

12 APR 2018

TiU DI



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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Executive Board
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Dear Executive Board members,

Date
10 April 2018

Subject
*Administrative response
assessment of the research
programs of our
Psychology and Methods
and Statistics Departments*

Reference
0388.js/mv

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We would like to inform you on the conclusions we as Management Team of TSB draw with respect to the recent assessment of the research programs of our Psychology and Methods and Statistics Departments and the kind of measures and recommendations we envisage for the near future.

First of all we are happy with the outcomes, all three criteria (research quality, societal relevance and viability) received the qualification 'very good'. As this research assessment has been carried out together with almost all other psychology programs in the Netherlands (only Radboud University Nijmegen did not participate) we are also able to compare ourselves with other psychology groups in the Netherlands. In this respect we are happy with our relative position, while at the same time we see possibilities for improvement. More importantly the assessment committee - based on the CWTS analysis - also acknowledges the high quality of Dutch psychology research in general compared to a number of countries (such as UK, USA, Denmark etc.)

Secondly we are pleased with the praise we receive for having invested Euro 4 million in a joint research program on Health, Well-being and Adaptiveness, which is being implemented in our Herbert Simon Research Institute in combination with TESC (Tilburg Experience Sampling Centre). We did consider investing in fMRI equipment, but that would imply a 'me-too' strategy (phrase is derived from long standing strategic management research and not from the more recent social media hype) while at the same time lagging behind for about 10-15 years compared to the main competitors in this area (Amsterdam, Nijmegen). So in the end we opted for investing in data intensive research and methods in the area of Health, Well-being and Adaptiveness.

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The assessment committee agrees on the outcome of our decision process: *"According to the committee the management of TSB has been very responsive to the issues raised in the previous assessment and successfully bundled the nine research programs in the newly established Herbert Simon Institute.....The establishment of TESC seems a wise investment and may constitute a unique selling point for Tilburg in the future."*

Thirdly, the outcomes of the research assessment process and the remarks by the committee give rise to the following recommendations and policy initiatives for the near future:

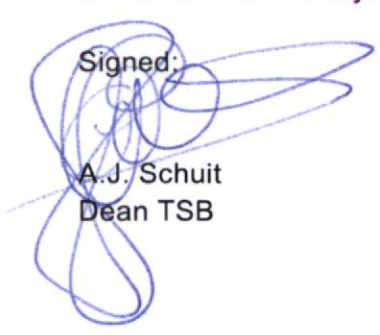
- Research quality: We need to strengthen our culture of research quality, including the establishment of better metrics. In terms of citations the quality is good to very good according to international standards, yet there is room for improvement. In that respect we are considering recruiting new top researchers, also in order to strengthen the chance of participating in gravitation programs
- Preventing fragmentation/strengthening our profile: We will develop more focus and stronger co-ordinated policy initiatives in the joint research program with the aim of on the one hand reducing fragmentation and on the other hand obtaining a leading position internationally and better opportunities for participating in big consortia and/or gravitation networks and related funding. Initiating more joint research projects/PhD's across departments and across schools is another option.
- PhD training and preparation for the future: The remarks by the committee are fully in line with the recently conducted TiU PhD survey as made public on March, 29th 2018. Together with the other Schools of TiU TSB graduate School will make sure to improve our PhD training program with respect to didactic skills, clarifying the requirements for a successful PhD trajectory and paying more attention to the societal relevance of their research.
- Diversity: We will stretch our ambitions in this respect in order to surpass the presently stated goals of 25% female professors and 40% associate professors
- Societal relevance: Based on the comments by the assessment committee, we apparently need to improve the balance between fundamental, curiosity driven research and application driven research. With all due respect we did not fully recognize the remarks by the committee.

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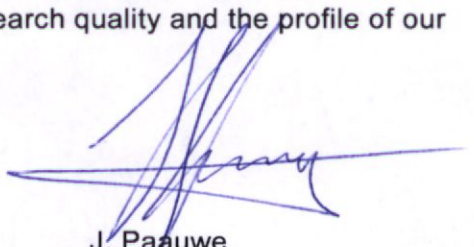
- We do have many contacts with the practitioner's community and related networks to the benefit of both parties, yet according to the committee, mainly for the benefit of the University and not the other way around. Apparently we are in need of a better articulated strategy with respect to the societal relevance of our research. Especially since we want to improve on fundamental research it is necessary to be more explicit on how to preserve and improve our application driven research for the sake of the societal relevance of our research. In relation to this it is good to mention that TSB will start a structural collaboration with Elisabeth Tweesteden Ziekenhuis (ETZ) for at least 5 years. This collaboration will enhance our contribution to care and cure and will stimulate applied sciences.
- Access of PhD Students to PhD training of national research Schools: As some supervisors are not associated with a relevant national research school, PhD Students are sometimes denied access to courses which might be relevant for them. The management of the School will make sure to stimulate supervisors to become member/fellow of one of the national research schools, where applicable and available, in order to make sure that PhD candidates can attend the courses, which fit their educational program.

We look forward discussing the outcomes of our research assessment and related policy implications with you. Hopefully resulting in a shared vision towards strengthening our research quality and the profile of our School and University.

Signed:



A.J. Schuit
Dean TSB



J. Paauwe
Vice-dean for Research