



Universiteit Utrecht

Response to Research Review Mathematics 2003-2008

Utrecht University is delighted by the very positive evaluation of the research at its Mathematical Institute by the international review committee, and wants to thank the committee for its thorough and balanced report.

The programs in Algebra, Geometry and Logic, and Analysis (pure, applied and numerical) were given outstanding grades for the quality and relevance of their scientific output, and their ability to attract research funding. The committee expresses its faith in the future of the very good program on Stochastics and Decision Theory, which went through a period of turbulent changes during the assessment period. The committee also makes special mention of the small, but unique, program in the History of Mathematics, with its high quality and highly recognized focus on Islamic civilization in antiquity and the middle age.

The main worry of the committee concerns the keeping of momentum while maintaining the balance between pure and applied mathematics. Recent retirements and transfer of researchers have left gaps, especially in the applied sections, which unfortunately could not yet be filled, due to the funding situation and despite a spectacular tripling in the number of freshmen in mathematics. To counteract, the institute will develop activities to increase involvement with more interdisciplinary programmes in Life Sciences and Physics. The institute strives also to gain more talent with external funds and combine research with the CWI. In this way, we strive to keep our Mathematical Institute a place "whose quality and reputation represents its major assets", to quote the review committee.

The Executive Board, the Faculty Board of Science and the Department aim to use the relevant suggestions as made by the Review Committee. Therefore they will discuss a plan of activities and organise a mid-term review in 2013.

On behalf of the Executive Board.

Utrecht, December 2010