

## **POSITION STATEMENT TU DELFT EXECUTIVE BOARD REGARDING THE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT OF CHEMISTRY 2015-2020**

The Executive Board of Delft University of Technology has commissioned an assessment of the research carried out by the departments Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology of the Faculty of Applied Sciences in the period 2015-2020. The assessment was carried out in 2021 by an international peer review committee, using the Strategy Evaluation Protocol 2021-2027. The chair of the peer review committee was Prof.dr.ir. J. (Jaap) Schouten (Eindhoven University of Technology). The full report of the peer review committee is available on the TU Delft website.

The Executive Board has accepted the report and wishes to express its gratitude to the committee for their work and for delivering a valuable assessment report. On the basis of the assessment report, additional information and the fruitful conversations during the on-campus site visit, the committee has provided comprehensive insights and recommendations that the departments can use to their advantage.

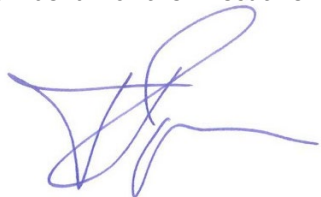
The Executive Board is pleased that the committee congratulates the departments with the high quality and societal relevance of their research. It is a pleasure to read that the committee considers the staff and PhD students to be enthusiastic and committed and the research infrastructure to be outstanding. Furthermore, the Executive Board agrees that while the level of inclusivity is commendable, the departments should keep diversity and inclusion high on the agenda, and address these topics with the necessary creativity.

The Executive Board considers the recommendations concerning further improvements of the PI model, strategy development, tenure track coaching and workload particularly valuable. For the department of Chemical Engineering, this concerns reevaluation of the roles and responsibilities in the management team as well as taking steps towards a clear strategy. For the department of Biotechnology, this concerns paying special attention to retention of the large pool of talented tenure trackers (leadership of the future) as well as taking on the workload of the technical support staff.

Furthermore, the Executive Board suggests to embrace the recommendations to encourage further collaboration between the departments on overlapping research themes, and to ensure that relatively new research themes such as Health (ChemE) and Food (BT) are embedded in larger partnerships. Finally, the Executive Board agrees with the committee that the social integration of PhD candidates and other staff hired during the Covid-19 pandemic deserves special attention.

The Executive Board will discuss further the Faculty-level recommendations, as well as the observations and remarks concerning the Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology departments, with the management of the Applied Sciences Faculty.

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



Prof.dr.ir. Tim van der Hagen  
Rector Magnificus/President