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To Whom It May Concern

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Subject  
Position statement Executive Board – evaluation Swammerdam Institute for Life Sciences

L.S.,

The Executive Board of the University of Amsterdam received the final report of the research review of the Swammerdam Institute for Life Sciences or SILS (2017-2022). An international peer review committee carried out the evaluation in 2023, using the Strategy Evaluation Protocol 2021-2027. The Executive Board wishes to express its gratitude to the peer review committee, chaired by Prof. dr. Jacques Neefjes, for carrying out the evaluation.

The Executive Board is pleased to see that the committee concludes that SILS is a very good and viable life sciences institute, and that it considers the research quality of SILS to be high. Researchers at SILS are also strongly committed to societal relevance and highly active when it comes to impact and outreach activities, even if a more structural approach to these activities is advised by the committee. New HR policies have been established and should contribute to better career development plans and trajectories. The working culture is described as excellent, and SILS has a management team and leadership that is functioning very well.

The Executive Board supports the Faculty of Science in using the recommendations of the evaluation report to further strengthen the performance of SILS, including creating opportunities for collaboration between the theme groups, formulating a long-term vision or ‘branding’ for the institute, more focus on diversity by reviewing hiring policies and the role of the diversity committee, improving the support for PhD candidates, and mentoring and allowing junior research staff to invest enough time into their research. All these should contribute to a more viable and even better research institute.

Yours sincerely,  
The Executive Board

Prof. Edith H. Hooge  
President