

Annual report Board of Studies (BoS)

2023-2024

This annual report of the Board of Studies (BoS) covers the period September 2023 to August 2024 and provides an outlook for the period 2024-2025.

The Board is an independent board within the Faculty of Architecture, which advises on the quality of education. The BoS is presented with all proposed decisions on education for advice. The BoS can also give unsolicited advice.

Members

Name	Period	Representation/remarks
Feras Alsaggaf	full	Student Building Technology - Bout
Isabel de Bruijn	full	Student Management in the Built Environment - BOSS
Luisa Calabrese	full	Lecturer Urbanism
Laura Cipriani	23/4/24-31/8/24	Lecturer Landscape Architecture
Tov Frencken	1/1/24-31/8/24	Student Architecture - Argos
Christien Janssen*	1/9/23-...	Lecturer Architectural Engineering + Technology
Peter de Jong	full	Lecturer Management in the Built Environment, acting lecturer-chair
Birgit Jürgehake	1/9/23-1/10/23	Lecturer Architecture
Regina Klinger	1/10/23-31/8/24	Student Landscape Architecture
Sophie de Kruijf	full	Student BSc – Stylos, student-chair
Jorge Meija Hernandez	1/10/23-31/8/24	Lecturer Architecture
Kirthan Shekar	full	Student Urbanism - Polis
Heidi Sohn	1/10/23-31/8/24	Lecturer Architecture
Chiara Thunnissen	full	Student BSc – Stylos
Rene van der Velde	1/9/23-23/4/24	Lecturer Landscape Architecture
Sebastiaan Vork	1/9/23-1/12/23	Student Architecture
* Christien, our appreciated Lecturer of the Year 2022, could not participate in our BoS from January 24 due to illness. Olga Ioannou and Ate Snijder, both related to Lecturer Architectural Engineering + Technology will complete the tutor section of BoS starting 1 August 2024.		
BoS is provided with Secretarial Support by Margreth Taekema. Several Faculty members have been acting as auditor in BoS, a.o. Leo van den Burg, MaartenJan Hoekstra, Mirjam Albertz-Paalvast, Milou Reincke and Mieke Topsom Also Bodil Bary acted as student auditor, while the FSC unfortunately was not represented in this period		

This period is characterized by a somewhat complicated start due to uncertainty about the appointment of the intended chairman. That is why it was subsequently decided to appoint Peter de Jong as temporary chairman. The appointment of Sophie de Kruijf as student chair was, as usual, well arranged by Stylos.

Previous period

The lack of a previous annual report also did not contribute to a smooth start. Various advice was also given at that time, and it is important for continuity to record it in this overview (can also be found in a more extensive form in the meeting minutes):

- Advice on 'Onderwijs en Examenregelingen (OER) and 'Regels en Richtlijnen van de Examencommissie (RRvE)' for the year 2023-2024. This set of regulations, both at university and faculty level, is updated annually. In principle, a major update every three years and a minor update every year, unless there are special developments. The major update at university level is expected next year.
- Another recurring element is the WSV. A fund for students has been created on the basis of national political choices to first reduce students' student loans and then partly have this flow back to the faculties for the benefit of students. Students in particular have an important input in the allocation. In addition to a number of ongoing projects, the most important choice in 22/23 was the use of additional study advisors. Naturally also related to the increased workload and stress.
- The necessary subject evaluations and visitation reports were also submitted in 23/24. BoS attaches great importance to such quality systems. Essential for monitoring educational quality, especially with major system adjustments.
- Specific topics were
 - the position of post-master programs, particular the Berlage, in which BoS particularly advocated seeing Berlage as one of the possible post-masters. At the moment these are Berlage and MCD, but perhaps more in the future. A condition for a special relationship with the faculty is also sharing knowledge.
 - Attention has been drawn at various times to study pressure and study load, see also WSV. BoS therefore has to involve this strongly in the BSc Renewal and the MSc Harmonization. In this perspective, BoS has also supported the experiments with gradeless grading.

Academic year 23/24

As revealed by this list of last year, many issues are returning on a yearly base. A normal year for BoS is mainly to anticipate these recurring events, as a result of academic procedures. See also the planning for 2024-2025. However the period 2024-2025 has been rather special firstly due to hassle surrounding the appointment of the tutor chair and further due to the BSc Renewal and the MSc Harmonisation. Nevertheless the returning issues are tackled in an efficient manner as shown in this report.

BSc Renewal

Although the starting point for the BSc Renewal was, according to 'Startdocument Vernieuwing Bachelor Bouwkunde versie 1' a light reconstruction of an already well-functioning BSc-curriculum, the implementation of the new scheme appeared to be far more complex. This ongoing implementation has been structured around the Dean's Curriculum Decision, on February 15, at which point the scheme and the initial description and learning goals had to be in place. This milestone was followed by the Course Base description in April, requiring a more detailed level of information per course. In preparation for the Curriculum Decision, the different learning trajectories (ON, 6x10=60EC, TE 5x5, GR 4x5, MA3x5 and WV (AC+OV) 6x5) constructed 'trajectory books', to align the courses within a trajectory. The BoS-members scrutinised these books, which helped in understanding but at the same time, was too detailed in that part of the process.

For the correct focus of our monitoring of the BSc renewal, it is good to follow the components of the right of consent, 'Handreiking voor opleidingscommissies van de TU Delft'/'Guide for the Boards of Studies of TU Delft' pagina 9/page 44, version December 2019, with most attention to points a1 to e and g and v, where our Examination Board has its prior focus on the remaining items.

The reason for the renewal is based on 'reduced workload', 'increased academic position', 'actualisation of the content' and 'improved didactics'. Where all these reasons are directly related to the essence of BoS, the workload is especially relevant in this context in lieu of our previous recommendations. This also means that the choice has been made for a new quarterly format, with 8 teaching weeks, an exam week and a week for personal development, instead of the usual 10 teaching weeks including exams.

BoS has provided the Director of Education with advice during this period, which has been followed by honoured occasional discussion. The implementation of the preparation is still tensed for capacity and scheduling. At the same time, we require a good evaluation system in which future performance per component can be accurately compared with the old system. This will also be one of the important focus areas for BoS for the period 2024-2025. The Curriculum Decision of February 24 sets out the main points for this bachelor's degree renewal.

At the last meeting of BoS, 25 June 2024, all efforts for the Renewal are on schedule. All tracks, modules and POW in final elaboration phase. Still, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. For next year the focus is on evaluation, compared with evaluations of former curriculum, and optimization where the goals have been achieved and recovery where this appears not to be the case. This will include evaluation on programme level (PhD candidate)

The BSc renewal is closely linked to the Education Vision, which is being developed, and vice versa. Preparatory versions have been discussed, while the development will also be closely monitored next year.

MSc Harmonisation

The 'start document Masterharmonisatie' and the 'Masters BK Outline Q5' (September '23) introduced the planned activities in relation to the MSc Harmonisation. Our Director of Education and Director of Studies AUBS, Director of Studies Geomatics and Master Coordinators of the different tracks accepted wholeheartedly the Executive Board's invitation to schedule Q5 free of compulsory (disciplinary) education in favour of a 'menu' of 'dishes' for 'Elective Space and Interdisciplinarity', and a Q4 in which intradisciplinary courses are made possible.

The implementation will take place in two steps, Q4 from spring 2025 (monitoring and evaluation) and Q5 and the renewed graduation from September and November 2025. The latter two topics will therefore be central in terms of development in the coming year, with the Intended Curriculum Decision as a milestone, about which the BoS will be consulted again at the end of December.

The new graduation process requires renewed and transparent definitions of the assignments to prevent a reduction in time from leading to an increase in workload, where the opposite is the intention.

The aforementioned educational vision should contribute to a balanced result. The challenge for the tracks is to develop this faculty vision into a departmental vision. That this will be a challenge is evident from the fact that, for example, the power of collaboration does not seem to be sufficiently utilized for Research Methods.

OER/ RRvE

The minor update at university level was purely formal. At faculty level the BSc Renewal and MSc Harmonization had to be implemented. BoS had an in-depth discussion based on the draft version of these documents. A small delegation discussed this further with the management and examination committee, where our questions and comments were taken very carefully. The final version was not yet available at the time of the last meeting of the academic year 2023/24 but will be added in due time. The intention is to put this process on the agenda a month earlier next year (major update).

Appointment processes

Based on valid arguments, but with very inconvenient timing, the reappointment process was brought up for discussion at the beginning of this reporting year, as a result of which the intended candidate could not be appointed. Peter de Jong has been chosen as temporary chairman. A new chairman must be elected from among BoS at least by the end of 2024.

BoS's general position is in line with the foregoing: to push for transparent, democratic processes for (re)appointing relevant positions, without wishing to give a substantive judgment on the individual candidates, even if we are entitled to do so. The subsequent appointments show that this transparent process is improving.

WSV

See also the previous period. If unchanged and unclear argumentations remain for this fund, its disappearance is impending. To put it bluntly: "more cuts are coming". Most projects within this fund can be completed. Ongoing (personnel) projects are secured (within other resources). For the time being, little room is expected for new initiatives. The BoS has expressed appreciation for the efforts and has agreed to the plans.

BoS process

It is sometimes quite complicated to come to good discussions within BoS. The busy agenda, the abundance of information, the abundance of backgrounds, the changes in the occupation (for students annually), make that an open meeting culture requires continuous care. Early training and more care for sharing information should contribute to that in the coming year.

Annual planning

Board of Studies 2024-2025 Tuesday 12-13.30 Location BG.OOST.620	Actions/focus of meetings
10 September 2024	Completion of WSV, OER and RRvE and other matters established during the holiday period, strengthening position of student groups
1 October	Preparation evaluation process Plans for Curriculum Decision
17 October: training new BoS members	TPM/31.B1.330 13.00-16.00
22 October	WSV process, MSc Harmonization next phase
12 November	Preparation (draft) Curriculum Decision
3 December	Evaluation 1 st quarter BSc/MSc
• 15 December	Proposed Curriculum Decision sent by E&SA
14 January 2025	OER/RRvE TUD, new chair
• 31 January	Comments BoS Curriculum Decision
4 February	Formal approval Curriculum Decision
• 15 February	Final Curriculum Decision sent by E&SA
25 February	
18 March	Evaluation 2 nd quarter BSc/MSc
8 April	Annual Report Programmes sent by E&SA
29 April	OER/RRvE BK
20 May	Evaluation 3 rd quarter BSc/MSc
10 June	draft version of OER and RRvE sent by E&SA
1 July	
22 July 2025 (if needed)	Evaluations 4 th quarter sent

August '24

Sophie de Kruijf and Peter de Jong

- ✓ Annual report on [Board of Studies \(tudelft.nl\)](https://tudelft.nl), including 'Handreiking' and updated listing of members