



Consultative meeting (OV)

Date: 10-03-2016

Location: REC E2.52

10.00 – 12.00

Present

The Faculty Board:

Han van Dissel – Dean

Jan Dijk – Director of Operational Management

Peter van Baalen – Director of Education

The Faculty Student Council (FSR):

Samantha van den Hoek - Chairman

Nickardo Postma – Vice-Chairman

Rinus van Grunsven – Chair Organisation and Media

Victor Oprea – Chair Education and Research

Mink Perrée – CSR representative

Tijmen de Vos – General council member

Mick Fruytier – General council member

Mourad Farahat – Council assistant

Ioana Nicolau – Council assistant & Treasurer

Secretary: Yirong Lo

Minutes

1. Opening

10.00

Samantha van den Hoek is opening the meeting and determines the agenda.

1. Opening and determine agenda	6. Questions and Closure
2. Determine minutes previous meeting	
3. OER	
4. Excellence Program	
5. Bachelor Split	Remarks

2. Minutes previous meeting

10.05

The minutes of the meeting on 04-02-2016 are approved.

3. Announcements

10.07

Faculty Board:

The dean announces that the board is making progress with the reorganizations how we can improve service for the students. The dean states that the workers council will discuss this with the student council.

Peter van Baalen lets the council know that there are online course evaluations and suggests one council member to join the meeting.

Faculty Student Council:

Mick needs to leave at 11.

4. OER

10.15

Mick Fruytier explains that the council wrote an advice letter regarding the concept OER for the year 2016-2017. The following points are discussed:

- Changes to Article 3.2.8; which states that students are allowed to register for 42 EC per semester with the exceptions left out.

Peter van Baalen explains that students are still able to register for more than 42 EC by sending a request to the Examination Board, and that the exceptions are left out to simplify the OER. The council appreciates a simplified OER, however does think it is important to clearly state the exceptions for students to know their rights. The council believes that by leaving out the exceptions, it is discouraging motivated students who are eager to take more courses. The dean agrees that leaving out the exceptions in the OER is unnecessary. Peter van Baalen states that students registering for more courses adds administrative complexity and might lead to study delay, however agrees that it should be clearly communicated to the students. The council would like to redo the change in this article, and leave it as it was originally.

- Article 3.2.11; which states that Master students are not allowed to follow any Bachelor courses.

The council argues that Master students should be allowed to enrol for Bachelor courses to broaden their horizon, or to be able to take pre-master courses to qualify for a second Master. Peter van Baalen explains that Master programs are designed to be completed in one year and that the UvA wants to limit the possibility of study delays. The council thinks that students are fully responsible for their own decisions of taking extra courses and risking study delay. Therefore, the council disagrees with implementing this rule and suggests it to be changed. Peter van Baalen will discuss this with his colleagues.

- Article 4.2.4; which states that students must score at least a 5.0 for final exams in order to pass a course, additionally teachers are allowed to set this mark even higher.

The council argues that by requiring a certain mark for final exams devaluates the midterm exams and other assignments. Furthermore, if teachers raise the mark to a 6.0 (or higher), it undermines the Dutch grading system where a 5.5 is a passing mark. Peter van Baalen explains that this is to ensure whether students' overall knowledge of a course is sufficient, which is only tested in the



final exams. The council suggests improving this by changing the difficulty of the exams, instead of changing the grading scale. The council thinks that the 5.0 mark should be fixed, without the possibility for teachers raising this mark.

- Article 4.4.6; which states that it is not allowed to publish grades together with students' names.

The council explains that in practice it frequently occurs where teachers publish files with students' names and grades. The council would like this to be limited to students numbers only, and thinks that this rule should be controlled more often to prevent it from happening. The council suggests teachers to use the MyGrade-option that BlackBoard offers. Peter van Baalen agrees.

- Article 4.9.1; which states that students are allowed to inspect their exams within twenty working days after the final grade has been published on SIS.

The council raises concern regarding the possibility to inspect midterm exams before final exams in order to learn from mistakes. The council suggests to implement a rule for students to have the right to inspect their midterm exams within a certain time before the final exams.

- The second year Finance course, concerning track Finance & Organisation (Dutch: Financiering & Organisatie)

The council raises concern regarding the curriculum of the second year BSc Economics and Business. Currently the second year Finance course (Dutch: Financiering) is in the second period of the first semester. This course is an entry requirement for Investment Portfolio Theory 1&2 in the second semester, which is problematic for Finance & Organisation students since the resit is in July causing possible study delay. The council proposes to move the Finance course to the first period of the first semester, so that there is room for a resit in January for students to have a second chance in passing the course before the follow up courses start.

- OER in English

The council makes a remark concerning the language of the OER, which is currently in Dutch. This is limiting International students to participate and makes it inconvenient for the council. The council hopes that the faculty can provide the next concept OER in English. The board agrees and states that this is being worked on.

The dean raises concern regarding COBEX cases from the Examinations Appeal Board. He noticed that the FEB receives a large amount of appeals by International students who failed one or two course(s) and therefore need to stay enrolled for an extra year. The dean wants to solve this problem and thinks that offering an extra resit for students who have been studying nominally is fair. The board suggests the council to check whether such a rule exists in the current OER (**Action point 160310-01**).

5. Excellence program

11.00

Victor Oprea explains that the council is striving to diversify opportunities available to students and thus would like to offer the students another opportunity besides the Honours Program: The Excellence Program. This program would be focused on more in-depth learning of the material and





deepening, consolidating students' knowledge on the subjects taught. Thus, while the Honours Program focuses on breadth and widening perspectives, the Excellence Program would provide additional material to the already existing domains. Consequently, the Excellence program would be oriented exclusively to the Economic/ Business/ Financial/ Mathematical field.

The council has sent a proposal to implement an in depth program as an alternative to the Honours program. Some of the considerations regarding this program are:

1. The program will have no introductory course and can be started any time of the year.
2. The program amounts to a set amount of credits e.g. 30 EC
3. The program could contain courses from other faculties (such as the Faculty of Science for Mathematics courses or IT/Computational Science courses)
4. An auction could be set such that some teachers could design new courses for the program and subsequently lecture them.
5. The program would implement the Socratic Model of teaching and Blended Learning.
6. Selection based on motivation letter/interview (pitch day), and not on grades.

The council would like to know whether this program is realizable and to what extent.

Peter van Baalen states that the first attempt is to implement in-depth knowledge in the regular program and is concerned that setting up a new program for this might be difficult. The dean suggests to contact Bildung Academy.

The council suggests to organize debates for students in order to evaluate whether students are interested in such a program. Peter van Baalen agrees. **(Action point 160310-02)**

6. Bachelor Split

11.20

Samantha van den Hoek explains that the curriculum committee is sending in the final version of the curriculum to the board tomorrow. The council still has some concerns and wants to make their final comments. As for the Business program, the council does not have any complaints and thinks the new curriculum is good. Regarding the Economics and Business Economics programs however, the council thinks that the opportunity of creating a new curriculum has not been taken. The council is concerned of the lack of critical thinking, since most courses are the same but scheduled in a different order. The board states that this concerns the core of the content of the courses, not the curriculum itself. The names of the courses might be the same, but the content of the courses has not been decided yet. Peter van Baalen states that a lot have changed in terms of structure. The council would like to see different schools of Economic thought incorporated in the courses. Another concern that the council has is that the curriculum is too focused on studying nominal within three years, such as a higher BSA with additional requirements. The board explains that the programs are designed as a three year program and expects students to study within this time frame. The board states that these are constraints and conditions, not the focus.



Another concern is that according to the Finance coordinator, knowledge of Statistics is needed in order to take the Finance course. In the new curriculum, Finance has been scheduled before Statistics. The same applies for the second year Microeconomics course and Mathematics course, which goes very well together but has been separated in the new curriculum.

Conclusively, the council would like to be involved in discussing the content of the courses in depth.

7. Questions and Closure

11.45

Questions from the council:

- With the current debate of the NS, what does the board think about this issue?

The board explains that this is a discussion between the NS and minister of education.

- The council mentions that there are not many female lecturers, is there a way to improve this?

The dean explains that the reason for this is because there are simply few women in senior academic positions. In tutorials however, there are currently enough women teaching.

- The council is organizing a table tennis and giant chess event, and wonders if the faculty would consider buying these tables or renting it?

The dean states that the faculty already owns ping pong tables and suggests to rent it .

Action points

160310-01 The council will check the OER if an extra resit is offered to students who have been studying nominally (concerns COBEX cases).

160310-02 The council will start organizing debates for students to see if the Excellence program is realizable.