



Faculteit der Maatschappij- en Gedragwetenschappen

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Contactpersoon

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Ons kenmerk

fmg19u0194

Onderwerp

your advice on the FMG 2020 faculty budget

Dear chairmen of the Works Council and Faculty Student Council,

Thank you for your detailed advice on the FMG 2020 faculty budget. By means of this letter, I would like to respond point-by-point to your joint advice.

### **1. Advice on participation**

In your advice, you make a clear statement related to a national protest to get an adequate funding for scientific research. As you know, I am not in a position to reach such an agreement, but I do take your signal seriously and have therefore forwarded the message to the Executive Board (CvB).

### **2. Increase readability**

You point out that, although improvements have been made in recent years and the oral explanations during the budgetary process have been illuminating, there is still room for improvement in terms of the readability of the draft budget. I will take your recommendations regarding the extension of the abbreviation list in the 2020 budget book into account. However, I would first like to discuss your suggestion to add a glossary to the UvA's central department of Finance Planning & Control, because we aim for a UvA-wide glossary that unifies the language use across faculties.

### **3. The context is missing**

The draft budget for 2020 is an important milestone in a four-year transition period during which the faculty's results must be restored to a balanced exploitation. We're well on track, but we're not there yet. All domains have had to make difficult - and sometimes far-reaching - choices, employees are feeling the increased workload and our educational portfolio has changed dramatically. In addition, the recommendations of the Van Rijn Committee and public opinion do not work to our advantage either. But we've been able to better control the faculty's finances. For example, possible pension problems and a new Collective Labour Agreement are partly covered by the fact that a 3% wage indexation has already been taken into account in the 2020 budget. In contrast to previous years, the 1 October censuses also led to a positive budget adjustment of more than 1 million euro this year. Logically, there are also challenges for the upcoming period. The domain of Psychology will implement a number of measures in 2020 in order to be able to (once again) achieve a conclusive operating result. These measures include revising the bachelor's programme, changing the research-

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education ratio, reduction/concentration of laboratory facilities and ending the Spinoza collaboration. Within the domain of CDE, the inflow of only 10 students in the bachelor programme in Educational Sciences is particularly problematic. Currently, under the leadership of the Director of the CDE College, changes are being made to the curriculum and the marketing of the programme, with the aim of substantially increasing the inflow in the coming years. In the 19/20 academic year, the number of students enrolling in the Master programmes in Social Sciences will decrease by more than 100. These are both government funded and institutional tuition fee (ICG) paying students and here too we will discuss what steps need to be taken. A positive exception is the domain of Communication Science. Within this domain, the financial recovery has been achieved faster than expected, but a new dilemma may arise: the annual Bachelor's degree intake may be (too) high, but the domain board is keeping a close eye on this development.

#### **4. Quality funds**

The final budget for 2020 will include an overview of the resources available from the quality funds and the corresponding distribution across the faculty.

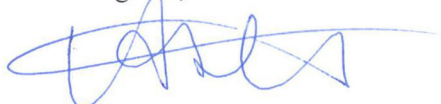
#### **5. Work pressure week**

The week of 11 - 15 November 2019 was "the week of the work stress". This is an annual activity under the UvA-wide workload programme. The faculty does not make a financial contribution to this event, so these costs are not included in the FMG budget.

#### **6. Sabbatical means**

The final budget for 2020 will include an overview of the available sabbatical resources with the corresponding distribution across the faculty.

Kind regards,



Prof. dr. A.H. Fischer  
Dean FMG