

## **POSITION STATEMENT EXECUTIVE BOARD TU DELFT REGARDING ASSESSMENT MATHEMATICS**

The Executive Board of Delft University of Technology, together with the Executive Boards of eight other Dutch universities, has commissioned an assessment of the research carried out by the research units in the field of Mathematics at those universities. For the TU Delft this included the research carried out at the Delft Institute of Applied Mathematics (DIAM), a department of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science. The assessment was carried out in 2015 by an international peer review committee, using the Standard Evaluation Protocol 2015-2021 ([www.vsnv.nl/sep](http://www.vsnv.nl/sep)). Chair of the peer review committee was prof. dr. F.M. Dekking (emeritus professor TU Delft, The Netherlands). The full report of the peer review committee is available on the TU Delft website.

The Executive Board wishes to express its gratitude to the peer review committee for their work and their final report. Assessing research at nine universities in a short period of time is a demanding task which requires a significant amount of time and effort. The Executive Board is pleased that the committee assessed the level of societal relevance of DIAM to be excellent and scientific quality and viability were assessed as very good.

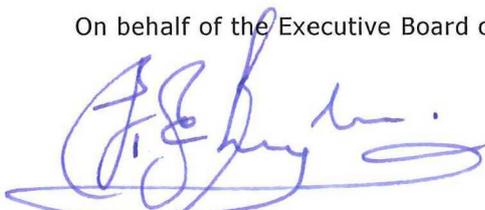
The committee is of the opinion that DIAM has a very good track record in doing high quality research within a strong research network: both with other departments at the TU Delft as well as external partners. In addition, it found that the collaboration between DIAM's own three research programs has markedly increased in the past few years. The committee assessed the strategy, activities and results concerning societal relevance as impressive. There were applications to a wide range of areas and a high involvement in relevant projects with excellent societal relevance while preserving the quality of the mathematics.

The committee applauded the fact that all mathematics service teaching at TU Delft is done by DIAM. However, given the increase in student number, the committee also found that the teaching load at DIAM is high. This results in reduced time for research and grant applications. The five fte for education positions as promised by the Faculty and Executive board should alleviate this high teaching load and increase time for research and grant applications.

The committee advised DIAM to make an effort to provide tenure trackers with a PhD candidate within their own expertise. The Executive Board will discuss this advice with the Faculty/DIAM and its possible threat for the future.

In its report the committee also identified an issue that transcends a single research unit and occurs on a university wide or even national level. The committee found the number of female mathematicians at all levels (tenure track, associate professor and full professor) to be dismal. The research units are urged to 'try harder' and seriously think about ways to make offers that are particularly attractive, especially for young people. The Executive Board agrees with this finding of the committee and will continue its support for more (gender) diversity at TU Delft.

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



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