

To Josse Delfgaauw
Programme Director
of Erasmus School of Economics

Date
27 May 2025

Subject
Advice on Proposal Savings on tutorial
education

Our reference
ESE/PC E&BE

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Appendix
none

Department
PC Economics & Business Economics

Visiting address
Erasmus School of Economics
Burgemeester Oudlaan 50
E Building

Postal address
PO Box 1738
3000 DR Rotterdam
The Netherlands

E erkens@ese.eur.nl
W www.eur.nl/ese/english

Dear dr Delfgaauw, dear Josse,

A proposal outlining various cost-saving measures related to tutorial education was presented to the Programme Committee. The following comments and concerns were raised:

Measures 1 and 2: Reducing the Number of TAs/Tutorials

- Committee members reiterated that reducing the number of tutorials and teaching assistants would substantially increase the workload for lecturers, who would need to redesign their courses such that still enough exercise moments are integrated into the course.
- This measure is not favored, as it significantly affects the quality of student learning. Tutorials are critical for exam preparation, particularly in more demanding courses.
- The Committee recommends exploring possible reductions only in courses where tutorial attendance is consistently low, and engagement is minimal.

Measure 3: Integration of Academic Skills

- The Committee believes that integrating academic skills into existing courses should be evaluated within the broader context of the curriculum redesign.
- Students generally value the academic skills course, while the career skills component receives less positive feedback.
- The Committee recommends prioritizing reductions in the career skills component rather than in tutorial hours that support core academic learning.

Measure 4: TA Contracts and Group Sizes

- The PC takes note of the Tutor Academy's initiative to revise TA contracts and consider assigning TAs to more than one tutorial group. This seems a relatively easy-to-implement measure and gets support from the PC.

Our reference

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Your reference

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Measure 5: Tutorials as a PhD Duty

- The Committee opposes making tutorial responsibilities mandatory for PhD candidates, particularly because many are externally funded and may not have teaching obligations.
- Concerns were raised regarding capacity limitations and the potential negative impact on both PhD research and tutorial quality.

General Remarks

- The proposal references a need for budgetary cuts but lacks specificity regarding the targeted savings.
- As tutorial education is part of the core educational offering, any proposed changes must be approached with caution.

The Programme Committee was asked to approve the implementation of the proposed measures. The Committee emphasizes the importance of clarifying the financial goals to facilitate a proper evaluation of the proposal.

Additionally, the Programme Committee urges Programme Management to consider alternative solutions that preserve educational quality and avoid disproportionate reductions for minor financial gains.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Dr Michael Erkens
Chair PC Economics & Business Economics

cc. Iris Versluis

PS. this letter will be sent to the School Council for information.