

POSITION STATEMENT TU DELFT EXECUTIVE BOARD REGARDING THE RESEARCH ASSESSMENT OF APPLIED PHYSICS 2016-2021

The Executive Board of Delft University of Technology has commissioned an assessment of the research carried out by the departments BioNanoscience (BN), Imaging Physics (ImPhys), Radiation Science & Technology (RST) and Quantum Nanoscience (QN) of the Faculty of Applied Sciences in the period 2016-2021. The assessment was carried out in 2023 by an international peer review committee, using the Strategy Evaluation Protocol 2021-2027. The chair of the peer review committee was prof. dr. J.W.M. (Joost) Frenken from the University of Groningen. 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 self-assessment report, additional information, and the fruitful conversations during the on-campus site visit, the committee has provided comprehensive insights and recommendations that the faculty and departments can use to their advantage.

The Executive Board is pleased that the committee is very positive about the quality of research performed at all four departments, and that the committee concludes that each department operates at the international forefront of its discipline. Combined with the efforts to consciously and actively strengthen the academic culture, the committee evaluates TU Delft physics as "simply world-class". The committee notes that departments do not always make optimal use of each other's expertise and state-of-the-art facilities. The Executive Board embraces the committee's recommendation to encourage further collaboration among the departments. Furthermore, the committee reports that the departments were unnecessarily modest in their reporting about the impact of their research and recommends putting more effort towards increasing their visibility of its impact and societal relevance by developing a clear outreach strategy. Finally, the committee reports a strong drive among PIs for the PhD-in-4 policy and believes that these efforts will shorten PhD duration. The Executive Board supports the committee's recommendation that clear communication and good mentorship of the PhD candidates should be continuously monitored for the policy to succeed.

The committee also offered valuable observations and recommendations for each department, some of which are highlighted below. The committee considered the department of Bionanoscience to be leading edge and highly successful. The Executive Board recognizes the recommendation that, while the department has achieved progress in gender diversity among its PI's, progress is still required in the PhD and postdoc community. Regarding the department of Radiation Science & Technology, the committee concludes that it shows an overall high level of research. The Executive Board understands that while good work has been done in formulating the identity and strategy of RST, further steps are needed to increase the visibility of the department. The department of Imaging Physics is performing very well in terms of research and fundraising. Their role as a crucial enabler in collaborations with other departments is noteworthy. The Executive Board highlights the recommendation to further stimulate researchers to be part of public and policy-making bodies to increase visibility and impact. Finally, the department of Quantum Nanoscience impressed the committee with its high level of research, its transparent and open atmosphere and its success in raising diversity among PI's. The differentiation between QN and QuTech was handled very well. The committee applauds QN's strategy to focus on the fundamental aspects of nano and quantum science, as this will be key to the continued success of QuTech.

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

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

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