## III. RECOMMENDATIONS

**Programme aims and learning outcomes**:

1.  The way the programme and module learning outcomes are specified, written and used should be reviewed and improved.
    *   The learning outcomes / attitudes must be included in the module descriptors; at present they are not and this is insufficient.
    *   The relationship between the programme learning outcomes and the module learning outcomes is currently unclear and must be clearly evidenced and explained.
    *   Communication, in written and verbal form, should be specifically included in 'Transferable skills' (D). This learning outcome would, for example, be addressed by a language module, an ICT module, or by a module which involves teamwork (although teamwork is not specified anywhere).
    *   The principles of critical review and evaluation should be developed in all categories of learning outcomes (A) − (D). For example, learning outcome A4 states "know and understand the principles of optimization of constructions, processes and their parameters" and to this should be added "be able to critically review them in order to select the most appropriate".

**Curriculum design:**

2.  Review the curriculum design with particular reference to enabling graduates from BSc studies other than Vehicle Engineering at VGTU to enter the MSc programme. Review and formalise the need for such students to complete extra subjects before admission.
3.  The Department should review the role of practical application work in the MSc programme.
4.  There should be more engineering design calculations related to automotive vehicles, systems and components, and a larger emphasis on commercial vehicles.

**Staff:**

5.  Address the under-representation of female academic staff in the Faculty by planning for staff composition and turnover.
Encourage staff to take more advantage of the opportunities offered by mobility schemes such as the Erasmus scheme. Academic staff should undertake more professional development

6.  development in terms of international exposure, experience and industrial experience, also to improve English language skills.

**Facilities and learning resources:**

7.  Encourage academic staff and students to use the CAE facilities more in final projects.
8.  Use research facilities and resources more in the delivery of the MSc programme.
9.  Increase the number of MSc projects done in collaboration with industry and social partners and include if possible some form of payment which will help and encourage students during their studies in university subsequently in their employment.

**Study process and student assessment:**

10. The Faculty staff should review what more could be done to encourage students to seek admission to the MSc programme, especially from other universities. To address the issue of declining student numbers strategic action by the staff is needed.

11. Academic staff should encourage part-time students by scheduling lectures and other work during the evenings or over a few days of the week to provide them the possibility of working during the day.

12. Provide more support for foreign language learning for the students, e.g. by providing lectures in foreign languages, and encouraging visiting lecturers.

13. Continue to work to reduce the student non-completion / dropout rate.

14. Review the final project report marking for standard and consistency (the Reviewers noted that some of the examples shown were generously marked).

**Programme management:**

15. A formal procedure covering programme review and programme improvement should be prepared and used in future with a clear plan of action as an outcome.