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Recipients prof. dr. ir. K.I.J. Maex; prof. dr. H.G. van Dissel

Advice – Numerus Fixus

Dear Prof. Dr. Ir. K.I.J. Maex,

Dear Prof. Dr. H.G. van Dissel,

The Faculty Student Council (henceforth referred to as “FSR”) at the Faculty of Economics and Business (henceforth referred to as “FEB”) is writing this advice regarding the introduction of a Numerus Fixus at the BSc of Business Administration. Following up on our initial negative advice from the 24. April, we have had extensive discussions with the Dean, Prof. Dr. van Dissel, and the Rector Magnificus, Prof. Dr. Ir. Maex, to elaborate further upon our concerns with the introduction of a Fixus. The FSR gives a **negative advice on the initial proposal of a Numerus Fixus set at the cap of 600 students** for the BSc in Business Administration. However, the FSR gives a **positive advice on the introduction of a Numerus Fixus capped at 900 students** for the BSc in Business Administration.

The FSR FEB is convinced that the introduction of a Numerus Fixus capped at 600 students limits the accessibility of the BSc programme too much. Setting the Numerus Fixus at 900 students mitigates many of the negative spill over effects that are outlined in the FSR FEBs initial advice, while also securing that the faculty’s capacity is not exhausted. If our ultimate goal as a faculty is a higher quality of education, we should not be naive to think that a Fixus will automatically translate into higher quality. As already pointed out, 77.8% of the BSc EBE student population (currently 541 students) are en route to a negative BSA (as of April 2018), while in the BSc in BA (currently 834 students) the rate is 60.7%. This shows that the issues regarding the quality of education cannot solely be explained by large student populations. Moreover, there are still more than 30 open vacancies for academic staff at our faculty that need to be filled. The FSR has continuously requested more hiring due to developments in the direction of more “live-streamed” lectures, but also in regards to the increasing work pressure of our current staff.





After informal consultation with members of the Ondernemingsraad of the FEB, we think it is absolutely vital to follow their suggestions to make open vacancies more attractive to future staff. First of all, our faculty could offer more flexible contracts, than the standard norm of 50-50 research-teaching time. Secondly, the student council encourages the FEB to open positions to academic staff other than tenure trackers, with the objective of a more teaching oriented career at the UvA. Additionally, the Up or Out policy should be changed so that tenure trackers, who are not qualified to become associate professors, could stay in our faculty as permanent full-time teachers or would have less than 50% research time. Thirdly, selection procedure and criteria for hiring should include a teaching component besides the current presentation of their research. All three changes would bring our faculty closer to meeting point number 7 of the *UvA 10 punten plan*: “Onderwijs verbonden met en even hoog gewaardeerd als onderzoek”.

The FSR believes that implementing these changes would help to reduce and mitigate the number of problems in FEB. Besides decreasing the workload of current staff it would at least ease problems, such as growing lecture and seminar sizes, lectures in non-educational locations such as Carre, De La Mar and het Concertgebouw or issues related to the quality of the seminar teachers. We believe that implementation of ideas by the OR would also result in higher tutorial attendance, and subsequently, higher passing rates, that are serious concerns in the new bachelor split, as indicated in the interim evaluation report.

In conclusion, the issues with regards to the quality of education of our faculty require bundles of improvements and adjustments in many different areas that need to be taken very seriously. We hope that a fixus of 900 students will enable management to plan in advance and subsequently focus on measures to mitigate the problems indicated above.

On behalf of the FSR FEB,

Toma Cernauskaite
Chairperson FSR FEB

Christof Bischofberger
Chairperson E&R FSR FEB