

POSITION STATEMENT EXECUTIVE BOARD TU DELFT REGARDING ASSESSMENT GEOSCIENCES

The Executive Board of Delft University of Technology has commissioned an assessment of all the research carried out in the field of Geosciences at TU Delft, namely the Department of Geoscience & Engineering and the Department of Geoscience & Remote Sensing of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences. The assessment was carried out in 2015 by an international peer review committee, using the Standard Evaluation Protocol 2015-2021 (www.vsnu.nl/sep). Chair of the peer review committee was dr. Hessel Speelman (Waddenacademie, The Netherlands). The full report of the peer review committee is available on the TU Delft website.

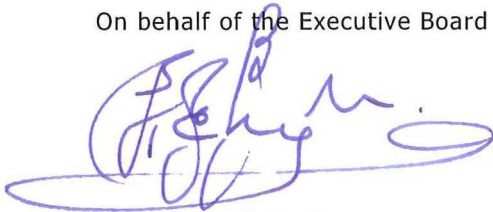
The Executive Board wishes to express her gratitude to the peer review committee for their work and the final report. In addition, the Faculty indicated that it appreciates the high quality of the analyses of the research units as well as the provided recommendations for follow up.

The committee assessed the research in Geosciences at TU Delft as very good to mostly excellent, with highly distinguished leaders and a strong international academic reputation. The committee was furthermore impressed with the many and diverse initiatives developed by the Geosciences regarding societal relevance and it recognizes the eagerness of the academic staff and PhD students to apply their knowledge and ideas which includes collaborations with industry through consortia. The Executive Board is pleased with the remark of the committee that the international benchmark performed by the departments was considered a very worthwhile exercise.

The committee has made insightful remarks on the funding of research, regarding e.g. the lack of start-up funding available for newly hired staff, the increased dependence on external funding, that bears the risk of compromising the research infrastructure and influencing the type of research that is carried out. In addition, the committee addressed problems regarding the lack of female faculty and the completion time for PhD theses. These problems are not limited to the field of Geosciences.

The remarks and suggestions of the committee provide useful insights for both the local and national discussions concerning these matters. The Executive Board of TU Delft will stay on top of these issues in the upcoming years and take action where appropriate.

On behalf of the Executive Board of Delft University of Technology,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K.C.A.M. Luyben', with a large flourish underneath.

Prof. K.C.A.M. Luyben
Rector Magnificus TU Delft