Annual Report 2014
Management Summary
**Education**

In 2014 the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) gave its definitive approval to the quality criteria for TU/e, which means that the university has the hallmark for internal quality assurance and its processes are well regulated in terms of improving the quality of the education. However, the NVAO does highlight that pressure of work at the university, the testing policy and the formalization of a number of work processes require attention.

In October the Executive Board established the TU/e testing framework and the Examination Boards Guideline, and decided to charge the Central Committee for Quality Assurance in Education with the process of evaluating and updating the testing policy. In order to implement the policy framework for testing institution-wide, each department has detailed a departmental testing policy on the basis of the outline memorandum. This has been evaluated and improved where necessary.

In terms of the Bachelor College good results have again been achieved. The intake of first-year Bachelor study students in 2014-2015 once more shows a significant rise on the previous academic year, more intake interviews were conducted and the average number of credits gained per student per year increased.

In September the first batch of students began their third year at the Bachelor College. Moreover, a second group of 62 students started the honors program, which equates to 4.9% of the re-enrollers of the respective cohort. This lags behind the intended performance target of 7% for the next academic year and measures will be taken to as yet achieve this participation percentage.

The Dean of the Bachelor College is responsible for the ongoing supervision of the quality of the education. Following an evaluation, actions have been agreed to improve the major and elective subjects and with the teachers of the basic subjects.

The path set out in the Bachelor College towards greater differentiation and individual elective options is being carried through to the Master program. In 2014 the Graduate School became embedded in the Administrative and Management Regulations, with the TU/e Graduate School Regulations being established by the Executive Board along with the Graduate School Council, comprising Master students, PDEng trainees and PhD students.

A position paper was delivered and translated into a guideline for the revision of the Master programs. The departments considered the revision of their programs and presented their findings to the Dean of the Graduate School who would present the plans, with his recommendation, to the Executive Board for its approval at the beginning of 2015.

**Research and knowledge valorization**

In 2014 TU/e extended its profile with the start of the High Tech Systems Center (HTSC) for the development of high tech systems specifically geared to cooperation with industry. TU/e had earlier started the Data Science Center (DSC/e) while the establishment of a center for Materials research is in the preparation phase.

Between 2013 and 2019 TU/e is co-investing around 100 million euros with external partners in PhD student places in the TU/e’s core research areas of Energy, Health, Smart Mobility, High Tech Systems, Materials and Data Science, thereby linking TU/e knowledge valorization to research strengths. The aim is, on the one hand, to substantiate long-term cooperation with companies in flagship projects and, on the other hand, to maintain TU/e research capacity in the light of declining government spending. In 2013 and 2014 some 270 PhD student places were realized in this way. 87 have been filled already, with the rest due to be filled in 2015.
A key focus of the research is participation in European programs. In 2014 the full extent of the new Horizon 2020 programs was thrown open and TU/e achieved good results: the volume of projects has risen slightly, TU/e is participating in the KIC Health of the European Institute for Innovation and Technology (EIT) and an ERC Starting Grant has been obtained. In 2014 no results from the Consolidator and Advanced Grants rounds were announced by the ERC but just after the end of the year it was made known that two Consolidator Grants had been acquired within TU/e.

An activity that is always given due attention at TU/e is the generation of new business and the encouragement of entrepreneurship. In 2014 TU/e supported around 30 new companies and some 600 of its students followed one of the Entrepreneurship & Technology components: the minor, USE learning path or the Master Course.

**TU/e Science Park**

TU/e has its sights on the future and has international ambitions for education and research. Since contemporary student facilities, modern laboratories and suitable accommodation for departments and services are part of that ambition, TU/e is investing significantly in the transformation of its campus into a Science Park of national importance and international allure.

In 2014 decisions were made on Project 3. The Supervisory Board approved the plans in June 2014. The renovation of Gemini (project 4) has been pushed back by three years. The new Flux building for the Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering departments was completed and delivered.

At the end of the year a positive start was made with the rehousing of the Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering departments to the new Flux building and with rehousing/vacating the Main Building, with the expectation that this huge operation would be completed during the first quarter of 2015.
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