



Steering Committee Innovation in Learning & Teaching

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Subject
Response: Shared vision CSR & steering committee blended learning

Dear Ms. Alex Tess Rutten,

Thank you kindly for the positive and constructive conversation we had in November 2016 and the letter of the CSR from December 21, 2016. The conversation in regard to blended learning, together with the Rector Magnificus lead to a shared vision on innovation in learning and teaching and a cooperation in implementation of it. The steering committee recently changed its name to Innovation in Learning & Teaching, as that will be the name of the virtual platform.

The goal of the steering committee is the incorporation of evidence based ICT innovation in learning and teaching. As you also stated in your letter, blended learning is no goal itself nor a silver bullet for improving education. The definition of blended learning is *learning activities that involve a systematic and meaningful combination of co-present interactions and technology-mediated interactions between students, teachers and learning resources from a strong educational perspective*. It is a way to enhance the quality of learning and teaching from a strong educational perspective. In this regard we prefer in future to emphasize on innovation in learning and teaching. The CSR has some concerns in regard to budget cuts. The steering committee is convinced of the potential benefits of blended learning, but is also aware of the potential risks. Blended learning will be most effective when it is based on curriculum design at program level, instructional design at course level and when the teaching staff are supported to gain the required skills. The steering committee also underlines that implementation should be evidence based and urge faculties to evaluate the innovations. Therefore, faculties are asked to develop a strategy for blended learning. The steering committee concludes that online education should meaningfully complement offline education and not replace it or simply be added on. Blended learning is an investment to enhance the quality of education, with support of the transition budget available.

We appreciate that the maintenance and improvement of the quality of education is an essential shared goal of the CSR and the steering committee. The mission of the steering committee is to stimulate, initiate and advise faculties to implement blended learning strategies. There will be sustainable support at central and decentral level for the development of blended learning and the use of IT-enabled learning methods. With the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT),

formally the Center for Blended Learning and IT-supported Teaching (BLIST), we collect, develop and share knowledge and experiences. There will also be a website with information about blended learning, tools and support. The faculties are requested to appoint a Teaching Quality and Innovation Officer, who is part of CILT community. A communication strategy will be designed and seminars will be organized to inform and support the academic community. The participation and engagement of the academic community is important. The steering committee would like to closely cooperate with the CSR in informing the academic community, especially the students. The CSR-steering committee members are requested to take the lead in informing students adequately.

The steering committee agrees that the representative advisory bodies should be involved in the development and implementation of the strategy and projects. The steering committee had faculty visits where the dean, educational directors and students of the representative advisory bodies of the faculties were present. Although the deans of the faculties are responsible for the implementation of blended learning within the faculties, the steering committee stimulates the cooperation with the representative advisory bodies throughout the faculty.

The faculty strategies will be presented in the UCO and the Rector Magnificus is informed about each milestone of the steering committee. In the context of the *Instellingstoets* there is an evaluation every two months, which is shared with the CvB and the deans. Hence, the steering committee has formal *checks and balances* with the Rector Magnificus, CvB, UCO and deans of the faculties.

The vice-provosts and the steering committee would like to continue the constructive communication with the CSR.

Kind regards,

Vice-provosts & Steering Committee Innovation in Learning & Teaching,
Prof. Peter van Baalen & Dr E. Etienne Verheijck