about programming and doing technical analysis – now they're teaching something that should be taught in bachelors. Students want to see technicality in the program. Also, the IC and T&L domain are not going to enough technical depth.
 - 2. The whole character of technical of all programs could be strengthened. More freedom should be given to individual teachers to link what they do to their own research. This could lead to a conflict. Their research is more technical analysis, instead of engineering and design. Could require more structured hiring of staff and looking into the fact that engineering and design – might be one of the courses that emphasize more on science and modeling.
 - a. Mark de Reuver reacted that it was very difficult to see from the program description what is really the difference between MoT with business management and marketing in Rotterdam. The OC asked to formulate a vision on this. There's involvement of people in sections. MoT is the least embedded and supported in the faculty.

Annex 2: List of members and attendees at BoS meetings 2019-2020

Staff members

Maarten Franssen	Chairman
Behnam Taebi	
Hadi Asghari	
Yilin Huang	
Stephan Lukosch	
Marc de Reuver	

Student members

Mythili Ezhilkumar	MoT
Florian Schmidt	MoT and vice-president
Veroniek Binkhorst	CoSEM
Yasmin Aruni	? and secretary
Francis Chia	EPA
Alexa Petit	CoSEM
Danielle Wagenaar	EPA
Jill Slinger	EPA
Tobias Fiebig	CoSEM

Regular attendees

Wendela Louwerse-Houtzager	Educational Advisor from the TPM department of Education and Study Affairs
Bas Hoekstra	Commissioner Master & Career of S.V.T.B. Curius

Occasional attendees

Bert Enserink
Robert Verburg
Ivo Bouwmans
Willem Auping