



Universiteit Utrecht

Response to Research Review Physics 2001-2009

Recently the Executive Board has discussed the report as prepared by the Review Committee Physics on the research in Physics at Dutch universities over the period 2001-2009.

The Board of Utrecht University has been given the opportunity to comment on the Assessment of the Research Programmes of Physics as issued by the Committee (QANU Research Review Physics 2012).

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the elaborate and extensive review that the Committee has produced and the considerable amount of effort that has been put into this reviewing procedure. We are very pleased with the general comment that the physics research in the Netherlands is in excellent shape. The observation of the committee that the majority of the programmes at Utrecht are internationally leading is also deeply valued. Most of all we appreciate the thorough and detailed comments on the research programmes that have been given in the Review Report. The various subjects addressed by the Committee about the distinctive programmes provide valuable input in realisation and sharpening the research focus of the Faculty of Science.

The research plan of the Faculty foresees a strengthening of those research groups that have been ranked by the Committee among the very best, such as Theoretical Physics, Soft Condensed Matter & Biophysics, Subatomic Physics and Marine and Atmospheric Research. These efforts are partly externally supported by e.g. the 'Sectorplan'. We are proud of the high quality and viability of all physics research in Utrecht University. The constructive remarks of the committee will help us not only with the realisation and sharpening of our research focus but also in exploring possibilities for continuation of the research activities that fall outside the research focus. This review supports highly the attempts to preserve their valuable contribution to the Dutch physics landscape is

In conclusion, we consider the assessment report as a solid and detailed survey of the present condition of the Dutch physics research landscape in terms of quality, productivity and viability.

The Executive Board, the Board of the Faculty of Science and the Department of Physics aim at further increasing the quality of the research programme in Physics and will 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 2014.

On behalf of the Executive Board.

Utrecht, March 2012