



Overleg Vergadering (OV) Report

Date:

9th of October 2017

Place:

Roeterseiland B2.52, Amsterdam

Time:

0900-1100

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Report by:

Lieuwe van Hoorn

Chair of meeting:

Tijmen de Vos

Present FSR-FEB 17/18 Members:

10 Toma Cerniauskaite (Chair), Marcelo Pira Beckerling (Vice-Chair), Christof Bischofberger (Chair E&R), Marcin Muchowicz (Chair O&M), Deval Raj (CSR representative E&R), Momo Komatsu (Treasurer, O&M), Atma Jyoti Mahapatra (E&R), Jelle Turkenburg (E&R), Nicu Munteanu (E&R), Aleena Rahman (Council assistant, O&M), Lieuwe van Hoorn (Secretary)

Present board members and faculty employees:

15 Han van Dissel (Faculty dean), Peter van Baalen (The college director of economics & business), Wilma de Munck (Director of operations), Koen van Leeuwen (Student assessor)

Minutes

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1. Opening and determination of agenda

Chair opens the meeting and welcomes all participants.

2. Determine minutes previous meeting (*att: 170619 OV Minutes draft*)

25 The minutes of 19th of June 2017 are approved with the caveat that the lack of sustainability in the curriculum is mainly a problem on the ASE and not on the ABS. This will be adjusted in the final minutes.

3. Previous action points

170619 01 The elaborate argumentation on the numerus fixus implementation will be forwarded to the FSR by Marieke van Kempen.

30 Numerus Fixus application is cancelled for now.

170619 02 The FSR will contact Anneloes Kirkenier, in order to gain insight in the planned timetables of the new academic year.

Done

170619 03 Marieke van Kempen will send the final adjustment that have been made to the OER.

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Done

170619 04 José Terra will find out which teacher evaluations documents are by law accessible for the FSR.

Not done, action has been taken to achieve this though according to the board.





40 **170619 05** *The FSR will write a formal advice in order to stimulate the implementation of sustainability and plurality of economic theory in the curriculum*

Done

170619 06 *The FSR will contact Annemarie Zandveld to gain insight in the budget allocation and current expenditure regarding blended learning*

45 FSR did not receive any response yet. FSR chair will enquire again. If the lack of response persists chair will contact the college director.

4. Announcements (5 min)

• From the FEB Board

Influx new students

50 Board is glad that eventually the numbers of new students were lower than expected. Potentially UVA matching could be a more interesting tool for selection than numerous fixus in the future. This will be researched from the beginning of the new calendar year.

• From the FSR FEB

Free Dutch language course

55 FSR informs the board that they are pursuing a free Dutch language course university wide. The board is agreeing with the usefulness pursuit.

Catering

FSR informs the board that the council is trying to achieve improvement in the catering situation at REC. They are cooperating with the CSR to improve the situation university wide.

60 **5. Management planning**

The FSR explains that most of the members of the council are new. No clear idea of the workings of faculty management exist yet. In order to attain progress and also arisen from the desire to be included in the loop, an annual management planning is requested from the board. Dean thinks the EQUIS report already has this kind of information in it. The report has a summary on these things which the council will look at. If insufficient, José Terra will be asked to produce a more elaborate planning. ACTION POINT 171009 02

UPDATE 171013: The council and the board have agreed that the board will produce a new specific document that gives an overview of the annual management planning. The board has announced to deliver such an annual planning within the upcoming weeks.

70 *UPDATE 171019: A newly produced planning has been shared with the FSR.*

6. BSc split

2nd / 3rd year curriculum discussions

75 FSR thanks the board for the recent MEMO and expresses it is generally happy with the implementation. Some confusion exists since the FSR feels it has been excluded in discussions on the design of the 2nd and 3rd year curriculum. The board explains that the general outline of courses has been decided on in 2015 already for formal accreditation purposes. However, they express the commitment to include the FSR in the further discussions on the more detailed completion of the curriculum. ACTION POINT 171009 04





80 **Influx of new students and class sizes**

The college director thinks that when no anomalies occur, we can more or less expect the same number of students as we received this year. Board had a discussion on whether the current number of new students would be desirable to receive at the faculty next year again. This discussion will be continued in January. It will have to be decided whether a new application for a numerus fixus will be submitted (which would come into effect in the academic year 19/20 earliest). Alternatively, UVA matching could be used as a means to control influx. In the Dutch population, it turned out to be not very selective. However, it might work better in the selection of international students. These possibilities will be researched.

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2nd / 3rd year specialisation tracks

90 Upon request the college director says there is no quota planned on the numbers of influx for the different tracks in the new bachelors. The FSR is pleased to hear this.

Formative test quality

The FSR received signals that the formative tests are perceived to be too easy compared to the difficulty of exams. The college director answers that it is true that formative tests are not comparable with exams. In his opinion, it is merely a means to stimulate students to start working already in the first weeks of the block. It is agreed upon to wait until course evaluations are available in order to be objectively able to analyse whether the difference in difficulty has led to problems.

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Course order 2nd year

100 IM and Econometrics are both taught in the 2nd block. The FSR believes these are very demanding courses for students, which might incur higher drop out rates and increased stress. Also, Intermediate statistics and Econometrics take place in the same semester. Students who are struggling to pass Intermediate statistics might exacerbate their situation if they directly have to do Econometrics.

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The college director says that when designing this curriculum, it was exactly meant to have Intermediate statistics prior to Econometrics because the prior is supportive in content for the latter. He says that he will have a look at this though and come back to the council. He will forward an email on the subject, to be written by the FSR, to the designer of the curriculum Florian Wagner and the responsible Silvia Dominguez. ACTION POINT 171009 01

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Specialization electives / 3rd year curriculum

Upon request, the board explains that not all of them are created yet. The dean invites the FSR to submit suggestions. The college director expresses his pursuit to speed up the process of implementation this year. However, at this moment the faculty is only finalizing 2nd year courses. Currently the plan is to start with the final design of the 3rd year in the fall of next year.

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The FSR has doubts on the plausibility of those time constraints. The board points out that the 3rd year is still a very long time away and therefore not something that teachers want to be occupied with yet. It is agreed nonetheless to initiate the general discussions in the spring.





120 **Fixed specialization tracks**

The FSR enquires for the possibility of a collection of electives which would guide students' curriculum choice in the 3rd year. Dean says this will not happen. In the past, the faculty had these kind of specialization tracks which turned out to be impossible to manage due to their complexity. The college director adds that it is also pleasant for students to be able to choose more freely for themselves. The pursuit of the board would rather be to add more electives. Dean explains that the supply of electives is a function of the capabilities of the faculty (budget/finance) and the demand of students. Possibility for experiments exists though (with the note that an elective should have a minimum of around 20 participating students).

Blended learning

130 The FSR is very pleased with the implementation in general. However, it would like to see a faster development with regards to the course specific videos that lecturers can create. The college director is supportive of this goal and invites the FSR to write a letter of support that will help him motivate teachers to produce these videos.

7. D&D

135 FSR expresses that some level of implementation would be desirable.

The dean responds that already a line of action has been initiated. Promotion of diversity has been done with inclusion of the FSR. Diversity in content is being discussed in a MEMO by the college director through internationalization and course inclusion. Also, the faculty board is willing to share more information through the agreed upon FSR directory. The referendum will not be implemented though, because the turnout was too low.

140 Upon request the dean explains that ideas such as charters and a university forum should be formed at the central level. However, the FSR is really welcome to deliver ways to align the faculty with the central level policy.

Meeting with CVB

145 Dean mentions that the FSR did not attend the lifelong learning meeting with CVB. However, the board says that the FSR is free to set another meeting with the CVB.

8. Course evaluations

Progress evaluation of the project

150 There are operational issues regarding the project as such. Last year elaborate discussions were conducted to decide on the initiation of the project. However, in practice the project is not functioning at the moment.

The FSR says that the reason to bring it up is in order to express their concern. The emphasis of the discussion is on improving the course evaluations. Operational issues are becoming visible at this point since the project is characterized by delays. In the emergency meeting in the beginning of October the involved people were not able to make informed decisions due to a lack of understanding of the project.





The FSR would like to welcome any meeting with the board and the project group.

Future of the project

160 The college director shares the concerns of the FSR and explains that the problems have to do
with a lack of capacity. FSR thinks that prof. Massimo Giuliiodori took over the tasks of project
manager due to absence of personnel very well. However, the progress of the project is limited
due to Guiliiodori missing in depth knowledge of the project. Therefore, it remains a bit unclear
whether the project is still set in stone. Promises of the past have to be met in the opinion of the
FSR. The college director points out that new applicants will be interviewed in November who
165 could alleviate the capacity problems. It is agreed to review the progress of the project in the
next OV. ACTION POINT 171009 03

9. FSR directory

The FSR chair emphasizes the importance of the directory which was agreed upon with the
council of 16/17. Upon request the dean explains that the finalization of the directory is delayed.
170 Wilma de Munck promises that it will be taken care of as soon as possible. Dean expresses that
the board is in full agreement in the need for such a thing. ACTION POINT 171009 05

10. Questions & Remarks

Simplification of OER

175 Dean has created a committee led by Maurice Oudejans to have an out of the box look at the
OER. The dean is still striving for a simplified OER and hopes that his might be achieved
through the input of this new committee.

Future first project

180 The dean explains that the project will promote employability of students. To what extent do
we prepare students for future labor markets? This is something that is not valued as being
executed correctly by the faculty according to students in the NSE report.

Dean says that he might send Pepijn van Neerijnen to Sheffield to research a comparable project
over there. Through such a project, students could also be stimulated to think about their future
which has proven to be effective in promoting their future achievements. However, the project
is still quite rudimentary so there is still a lot of space for shaping the thing.

185 The FSR mentions that the employability of students is another point that stipulates the need for
Dutch language courses. The Dean says that they are already available as a pilot. It is just a
question of who has to pay for it, right now students already get funds for it if they finish it.

Educational vision

190 Upon request the dean explains that the latest version of the education vision can be found in
the EQUIS.





ACTION POINTS

- 195
- 170619 04 José Terra will find out which teacher evaluations documents are by law accessible for the FSR.
Not done, action has been taken to achieve this though according to the board.
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- 170619 06 The FSR will contact Annemarie Zandveld to gain insight in the budget allocation and current expenditure regarding blended learning
FSR did not receive any response yet. FSR chair will enquire again. If the lack of response persists chair will contact the college director.
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- 171009 01 Peter van Baalen invites Christoff Bischofberger to write an email with elaborate argumentation on the concerns of the council with regards to the order of courses in the 2nd year of the new Economics bachelor. Peter van Baalen will then forward this email to Silvia Dominguez and Florian Wagener. He will discuss the issues presented by the council with them and find out if any solution is possible.
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- 171009 02 The council will read the EQUIS report in order to determine whether the laid-out planning in said document gives a sufficient overview of the annual management planning for the current academic year. UPDATE 171013: The council and the board have agreed that the board will produce a specific document that gives an overview of the annual management planning. The board has announced to deliver such an annual planning within the upcoming weeks.
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- 171009 03 A commitment from both the side of the board and the FSR is agreed upon in order to force an advancement in the project on course evaluations and alleviate the current unsatisfactory results of the project. The progress will be assessed next OV.
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- 171009 04 The FSR will be included in the discussion sessions on the management of discussions about the influx of first year students with regards to the Numerus fixus and/or UVA matching. These discussions will start in January according to the board.
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- 171009 05 Wilma de Munck will make sure that the information sharing directory that was promised to the FSR of 16/17 will be developed as soon as possible.
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- 171009 06 The FSR will send Annemarie Zand Scholten a new email request for information on the budget allocation and current state of investment on blended learning. Peter van Baalen will be included in the CC.

PRO MEMORIA

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- 171009 01 Management planning will be shared with the FSR by the board on an annual basis.

