

## **Joint advice by the FSR FEB and other collaborating parties**

**To:** Prof. dr. Peter van Baalen, Educational Director College of Economics and Business  
Dr. Richard van der Wurff, Educational Director College of Social Sciences  
Drs. Jessica Rodermans, Educational Coordinator Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies  
(IIS colleges, Honours Programme, Minors)

**Date:** 24.04.2018

**Subject:** Introduction of Minor in Sustainability and Economics

Dear Prof. Dr. Peter van Baalen,

Dear Dr. Richard van der Wurff,

Dear Drs. Jessica Rodermans,

Climate change and unsustainable use of resources have become critical issues, that the world collectively faces. And its correlation with economic theories such as growth and industrialization are of paramount importance. As students of economics, it is important to understand the consequences of unsustainable growth, and what threshold levels are to be attained so that future generations can also make use of resources. Most importantly, it is also important to understand how to reverse the effects of our economic activity, in term of de-growth and sustainability. To this extent, the Faculty Student Council of Economics and Business (FSR FEB) has come up with a proposal for a Minor in **Sustainability and Economics**, which we strongly believe will benefit the faculties involved and the students taking part in it. This University should take further steps in incorporating sustainable courses in its curricula. With this minor we hope to take a first step in this direction and hope the FEB could take the leading role and act as the host faculty of this proposed minor.

Over the last weeks the FSR FEB has worked on the possibility of introducing an inter-faculty Minor in Sustainability and Economics. Together with Dr. Joeri Sol (Coordinator of Environmental Economics, FEB), Dr. Crelis Rammelt (Coordinator of Degrowth, FNWI), Mr Tim Bulters MSc (Coordinator of Circular Economy, FNWI) and Prof. Dr. John Grin (Coordinator of Perspectives on Sustainability Politics, FMG) we have drafted a proposal for this minor, outlining the description, entry requirements, exit qualifications and scheduling which can be found in the attached “Proposal – Minor in Sustainability and Economics”. All coordinators have agreed to include their courses in the minor and are convinced of the rationale and the inter-course coherence of the minor. Moreover, the courses in the proposed minor **already exist**, and

**do not require additional personnel** to be executed. This minimises the financial resources required for initiation. The minor would be spread out throughout the year, thus allowing students enough time to understand the subjects and intricacies. Furthermore, because it is an interdisciplinary minor which combines subjects from different fields, students gain a holistic overview of sustainability and economics, and are enabled to draw linkages between the two concepts, which is a favourable middle ground for all faculties. This fosters interfaculty co-operation, and would result in a nuanced programme.

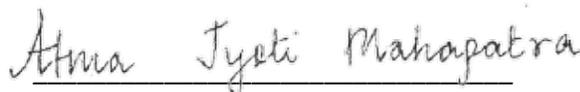
Some of the best universities globally focus on sustainable economics, equipping students to work in this field and help make a change in the world. If FEB is to retain its respected position as an innovative and progressive university, then it must adapt to the changing times and deal with the latest issues in the science of economics. The proposed minor in Sustainability and Economics does exactly that. It is a win-win situation for the students, for the teachers, and for the faculties involved, by promoting a healthy exchange of knowledge and ideas, and creating students who aim for a sustainable world. We strongly believe that it can be easily implemented, and it will be extremely beneficial for all parties involved, given that there are minimal costs in implementing this minor.

We would suggest to set up a meeting with the responsible educational directors or coordinators from the faculties involved to discuss this initiative and work together on a joint strategic plan of implementation. We are aware that the details of hosting, scheduling, electives and their capacity and other important organisational and logistical issues need to be worked out to precision with the Educational Directors in collaboration with the course coordinators. Nonetheless we hope that our extensive prior research and collaboration with academic staff will make this process as easy and smooth as possible.

We look forward to your response to this joint advice,



*Christof Bischofberger*  
Chairperson of the E&R Committee FSR FEB



*Atma Jyoti Mahapatra*  
E&R Committee FSR FEB



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Geertje Hulzebos  
Chairperson FSR FMG



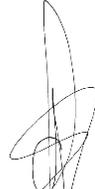
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Femke Mostert  
Chairperson FSR FNWI



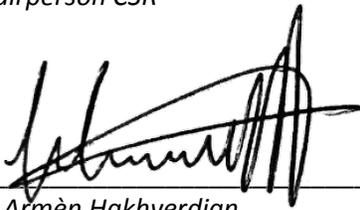
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Pim van Helvoirt  
Chairperson CSR



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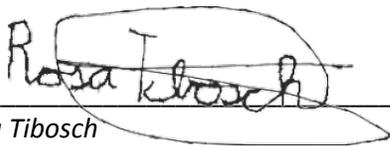
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