



Faculty
Student Council

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

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File Strengthening of the BoE
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Dear prof. dr. H.G. van Dissel,

Dear prof. dr. P.J. van Baalen,

The Faculty Student Council (henceforth referred to as “FSR”) at the Faculty of Economics and Business (henceforth referred to as “FEB”) is writing this letter to share our concerns regarding the functioning of exam quality mechanisms enforced by the exam board. As a consequence, we posit in this letter to urge the board to take concrete and structural measures in making sure the quality of exams are safeguarded at the FEB.

According to the Nederlands-Vlaamse accreditatieorganisatie (henceforth referred to as “NVAO”) accreditation criteria of faculties and derived “kader toetsbeleid” at the UvA, the FEB has to have an adequate system of examination. More importantly, the NVAO states that the quality of exams need to be **ensured** and quality policy written actually needs to be **enforced**. As it stands, the FSR FEB shares grave concerns regarding the current functioning of the quality mechanisms for exams as deployed by the exam board. Objectively, we want to strengthen our argument by referring to the Midterm Assessment 2017 of the FSR FEB, stating that the exam board does not execute all their legal duties completely. The Midterm Assessment 2017 explicitly mentions the checking the quality of “end documents” and exams on a structural basis as one of the major improvement points.

Our concern specifically focuses upon the ultimate quality of exams and the underlying procedures/mechanisms in-place to safeguard the quality of exams. Currently, the exam board checks one block of exams of one programme every three years. We contend that this is not sufficient to safeguard exam quality on a structural basis. Our concern should be seen in the light of the NVAO accreditation criteria of faculties stating the importance of safeguarding the quality of exams on a **continuous** basis.





Furthermore, the concern of the FSR FEB is underlined by the collected portfolio of exam flaws with a minimum of effort, upon which we found worrying cases with grave exam quality concerns as well as exams whereby either fully or at minimum half of all questions originated from previous exams. This, in conjunction with objective findings in the Midterm Assessment of 2017, leads the FSR to conclude that the call to action in safeguarding high quality exams is currently of a not-sufficient standard and thus in great need of improvement.

Second of all, our concern also focuses on the structural enforcement of exam quality by the exam board. As it stands, the exam quality is guaranteed and followed-up by a part-time exam expert, who acts upon complaints or reviews a self-initiated sample. In the vision of the FSR FEB, each exam **must** be checked for quality prior to the examination date. We believe that ensuring the quality of exams strikes the core of the education to both our students and the faculty and should therefore be at **all times safeguarded**.

The FSR welcomes current initiatives taken to enlarge the exam board. However we contend that by enhancing the representability of the whole faculty in the exam board does not strengthen the **structural** enforcement of exam quality. Especially as the exam board has to deal with more duties and work, the FSR FEB suggests management to dedicate more resources to ensuring exam quality specifically. The FSR also welcomes current efforts undertaken to improve the quality of exams via for instance the written assessment policy but believes that extra resources will be necessary to ensure the quality of exam on a structural basis.

All in all, on the basis of the aforementioned points, the FSR FEB suggests to having more full-time **quality officers** employed at the examination board, so that the exam board will be able to **proactively** ensure the quality of exams on a **structural** basis that is currently not the case.





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If there are any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. On The Behalf of FSR FEB 17-18,

Jelle Turkenburg

E&R committee FSR FEB

Christof Bischofberger

Chairman E&R committee FSR FEB

Referred to files:

Kader Toetsbeleid 2012, Universitaire Beleidsnotities

Voortgang Aanbevelingen UA Midterm December 2017

