



Verslag van het overleg tussen de Centrale Studentenraad en de Raad van Toezicht, gehouden op 1 december 2017

Van de zijde van de Centrale Studentenraad 2017-2018: Guido Bakker, Sasha Borovitskaja, Jern Ken Chew (until 14:14), Quinta Dijk, Pim van Helvoirt, Bram Jaarsma, Michele Murgia, David Nelck, Kjeld Oostra, Sebastian Proos, Deval Raj, Mees van Rees, Teo Todercan;
Afwezig: Lorraine Smith;

Van de zijde van de Raad van Toezicht: Mw. Mr. M.S.F. Voskens (voorzitter RvT), Mw. Prof. dr. E.H. Hooge (lid van de RvT met speciaal vertrouwen van de medezeggenschap), dr. A.J. Brentjes (secretaris RvT);
Van de zijde van het College van Bestuur tot 14.00uur: mw. prof. dr. ir. K.I.J. Maex (rector magnificus), mw. prof. dr. G.T.M. ten Dam (voorzitter CvB), L. van Exter (Studentassessor-CvB);

Verslag: T.L. van den Berg (ambtelijk secretaris CSR);

Agenda

1. Opening en vaststellen agenda // *Opening and setting the agenda*
2. Kennismaking Mevr. Hooge en algemene voorstelronde // *Introduction Ms. Hooge and general round of personal introductions*
3. Vaststellen verslag d.d. 22 mei 2017 // *Approving the minutes of May 22, 2017*
4. Mededelingen // *Announcements*
5. Centrale en facultaire verantwoordelijkheden // *Responsibilities at central and faculty level*
6. Toegang tot informatie // *Access to information*
7. Sterke medezeggenschap // *Strong medezeggenschap councils*
8. Internationalisering & Taalbeleid // *Internationalization & language policy*
9. W.v.t.t.k. // *Any other business*
10. Rondvraag en sluiting // *Questions and closing the meeting*

1. Opening (12.41 uur) and setting the agenda

Ms. Voskens opens the meeting and welcomes all participants. Ms. Voskens stresses the importance of this meeting as the RvT stands on the outer side of the university. It is of the RvT's utmost interest to hear the opinions and ideas of the CSR.

5 The agenda is set with changes. The topics *Strong medezeggenschap* and *Internationalization & Language policy* are reversed.

2. Introduction Ms. Hooge and general round of personal introductions

Ms. Hooge has been appointed as a member of the RvT with the special confidence (trust person) of the *medezeggenschap* per October 1st, 2017. Ms. Hooge introduces herself and a short introduction round between all meeting participants is held.

10 Ms. Voskens asks the CSR about their first impression of the council work. The CSR members state that it has been a busy and hectic period. Todercan finds the work too bureaucratic. Chew highlights the knowledge gap between Dutch and international students due to the language of policy documents. Murgia says he finds the structure and work of the CSR quite different from the FSR's.

15 Ms. Hooge asks the CSR about their cooperation and first encounters with the COR. Van Helvoirt stresses the difference in position, perspective and structure between the councils, as well as the different ways of preparing meetings and the language of these meetings. Helvoirt explains that the COR and the CSR are working on an agreement regarding the language of the GV. Murgia and Raj add that this difference in language causes a lot of extra work for the CSR.



3. Approving the minutes of May 22nd, 2017

Setting the minutes of the WHW-meeting on May 22nd is postponed.

4. Announcements

- CSR-member Smith is absent.
- Van Helvoirt apologizes for the low turnout of CSR-members during the introductory meeting with Mr. Mols in September. Van Helvoirt proposes organizing a meeting between CSR18-19 and Ms. Hooge during the CSR's introduction period and a separate meeting for the DB and Ms. Voskens and another member of the RvT.

5. Responsibilities at central and faculty level

Van Helvoirt stresses that during the meetings between CSR and CvB it has come up several times that the issues that were addressed centrally by the CSR, were also concerning the decentral levels. In some of these cases, the CSR finds it unclear where the (final) responsibility lies.

OC-elections: Murgia explains that the program group OC's had last year indicated there would not be enough time to organize the OC-elections in 2017. The CSR fears that the timeline for organizing elections in 2018 will again not be sufficient. The program group stated in their advice that the responsibility for the organization of the OC-elections lies with the faculties of the university. However, the deans hold this to be a task for the CvB. The CSR asks what would happen if the deans do not manage to organize the elections timely and whether the CvB carries the final responsibility for this. Van Helvoirt adds that the CvB and deans refer to each other, which causes ambiguity for the *medezeggenschap* about where to address issues relating to the OC-elections. Ms. Ten Dam acknowledges this problem; it has been addressed during the last CBO and will again be on the agenda in December. The responsibility of the organization lies with the deans, but the CvB has the responsibility in discussing this with the deans and overseeing that the deans take up their responsibility. Ms. Maex adds that the organization of these elections is a new task and lies deep in the organization, meaning that the decision on the composition of OC's is legally a faculty issue, which first needs to be prepared by the CvB and CSB.

D&D-report: Van Helvoirt says that the faculties should have organized discussions about the different decentral initiatives and the D&D report, but not all deans have chosen to do so. This is a responsibility of the faculties that the CvB should oversee.

(Model-) OER: Van Helvoirt and Murgia state that deans often refer to the model-OER as a binding document, despite the status of the document as guiding. Ms. Maex states that it is indicated in the law which guidelines are binding and legally required. This has been discussed with the chairs of the FSR's to get insight into the problems at the faculties. Van Helvoirt says that an explanation to the model-OER could regulate this.

Clarifying responsibility: Murgia states that it is important to clarify where responsibilities lie and what the responsibility of the CvB is when deans do not take up their responsibility or when bounds are overstepped. This helps for different parties to trust each other, as mistrust and suspicion negatively affect the working relationship. Van Helvoirt proposes that the FSR's also discuss this with their deans in a formal conversation or perhaps to translate the WHW-conversation also to a faculty level. Ms. Maex explains that the meeting with the chairs of the FSR's is organized to stimulate openness and signal problems when they occur, but that a translation of the WHW-meeting from the central to decentral level is not appropriate. Moreover, it is important for the FSR's to be in the lead when requesting a conversation. Ms. Hooge suggests that the CSR look into the current practices within the faculties and, if needed, work out a proposal for improving the structures of deliberation.

6. Access to information

Raj states that it is common that detrimental information is requested at the faculty level and not provided either accurately, timely, or at all. He gives several examples of instances where this occurred.

Ms. Voskens stresses the importance of addressing this directly to those responsible at the faculty level. Raj says that these issues are exemplary for the access to information generally. Borovitskaja says that councils often have to put in a lot of effort to get (access to) information. Certain documentation, such as the UCO minutes, is only available to staff while other information is only available in Dutch, creating extra work for council members in translation. Bakker emphasizes the risk of wrong translations or missing nuances because of the translation. Borovitskaja also mentions how information was lacking at faculty and central level, leading to the GV refraining from consent on CLC, and adds that the deadline for the CvB to formally reply to a letter of advice not always being met.

Ms. Hooge asks whether the problems mostly concern the availability of information or whether it is difficult to get access to information or a translation. Borovitskaja states that both apply. Ms. Voskens stresses the importance of addressing the issues that the CSR is confronted with not only to the RvT but first to the CvB and those involved. Van Helvoirt states that the access to information is a structural issue that has been brought to the attention of the CvB and is important to inform the RvT about as well.

7. Internationalization & Language policy

Chew emphasizes the high workload that is caused by the lack of a language policy. International students cannot (fully) participate in all working groups, for example those dealing with internationalization policies in Dutch only, while the *Strategisch Kader Internationalisering* focusses on attracting more international students. Chew says that the increase of international students will cause more pressure on the housing market, both for international students and for Dutch students. Chew adds that international students face a high barrier to participate in the *medezeggenschap*; not only because of the (Dutch) language but also because of the height of their institutional tuition fees. It is undesirable to attract international students without allowing them to be an active part of the community.

Murgia adds that internationalization should not happen for financial gains, and should never be at the cost of the quality of education. Proos, Borovitskaja, and Bakker say that the quality of education should be the highest priority. The CvB agrees with this. Jaarsma says that this is not always clear from the UvA's policy documents. Ms. Hooge thanks for bringing this up and suggests discussing these issues also with the COR and academic community.

Ms. Hooge asks the CSR whether they have been involved in setting the internationalization policy and in important decisions in this regard. Van Helvoirt says that the CSR has been involved in many discussions and that they have stressed that internationalization should happen for the right reasons, and the *Strategisch Kader Internationalisering* is now providing a framework to go forward. Jaarsma adds that the *medezeggenschap* does not have the means to solve the housing issues, and questions whether the CSR could refrain from consenting on internationalization policy for this reason.

Van Helvoirt and Murgia briefly address the rights of OC's and FSR in the language change of a program, according to the report of the KNAW.

-- Ms. Ten Dam, Ms. Maex and Ms. Herweijer exit the meeting. --

8. Strong *medezeggenschap* councils

FSR's contact with policymakers: Van Helvoirt says that Fred Weerman, dean of the FGw, has restricted the FSR-FGw in discussing matters with policymakers directly. This had already been taken up with the CvB. Van Helvoirt stresses the importance for *medezeggenschap* to get information and to discuss matters with those involved in the files directly. Murgia finds the situation absurd.

Composition of the working group: Borovitskaja says that no former OC or FSR-members were involved, and too little former members of the *medezeggenschap* overall. Van Helvoirt stresses the importance of including the vision of OC's in strengthening *medezeggenschap*. Murgia questions the draft advice due to the composition of the working group.

Direction of the advice: Oostra states that the questions by the working group were formulated in a steering way, blaming the *medezeggenschap* for some of the issues, and not being open-minded about different types of solutions.

110 Ms. Hooge asks the CSR for their ideas on renewing or strengthening the *medezeggenschap* and asks whether the CSR was asked to give input prior to the advice. Van Exter explains that the final advice of the *Werkgroep Sterke Medezeggenschap* has not yet been composed. Van Helvoirt says that the CSR spoke with the working group about the facilitation of *medezeggenschap*, but has not yet spoken about the content of strengthening the councils. Oostra says that all council members are in favor of strengthening the *medezeggenschap*, but the CSR is in no position to encompass this.
115 Borovitskaja adds that extending formal rights is on the agenda of the CSR and that the CSR to discuss the ways of involving students and councils in the decision and policy-making. Ms. Voskens suggests the CSR discussing their ideas internally and share them with the working group.

120 -- Jern Ken Chew leaves the meeting --

Murgia says that the involvement of *medezeggenschap* in the current structure has been discussed, but the structure for the *medezeggenschap* as such has not yet been up for discussion. The strengthening of the *medezeggenschap* in relation to the CvB should also consider the workload for the councils and the number of burnouts over the last years. Jaarsma says that *medezeggenschap* also
125 spends a lot of time discussing the procedure and the legal rights for the different *medezeggenschap* councils based on the WHW before the councils can start discussing the content. This adds to the high workload and frustration amongst council members.

9. W.v.t.t.k. // Any other business

None.

10. Questions

None.

Closing the meeting (14:17uur)

130 Ms. Voskens thanks all meeting participants for their insight and contribution and ends the meeting.