

Update.

This newsletter features the 3TU anniversary concert, the implementation of the Sector Plan for Technology, an interview with Anne Flierman, the 3TU.Datacentrum and much more.



UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.



Rotating chair

From 1 January 2012, Anne Flierman will chair the 3TU.Governing Board and the 3TU.Executive Committee. Hans van Duijn, Rector Magnificus at TU/e, will chair 3TU.Research. Paul Rullmann, Vice-President for Education at TU Delft, will remain as chairman of 3TU.Education and Kees van Ast, member of the Executive Board at UT, will continue to chair 3TU.Technology Transfer.

Milestone in the field of technology and healthcare

Important developments are taking place at the intersection of technology and healthcare, both nationally and internationally. These technological developments are being closely monitored by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, especially in terms of the benefits and risks they present and their impact on degree programmes in healthcare. In addition, the Ministries of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation and Education, Culture and Science are also closely involved because of policy on the business community and the profiling and differentiation in the field of science they wish to promote. Last September, NFU (the Dutch Federation of University Medical Centres) and 3TU issued joint recommendations to the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport on education and degree programmes and the possibilities for cooperation on research in the area of medical technology. The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport was very happy with the recommendations and plans to take rapid action, which is an important acknowledgement for a new discipline in the healthcare sector. The new Individual Healthcare Professions Act (BIG) has now been published in the Government Gazette, including the article on experimentation.

Interview with... Anne Flierman

From 1 January 2012, the 3TU.Federation will have a new chairman. Anne Flierman, President of the Executive Board at UT, will succeed Dirk Jan van den Berg, President of the Executive Board at TU Delft. 3TU has a rotating chair system with a two-year term of office.

What is the added value of 3TU?

"3TU has lost none of its importance. All three TUs face a number of shared challenges. We must deliver sufficient numbers of highly-qualified engineers, technical designers and researchers, conduct technical and scientific research that is both cutting-edge and socially relevant and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and cooperation between research institutes and businesses in order to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. We also focus attention on specific disciplines in technical and scientific research, such as the advisory report issued by the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) on 'Quality Assessment in the Design and Engineering Disciplines'. In addition, all three of us face the impact of the ongoing changes in the research landscape. We are receiving reduced direct funding from government and there are major social issues that are demanding our attention. As the embodiment of our specific shared interests, the 3TU.Federation is the perfect way of remaining in dialogue and facilitating partnerships with our different stakeholders, the ministries, the business community and of course the technological institutes and TNO, in relation to these issues."

What future do you envisage for the 3TU.Federation?

"Our strength lies in our forward-looking approach. A few years ago, 3TU embarked on a strategy which has now shown itself to be effectively in line with government policy. This is reflected in the fact that the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) has acknowledged the value of the Sector Plan for Technology by awarding funding to the tune of € 33 million, with a possible second tranche of € 22 million to follow. In addition, 3TU is well positioned to serve the top sectors of industry when it comes to achieving the ambitions outlined."

What plans do you have for the near future?

"First of all, we will begin implementing the Sector Plan, focusing initially on education. In terms of research, we will continue to support new initiatives and the TUs will specialise in both fundamental and practically-inspired research, in consultation with each other. Our emphasis is on cooperation with the top sectors. It will have to be proven whether they are in a position to remain effective organisations and secure sufficient funding. The top sectors and innovation policy are key areas about which the three TUs also have clear ideas for future development. The three TUs will also work with businesses to identify how to exploit the new opportunities, created, for example, as a result of new fiscal legislation, such as tax relief for research and development (RDA+regeling). I hope that this will help facilitate the intended flow of funds between businesses and knowledge institutes. Furthermore, we must also look beyond issues related purely to the Netherlands and we intend to look to Brussels for further opportunities in the near future. Innovation is high on the agenda there and there are resources available for it. It is important that we seize the opportunities this presents."

Credits

3TU.Newsletter is a publication of the 3TU.Federation. The newsletter is sent to staff and external contacts of Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology and the University of Twente.

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Data Centre

Effective archiving which ensures continued access to data is becoming increasingly important. This is reflected, for example, in the new guidelines issued by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), which oblige researchers to provide details in data contracts of the archives in which they store their data. One of the archives available to researchers is the 3TU.Datacentre. Established four years ago, this archive has now provided access to and secured 4,000 datasets totalling around 12TB (three copies of each set). Jeroen Rombouts MSc (Project Manager, 3TU.Datacentre): "After having the status of a project for three years, in the last 12 months the 3TU.Datacentre has been in the process of becoming a fully-fledged line organisation. On behalf of the three TUs, we can offer an extensive range of services to the scientific and technical disciplines in the Netherlands. Our services are 'data publication', 'data labs' and 'data management'. Data publication involves archiving data and making it available for citation, by issuing a digital object identifier (DOI). With data labs we provide support for ongoing research. Data services involve giving advice on the effective management of data. In order to effectively join forces, we are investigating the options for nationwide cooperation with DANS (the data centre for the humanities and social sciences, funded by NWO and KNAW).

Mirjam Bult leaves 3TU to become senior manager at KPMG

Dr Mirjam Bult-Spiering, secretary of the 3TU.Federation since 1 December 2007, has announced her decision to leave 3TU. With effect from 9 January 2012, she will be senior manager at KPMG Management Consultants, in the Public Sector service line. "Of course, we offer her our heartfelt congratulations on her new post", says 3TU Chair Dirk Jan van den Berg. "We would like to thank Mirjam for her outstanding efforts on behalf of 3TU and wish her every success in this next step in her career". The 3TU Executive Committee will now initiate the procedure to appoint a successor.

First status report on implementation of Sector Plan programme review

In early September, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science announced € 33 million in additional investment for the Sector Plan for Technology. It is now up to the TUs to ensure that engineering degree programmes become more attractive and that students successfully complete them within the allocated time. One of the seven projects in the Sector Plan that will help to achieve this is 'Restructuring of programmes', which focuses, for example, on the reorganisation of Bachelor's degree programmes. This newsletter takes a brief look at the current status of these projects.

At TU Delft, the review of Bachelor's degree programmes is focusing on curriculum change and cultural change. The frameworks that will apply to the programme reorganisation have been agreed and discussed with the faculties. The faculties will submit an initial plan of action by 1 December 2011 at the latest. In the meantime, both students and staff have been asked to make maximum effort to help achieve these changes to education. For students, this implies that enrolling on a programme means getting down to work and finishing it. Teaching staff are expected to make serious efforts to develop a new programme which includes teaching components that have been carefully considered in terms of their content, with an optimum mix of summative and formative types of assessment. The first new programmes will start in September 2013.

The Twente Education Model is now starting to take shape. UT will be organising its Bachelor's degree programmes in theme-based full-time 10week/15 ECTS modules. Each module constitutes an examination component that must be passed in full. In addition, a substantial part of all of the modules will consist of project teaching. With its new Twente Education Model, UT hopes that students will devote more time to the programme on a permanent basis, develop an independent attitude to study and gain increased freedom in terms of the study route they pursue. The aim is to start the new programmes in September 2013. The proposals are currently waiting for approval by the University Council, along with a plan for a University College of Technology.

At TU/e, the education will be made more attractive and challenging for all students with a pre-university education (VWO) and a Science profile. To achieve this, the Bachelor's degree programmes will be completely reorganised. Every programme will soon comprise four components: a major of 90 credits, a basic programme of 30 credits, a USE (User, Society and Entrepreneurial perspective) component of 15 credits and elective amounting to 45 credits. This means that all students will cover subjects in the humanities and social sciences in order to place their chosen discipline in its social and human context. Since last September, all Bachelor's degree programmes fall under the umbrella of the new TU/e Bachelor College. Led by the Dean of the College, the faculties aim to have the new degree programmes up-and-running in September 2012. After the Christmas break, academic staff will begin work on the contents of all the components.



3TU Anniversary Concert

On the evening of Thursday, 1 March 2012, the student orchestras of the three TUs will be giving a joint concert in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw. It is a unique venue for a unique performance! The concert is being held in honour of the fifth anniversary of the 3TU.Federation. Tickets for the performance cost only € 15, and are € 10 for students. For tickets and further information, visit www.3TUconcert.nl.

The next edition of the newsletter will include a look at developments in top sector policy.