

Annual report

Board of Studies Bachelor of Civil Engineering



Delft University of Technology

Academic year 2022 – 2023

1. Composition and legal status of the board

Academic staff members	Student members
Dr. Florentia Kavoura	Melanie Jahn (since February 2022)
Dr. ir. Michaël Steenbergen	Nathan de Jong (since December 2022)
Dr. ing. Mark Voorendt (chairman)	Lena ten Wolde (since October 2023)
Richard Beugeling (secretary)	

Except for Michaël Steenbergen, who was already appointed previously for the duration of three years, none of the board members was officially appointed during the year of reporting. Until the meeting of February 2023, the Board of Studies was incomplete. In a formal sense, there was no Board of Studies BSc Civiele Techniek during the academic year 2022-2023 according to article 9.18 of the Wet op het Hoger Onderwijs (WHW) and article 7 of Faculteitsreglement Civiele Techniek en Geowetenschappen. The advices issued during the year of reporting therefore have no formal status.

All members of the board have followed a training workshop as a preparation for their membership of the board.

2. Meetings of the board

During the year of reporting, there were 11 meetings:

19 September 2022

10 October 2022

17 October 2022

10 November 2022

15 December 2022

9 February 2023

30 March 2023

20 April 2023

25 May 2023

8 June 2023

26 June 2023

3. Main topics of discussion

- Re-appointment of the Director of Studies of the bachelor Civil Engineering
The appointment of the director of studies was about to expire per 1 November 2022. The Board therefore asked the Director to evaluate the first term of his appointment and in main lines sketch his ideas about future developments. Based on his input, an advice has been drafted.
- Gender-neutral grading of bachelor theses
Statistics in another faculty have shown that female students were graded significantly lower for their bachelor thesis than male students. The cause of this difference was still under investigation when the Board was informed about the results, but the Board nevertheless wondered whether such a difference in grading would also appear in the bachelor programmes of our own faculty. The Inclusion and Diversity team of the Faculty CEG was therefore asked to have a closer look. After analysis of given grades between 2012 and 2021, they concluded that in Civil Engineering, female students were graded slightly higher (0,2 on a range of 1 to 10) than male students (so, the opposite of the findings at the other faculty) and also in Applied Earth Sciences, no statistically significant difference was found. The Board concluded that the difference was too small to take further action.

- Audio-visual educational support
Based on experience with the audio-visual means in the lecture halls, the Board has given advice on the improvement of the quality of the given support.
- Link mathematics - civil engineering courses (in relation to the low pass rate of the BSA)
The low BSA pass rate (about 50%) is a point of concern for the faculty. It is partly an administrative problem, but the remaining number of drop-outs is still too large. One of the major bottlenecks appeared to be the application of mathematics in civil engineering courses. Most students have difficulties in recognising the link between these topics. After careful consideration, the Board concluded that it is very likely that the missing link is the former course 'Modelvorming'. An advice was given to re-introduce that course in the bachelor curriculum, in the broader context of learning to observe, to abstract, to conceptualize, to visualize/sketch (2D/3D) and to materialize.
- Educational feedback system

- Renewal of the BSc CE
A faculty taskforce was established by the director of education to propose minor improvements for the bachelor programme Civil Engineering. Two of the staff members of the BoS participated in this task force on behalf of the Board.

- TU ambitions to grow to 40 000 students per year
The ambitions of the Executive Board of TU Delft give rise to critically consider their implications for the quality of the educational programmes at TU Delft. However, after having been notified on the disagreement of the Ministry of Education with these plans, the Board decided to not take action on this topic.

4. Given advices

date	Topic	status
September 2022	Re-appointment of the Director of Studies BSc- Civil Engineering. - positive advice	Tjerk was re-appointed!
20-02-2023	The Onderwijs- en Examenreglement (OER) bachelor Civiele Techniek 2022-2023 as input for the new OER 2023-2024 - Various advices for improvements and changes, amongst others: Make the learning objectives of the bachelor programme more specific; make the principal lecturer of the course responsible for admitting too late registered students to an exam, not the invigilator; The demand of having exams corrected, registered and published within five working days after the week of the exam is unreasonable and unworkable and should be made workable for all involved parties.	Advice was handed in at the BoE, as is procedure here. These changes were then handed in at the Legal Department of the TU Delft who drafted the new TER. No feedback was provided, but the requested changes were not included in the new draft version.
13-3-2023	The Educational Quality Assurance- Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences - Unsolicited advice to make use of a process of receiving feedback from Student Response Group Meetings. It is proposed to do EvaSys enquiries at the end of the last lecture of the courses.	Advice passed along to the Quality Assurance team!
13- 03-2023	The frequency of possibilities for updating course contents Unsolicited advice to Increase the frequency of updates to at least twice per year, to be able to incorporate improvements of courses in Q4 already in the next academic year.	Handed in by the secretary at the Head ESA – CEG. This was discussed TU wide and dismissed, but no official response was given.
19-04-2023	the audio-visual educational support - Unsolicited advice for mostly technical improvements of the audio-visual educational support	This advice was re-submitted to Tjerk and the Head of ESA CEG. No follow up yet.

??	<p>The draft Onderwijs- en Examenreglement (OER) bachelor Civiele Techniek 2023-2024</p> <p>The majority of the suggestions in the advice of 20-02-2023 appeared to have not been taken into account. They were therefore again given as an advice.</p>	<p>Mostly followed-up. A few suggestions still pending at the end of the reporting period.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Most of these were tackled in the meeting of June 8th. Several items can be followed-up still, but will not be part of the 2023-2024 TER.</p>
28-04-2023	<p>Proposed changes of the course Inleiding Civiele Techniek, course code CTB1120-17</p> <p>- Positive advice with the suggestion to not organise the formative midterm assessment during evening hours.</p>	<p>Submitted to Tjerk on April 28th. No feedback yet – will follow-up.</p>
16-06-2023	<p>The grading method for mathematics course CTB1002 (lineaire algebra).</p> <p>- Positive advice on the condition that one of the grading formulas is applied in all cases.</p>	<p>Submitted to Tjerk – evaluations for the new method are expected, after which this new method might be altered.</p>
19-06-2023	<p>Link between mathematics - civil engineering courses</p> <p>- Unsolicited advice to re-introduce the principles of modelling (modelvorming) in the first year of the BSc curriculum Civil Engineering, if possible in a dedicated course involving all the domains of our faculty; consider this in the broader context of learning to observe, to abstract, to conceptualize, to visualize/sketch (2D/3D) and to materialise.</p>	<p>Submitted to Tjerk and part of the larger issues that are being tackled in the BSc revision. BoS is involved in this process.</p>