

# Annual report Board of Studies BSc/MSc CT/CE 1/9/2017-31/8/2018

## Faculty CEG

This annual report of the Board of Studies BSc Civiele Techniek and MSc Civil Engineering provides an overview of its actions during the academic year 2017-2018. This review serves to inform people and bodies within the TU Delft concerned with the BSc and MSc program about the status of recent and ongoing items within the BoS. Also this document gives new BoS members insight into recent and ongoing items, and supports the progress of actions in the coming year.

The BoS is an committee who in a constructive-critical manner works to ensure the highest quality of education in the programmes. The BoS interacts with teachers, students, Board of Examiners, Education & Student Affairs, and the Director of Studies. The BoS consists of 13 members, of which 6 staff members and 7 student members. In 2017-2018 the board consisted of:

Dr. P.J. Vardon (a.i. chair)	staff member
Dr.ir. G.A. van Nederveen	staff member
Dr.ir. R. van Nes	staff member
Dr.ir. D.C. Slobbe	staff member
Dr.ir. H.L.F.M. Spanjers	staff member
Ir. H.J. Verhagen	staff member (till December 2017)
F. Steijlen	student member
I. Heemskerk	student member
S. Broere	student member
M. Stevens	student member
G. Hendrickx	student member
S. Bhattarai	student member
M. Kharagjitsing	student member

The BoS is supported by mw. M. Roodenburg (Secretary to the Board).

The BoS has performed its lawful roles and responsibilities:

- Provide advice and approval on the establishment of the Teaching and Education Regulations (TER)
- Assess the implementation of the TER
- Provide advice – solicited and unsolicited – to the Dean, the Director of Education and the Director of Studies concerning the programme and all associated teaching-related affairs

The BoS focussed on providing a more structured input to the Director of Education than in previous years, via use of standardised reporting, and picked major topics to provide proactive advice on.

### Important Items 2017-2018

Prominent items relate to education quality and the BSc and MSc programme.

#### 1. Education quality

1.1 Advice on 'Demonstrating assessment quality in our courses and study programme'

#### 2. BSc programme

2.1 Advice and approval on TER/IR 2018-2019

2.2 BSc CE 3<sup>rd</sup> year programme

2.3 Skills

2.4 Minor 'From Waste to Resource'

#### 3. MSc programme

3.1 New curriculum MSc-track Transport & Planning 2018-2019

3.2 Annotations and annotation implementation

3.3 Internship, Multidisciplinary project, and Additional thesis

3.4 Advice and approval on TER/IR 2018-2019

## Elaboration on items

### 1. Education quality

#### 1.1 Advice on 'Demonstrating assessment quality in our courses and study programme'

A review of how the BoS aided the continual assessment and improvement of the quality of the study programme was carried out. As the programme is mature and, in general, operating well, an approach of checking proposed changes and focusing on topics proposed by OC members (or others) was thought to be appropriate. It was noted that many teachers could provide assessment matrices when asked, but not all. The BoS supports the use of assessment matrices and asks for these, especially when major changes are proposed in courses or programme elements.

### 2. BSc programme

#### 2.1 Advice and approval on TER/IR 2018-2019

Due to organisational changes the preparation of the regulations were unfortunately delayed this year, which led to minimal time to review and approve them. However, major changes were indicated in advance by the DoS to the board, i.e. those given in Section 2., and therefore it was possible to advise positively. A practical approach, given the time pressures, was agreed, where the DoS and education expert drafting the regulations were invited to the meeting to discuss the regulation. Detailed advice was given.

#### 2.2 BSc CE 3<sup>rd</sup> year programme

The 3<sup>rd</sup> year elective courses are utilised partly by students to make decisions on their future direction and partly to prepare for their MSc specialisation. A proposal by the DoS to force students to be better prepared for their MSc by taking the 'right' choices was examined and clear recommendations were made. Both aspects were recommended to be maintained and better communication to the students was proposed.

#### 2.3 Skills

After noting a poor evaluation of skills in the 2017 NSE an investigation on which skills were needed and where they were in our programme was undertaken. It was seen that all needed skills are somewhere in our programmes, but not at the depth we would like. In particular, students infrequently get feedback on skills, where coaching would be advantageous. An advice was made to the DoS to consider a number of improvements, in particular including coaching of some key skills.

#### 2.4 Minor 'From Waste to Resource'

This proposed minor was seen as an excellent addition to the offered minors. However, concern regarding the preparations and therefore the likely quality was expressed. This resulted in a delay in the implementation of the minor by one year.

### 3. MSc programme

#### 3.1 New curriculum MSc-track Transport & Planning 2018-2019

A proposal for a new curriculum in the MSc T&P track was well received and advised to be implemented. The proposal reflected the most recent developments and in-house expertise. The plans were comprehensive, well thought out and detailed and could be used as a model for other curriculum changes.

#### 3.2 Annotations and annotation implementation

Annotations were increasingly being proposed as a way of allowing students to demonstrate expertise in areas outside or connected to their main discipline, both across programmes and across tracks. The BoS was positive in using more annotations, as this would allow education innovation and timely response. The BoS recommended a number of 'rules' which could be applied to the use of annotations so that there was not too many and that it was clear to students and those outside TU Delft. However, later the university centrally limited the concept to annotations across programmes only, making annotations across tracks not possible.

#### 3.3 Internship, Multidisciplinary project, and Additional thesis

The DoS proposed restricting student choice on the Internship, Multidisciplinary project, and Additional thesis. The BoS examined the learning objectives (LOs) and agreed, although via a split decision, that this was appropriate due to repeated objectives. However it was also found that the learning objectives should be clarified and coordinated between these projects. The BoS worked with the DoS to come to new LOs.

#### 3.4 Advice and approval on TER/IR 2018-2019

The regulations were given detailed scrutiny and advice made on the minor changes proposed. Due to the minor changes, due to the mature programme, there was no major items where concern was expressed.

### **Actions for 2018-2019**

In 2018-2019, as well as continuing to advice on regulations and proposals for educational changes, the BoS will focus on:

- **Educational quality:** the faculty has been unable to provide statistics on a number of important issues, e.g. the falling number of credits at the half way point in the first year. Additionally, the evasys system has a structurally low response. This has a large impact on the ability of the BoS to monitor educational quality and student progress, and this will therefore be a priority for the next year.
- **Ethics teaching:** ethics is an important part of our engineering education. It has not been well received by students for some time, partly due to the implementation. A pilot, run by TPM, is ongoing and the BoS will follow the results and advise on implementation.
- **Industry experienced teaching staff:** It was noted that the faculty is recruiting generally tenure track staff, rather than staff with a high level of industry experience. This was seen by students as a weak point due to most students going into industry after their graduation. This will be further investigated.