



FSR-meeting

Date 18-02-2016

Location E1.26

17:00-19:00

Minutes

Presents: Samantha van den Hoek, Mourad Farahat, Nickardo Postma, Mick Fruytier, Victor Oprea, Rinus van Grunsven.

Absents: Ioana Nicolau, Swiss Jurriens, Mink Perrée, Tijmen de Vos

Guest: Luca Mossink

Secretary: Yirong Lo

1. Determine agenda

17.04

1. Opening and determine agenda	6. Strengthening student councils
2. Minutes of previous meeting	7. BSc Split
3. Announcements	
4. Update committees and CSR-representative	
5. Letter budget	Remarks

2. Minutes previous meeting

17.05

Minutes of 04-02-2016 are approved.

3. Announcements

17.06

- Tijmen, Swiss, Ioana, and Mink are absent.
- Nickardo will be late.
- Victor has to leave early.
- Luca (student assessor) is joining the meeting.

Luca raises several questions to the FSR:

-Does the FSR agree that the status of the BSc split is unclear?

The FSR agrees and will express their concerns in point 7. BSc split.

-What does the FSR think of the pre-investment plan?

The FSR is upset about not being involved in making the plan. And the FSR did not get to see the plan beforehand, therefore could not give input or feedback. However, the FSR thinks that the plan itself (blended learning) is reasonable.

-What does FSR think of offering Excel/Stata courses?

The FSR thinks that currently there already are Excel/SPSS classes offered in some courses, therefore separate Excel/Stata courses are not necessary. However, the FSR would like to see more of Excel applied in assignments. Luca mentions that Peter van Baalen is working on this, perhaps FSR could pick up on this file. Victor will look into this.

4. Update committees & CSR-representative

Victor (chair E&R):

-Bachelor Split meeting happened on Tuesday.

-OER has been sent in to us; well start planning on what to do with it and how to check it. A meeting with Peter van Baalen was supposed to happen, but for some reason it was delayed. A new meeting will occur next week, and we can ask questions then.

-A meeting with Florian Wagenaar and Peter van Baalen regarding BSc Split is still being scheduled. However, it is still uncertain when will it happen due to busy schedules.

-On the Excellence Program: it was suggested by a coordinator that creating new courses is unrealistic and that we should stick to existing ones.

Rinus (chair O&M):

- We finally got our first edition of the toilet paper!





- Tijmen came up with an idea about a common room. We talked with Hinke Nijman about that and she said that the FEB isn't paying the rent for it anymore. This means that UvA holding can decide what to do with the empty place. But Hinke said that she will bring it up during the next meeting and maybe we can come up with a plan after that meeting.
- I've got an meeting with Paulien Bosch about the NSE 2016 library learning centre and I'll give you an update during the PV about that.
- Unfortunately Ioana and Mink couldn't attend our CV so we weren't able to discuss the PR-event but they are in contact with the communication department about it.
- Swiss and Nickardo are planning a meeting with Anne Marie van Sandvoordten about blended learning.

Mink (CSR-representative):

Not present.

5. Advice letter budget

17.20

The FSR is sending a letter of advice on the budget to the faculty board. Mourad will help in improving the letter grammatically. The FSR voted and agreed upon the content of the letter. Samantha will sign it on behalf of the council and the letter will be send before the end of this week (160218-01).

6. Strengthening student councils

17.30

The councils have a chairmen-meeting every month. During last month's meeting they discussed how to strengthen councils. The rector is asking the CSR what they would do to improve the position of the councils after the protests last year. Now is the time to actually set action. During the meeting there came up several points of attention from different councils. The FSR discussed whether certain topics are applicable and how they would see a solution for it. The outcomes:

Problem	Do we recognize this problem?	How would this be solved?	Who should solve it?	Should it be formalized?
Unmotivated Council Members	We recognize this in elected members, but not in the current council members.	Better inform candidates in what to expect from a council year. Talk to Sefa and other parties to better filter candidates.	Parties	Yes
Dean sometimes doesn't take the council serious	Yes	More organization, pressure, and consistency from the FSR.	FSR and faculty should solve it together. But if all FSRs have this problem, then CSR should step in.	Yes
The council feels being played with	Sometimes, e.g. WC-krant	Give a better overview of who is responsible for what	Whole UvA, faculty, and FSR.	Yes
The council doesn't know who is responsible for what and how to find the right person within the faculty	Yes (see above)			
Information is often too late at the council. Therefore it is hard to prepare proper responses	YES! e.g. BSc split and pre-investment Sometimes info are not send at all.	More pressure on the board to send info to FSR on time by giving strong responses. Having informal meetings also works.	Faculty should update FSR on everything that is going on in the faculty	Yes
The council does not always know what their rights are	No, we know our rights of consent.			





Memos and invitations are sent (too) late to the council	No			
The council does not represent the students well, because not all studies are represented in the council	No, except for Econometrics	Talk to Econometrics associations	Econometrics students	
International Students cannot vote and cannot be elected.	FSR FEB has multiple International students in the council.	We don't see the problem, except if this is the case for students who are here for longer than a year.		Yes
Not having a proper archive to have examples from previous councils	Yes, the archive is very messy.	Clean up and organize the archive.	FSR	Yes
Transfer is bad	The transfer weekend was good but too short.	Trial period: have each council member take a new member under their wing for at least a week, before the summer holiday.	The FSR is currently working on improving the transfer.	Yes
Council members quit because of too much work and pressure	No			
The council is not on the right level – where the actual decisions are made	No			
The council is not properly involved at decisions that are being made	Yes! E.g. BSc split and pre-investments	More pressure and negotiations by FSR. Faculty should be more open	FSR and faculty	Yes
OR is hard to reach, so there is not very much contact between OR and FSR	No			

The FSR will send this discussion to the CSR before the 28th of February (160218-02) and will raise their concerns to the board of not being informed in time.

17.53 Luca and Victor have to leave.

BSc split

17.53

The file holders are not yet satisfied with the process of the BSc split. Therefore they want to get a clear overview of the points that the council could agree on and what concerns there are left at this point. NOTE: not enough council members are present to make agreements, however the council discussed the following.

Curriculum:

At this moment the file holders think that the board is not really clear about the status. The latest version of the curriculum of E&BE is the TNO. This was altered almost directly after and the curriculum committee discussed it and suggested major



changes. These changes have not been shown in a new version yet. Also, a bit simultaneously, the FSR received a concept-OER for the year 2017-2018 (January 2016). In this concept-OER the possible curriculum is included. This curriculum differs from the original TNO (handed out and accredited fall 2015). During our latest OV the faculty board did not want to discuss this piece because it has not been discussed internally by them. So the FSR does not know whether this curriculum is the final draft.

The main points that the file holders would like to see in the new curriculum are:

- Principles of Business and Principles of Economics in period 1 of 12EC total, because of switching possibility.
- Mathematics in period 2 of semester 1, before Christmas because of the resit.
- Accounting and Statistics before Finance.

The only thing not taken into account is whether the section is able to give a certain course at a certain time.

Process:

There are concerns about the process of creating the Bachelor Curriculum, especially for the BSc E&BE. In the latest meeting, the Curriculum Committee also seems to show a lot of discussion. Therefore the file holders are very concerned and considers sending a letter of concern and a press release to draw more attention to this topic.

The other committee members:

The file holders have been talking to several curriculum committee-members. The FSR is very unsatisfied with the way of working. Some things that came forward when talking to teacher-researchers were:

- The curriculum is not thought through enough: Certain teachers mentioned that they would like to see some requirements for their course which is not set properly in the curriculum. To give an example: Finance needs Statistics and Accounting to have a good course. In the curriculum draft, Finance is in the second block of the first semester, with only Principles and Accounting prior to it. There is no Statistics there, which according to J. Ligterink, could cause troubles for the Finance course.
- There is no critical thinking incorporated in the curriculum: Just as the file holders, most of the committee-members see a lack of critical thinking (as a learning outcome) in the curriculum. Such as getting different views on economics (pluralism), learn to solve problems in different ways and not just the Neoclassical way. There has been some critics already about the current curriculum and there seems to be no changes made to improve it.
- The chance to create a completely new bachelor has not been taken: This was supposed to be the right moment to create a whole new bachelor that meets up with the modern society. Some feel that this opportunity is not used. The curriculum looks like it is just a movement of the old pieces and nothing really new has been added.

BSA:

Another point that is not clear is the plans for the BSA. Right now the possibilities could be:

- 48 EC incl. Mathematics, Statistics and Research Project
- 48 EC without requirements
- 42 EC incl. Mathematics

Out of these 3, the council prefers '48 EC without requirements'. However, it is important to note that requirements could act as incentive to make first year students pass a course in order to take the 2nd year course. Either way, the council thinks that first year students must be made aware of entry requirements of follow up courses.

The council wants to set up a letter to express their concerns regarding the BSc Split. The letter would be sent to the faculty board, together with a press release. This would include the following points:

- Macroeconomics shouldn't be in the first semester of year 1 because Business students that switch cannot meet the requirement of second year cours(es).
- A ban of 3 years, when not meeting the BSA requirements, is too much. -possibility to switch studies after 1st year, as is found in Econometrics -> Economics?
- We want to discuss Principles Of Economics and Business There is no Economics in it It should be concentrated in the first period of semester 1
- There is no critical thinking in the curriculum.(in addition to this, a more prominent emphasis on economic pluralism could/should be placed, especially for critical thinking to be applicable in a more formal setting)
- EMO should be out of the curriculum. This spot could be filled with Macroeconomics or Game Theory + this gives an extra free spot for critical thinking course.
- We need to see the course catalogues before we can consent.





- There should be coordinator meetings to streamline the curriculum.
- There should be a possibility for Dutch students to start the study in English right away. English proficiency test?
- The FSR does not think that internships should be offered by the university: "We leiden onze studenten niet op voor het beroepsleven, maar voor de master".
- The BSA shouldn't be raised to 48EC.
- The BSA shouldn't have mandatory courses in it.
- Statistics should be moved to the first semester in the first year. Finance should be scheduled after statistics. Accounting should be scheduled before Finance.
- Mathematics 2 and Microeconomics 2 should be given at the same time.

Since not enough council members are present, the above discussion points could not be determined. This will be further discussed next week.

Remarks:

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Closing 18.50





ACTIONPOINTS

151120-04 Rinus discuss the schedule for promotion and also make sure to evaluate it after one week and think of the next steps to take.

~~160107-02 Mink find out how much "flex studying" would cost for international students who pay the full tuition fee. It will become more expensive: Tuition fee/60 + administration fee.~~

~~160204-01 Everyone keep a record for a week of how many hours of work you put in the council. Send the hours to Mink.~~

~~160204-02 Mink take the receipt from Tijmen and give it to Ioana.~~

160204-03 Victor contact course coordinators to discuss possible additional courses for the excellence program.

160204-04 Rinus set a fixed meeting for the O&M committee.

160218-01 Mourad will improve the budget letter grammatically, and Samantha will sign it.

160218-02 Send the 'Strengthening student councils' outcomes to the CSR before the 28th of February.

Pro-memory

151009-02 Respond to questions on Whatsapp.

151113-01 Actively invite students for the course evaluations (& Mink inform the council on time when the evaluations are).

151120-01 The council works according to the working agreements.

151211-01 During events you are representing the FSR, so no looking on your phones and act excited!!

160121-01 Every other week on Tuesdays the council is having Coffee Time from 12:00-14:00.

160218-01 Rinus and Victor make more elaborate updates.