



Universiteit Utrecht

Formal statement Research Review Biology 2005-2010

Recently the Executive Board has discussed the report as prepared by the Review Committee Biology on the research in Biology at Dutch universities over the period 2005-2010.

The Executive Board of Utrecht University has been given the opportunity to comment on the Assessment of the Research Programmes of Biology as issued by the Committee (QANU Research Review Biology 2011).

We very much welcome the well-balanced and detailed analysis of the Dutch biological research community and the acknowledgement that especially fields of Plant Biology, Microbiology, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Cell Biology & Developmental Biology and Physiology & Neurobiology are internationally most-prestigious and best cited. Most of these areas are focal points of the Department of Biology. We are happy to learn that the independent bibliometric study of CWTS shows that the citation impact of the Utrecht Biologists is "*at a very high level*", with almost 2-fold above world average the highest of all Dutch universities.

We are pleased that the Review Committee rated the quality of 9 of the 11 research programmes as "*excellent*" and the other 2 as "*very good*". The latter 2 were recently (Cell Biology), or will soon be (Ecology & Biodiversity) strengthened with new full professors, so we are confident that also these two programmes will be able to further improve to the highest level. The ratings of the Review Committee confirms the high academic reputation of the Department of Biology and certainly strengthens her ambition to remain a world-class research Institute in the field of biological sciences.

The Executive Board of Utrecht University, the Board of the Faculty of Science and the Department of Biology aim at further increasing the quality of the research programmes in Biology and will use the relevant suggestions made by the Review Committee. Therefore they will discuss a plan of activities and organise a mid-term review in 2015.

On behalf of the Executive Board.

Utrecht, May 2012