



**Minutes of the Overleg Vergadering (6) of the FSR FMG '19- '20**  
**Faculty Student Council of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural sciences**

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2020

Location: Online via Zoom

Present executive board FMG: Agneta Fischer, Sterre Minkes

Present FSR FMG '19-'20: Alexandra Rosca, Siddharth Jethwani, Ana Mar Kreutzenbeck Pérez, Artem Gryshchenko, Birgit Peters, Minou De Rosa Silvera, Teun Prins, Marc Olsen, Viktoriia Akhankova, Nadya Manuputty, Tom Flipse.

Absent FSR FMG '19-'20:

Present candidates FSR FMG '20-'21: Pedro Gonzales Ovalle, Robin Hellmich, Kaleem Ullah, Pablo Mustienes, Joselyn Moran, Joshua Meijer.

Technical chair: Arend Habbema

Minutes: Lieve Bastiaan

**1. Opening and setting the agenda**

Arend opens the meeting at 14:01. The agenda is set without changes.

**2. Setting the draft minutes of the OV (5) on May 14<sup>th</sup>**

The FSR FMG has accepted all of the dean's changes to the minutes of the fifth OV of '19 -'20. After the addition of the OER solutions, the minutes of the OV of the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 will be set.

**3. Announcements**

Dean

The dean wonders, with respect to the housing of the FSR FMG, if they plan on making use of the reopened Common room.

The dean received a diversity action plan for the coming years, from the faculty diversity officer. This was created in collaboration with the diversity working group. A reaction to this is being prepared. Some parts of the policy measures have already been adapted. Part of those recommended policy measures are new, and some seem to belong more to the central level of the UVA. For instance, workshops for students and staff members on diversity and social safety, these should be provided and coordinated at the central level. The faculty could then possibly choose the courses that are most relevant for the Faculty of Social and Behavioural sciences. A faculty diversity plan is being developed, based on the diversity action plan. This will be discussed with the new student council next year.

## FSR

The council has decided to not use the common room for the time being.

### **4. Subject 1: Student involvement survey**

#### FSR

The FSR FMG has been working on a survey on student involvement in the second semester of the '19-'20 academic year. The survey was done as student involvement has been low throughout the years, the FSR FMG's aim was to find out why the involvement has been low. The turnout of elections has been low as well, the FSR FMG aimed to find out why and why the turnout is not increasing. The FSR FMG additionally wanted to know how they could alter their PR strategy to reach more students. The '18- '19 council started working on the survey, it was altered and translated into English.

The survey was distributed through the FSR FMG's social media, the toilet paper, programme newsletters and study advisors. The final sample consists of 183 students. Most respondents were first- and second-year students. Most respondents were bachelor's students, mostly from Social Sciences and Communications Science. The turnout for Child Development and Education and Psychology was low. This could have been caused by the distribution of the survey, not all people the FSR FMG replied to showed interest in distributing the survey to their students.

The results of the survey are presented.

78% of students were aware of the student representative bodies, 68% was not involved with any of them. Prominent reasons were lack of time, being in university to pass courses, not feeling like they had an opportunity to get involved. Some indicated that their programme was well organized, and they did not see a need to change anything.

Most students did feel a sense of community at the university. The sense of community was higher for students that were aware of student representative bodies. Thus, making students more aware may make them feel a larger sense of community at the university.

The survey asked why students did not vote, main reasons were: not yet being a student during the elections, not being sure when elections took place, not having enough knowledge on elections and the candidates.

The FSR FMG believes it would be beneficial to conduct and improve this survey yearly. The FSR FMG's promotion strategies should be focussed on things regarding student representative bodies students are unaware of. Raising awareness about representative bodies, in general, should be a priority. Lastly, the FSR FMG would like to collaborate with the VU FSR FMG to increase involvement, compare promotional strategies, and share findings.

The FSR FMG has no way of knowing how many people the survey reached who did not fill it in. There was no incentive to fill it in.

The sample is not big enough to generalize to the entire faculty. If more awareness of the FSR FMG and study associations may be a way to increase a feeling of community, more physical presence, not only on social media, is important.

The FSR FMG does believe they have reached more students than in previous years, mainly due to their use of Instagram.

## Dean

The dean thanks the FSR FMG for the presentation and the sharing of the results. The dean wonders if the FSR FMG knows how many students were reached with the survey, because the number of students who responded to the survey was not really high, this a problem. Either students did not want to participate or have not seen it.

## **5. Subject 2: Housing update**

### FSR

The FSR FMG sent their comments on the received responses to their advice. The dean is asked if she has any comments on the FSR FMG's comments.

The Child Development and Education department is not a problem according to the FSR FMG, they are happy with it.

Regarding Human Geography, Planning and International Development, the FSR FMG finds it fair to delay the decision, due to the rebuilding of the bridge. The expectation would be that students going to the bridge would be less of a problem, it will also be a place to study. The FSR FMG understands the delay of the decision, but they would like to know if their advice will still be implemented.

Regarding Political Science, it is established that students are welcome if they make an appointment to meet there. The question is if there is no appointment to meet there and the space is not being used, why can students not sit there. The FSR FMG wants to table this question for now as they are unable to observe the current situation. The same goes for Communication Science, where there were a lot of spaces where students were not allowed to be.

The discussion about Political Science and Communication Science will be continued at a time when FSR FMG members are able to go and look at the space.

### Dean

For the Communication Science department, the inconsistencies between the signs in the department and how Hans Beentjes saw the rules were questioned, his response was that at the different levels of the department there are different rules. Students can be on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floor; they are asked to not be there during lunch. At the other levels, the space is used for consultations, as the people working in the departments have flex desks (and therefore can't receive people in a room). This has to do with the number of seats, in some place's students can sit and study and at other places this is more problematic. There are only signs that students are expected to leave during certain times, for example during lunch.

Regarding Human Geography, Planning, and International Development etc. there is still the issue with the bridge, there are plans to rebuild and redecorate the bridge to make it more accessible for all kinds of activities, not just as a canteen. The dean proposes to look at this again when this is finished. The dean expects that the number of people passing for the corridor may be altered due to these changes in function. The Human Geography, Planning and International Development department has no issue with having students around, but they would prefer the ones sitting there to be their own students. If the canteen function of the bridge is lessened it may be possible to open the door to the department. The dean will talk to the chair about creating space for students, she knows that the department would favour this as well.

The Child Development and Education department says that there are lots of students sitting there, thus it is clear to the students that they are allowed to be there.

Regarding Political Science, the dean informs the council that the idea that students are not welcome at the Political Science department is false. There are places at the Political Science department where students are welcome to sit. There is a distinction between the spaces that students can sit in freely and the ones meant for consultation appointments between students and teachers.

More study space at the Roeterseiland will be made available, particularly in the space behind the bike cellar.

The dean would like to go to visit the departments as well as she has only received information by email or word of mouth.

## **6. Subject 3: Language policy**

### FSR

The Language policy has been high on the agenda for this year's council. First, the FSR FMG wants to evaluate how the policy has progressed. The FSR FMG believes substantive progress has been made. However, moving forward, significant attention still needs to be paid to the language policy. Especially, as about 70 percent of the incoming council will be international. Negotiation with some faculty organizations is still completely in Dutch. From personal experience, the FSR FMG the language level of B2 was too low to join in discussions. The new council should be informed about this issue.

Secondly, a one-off sum of 2000 euros was given to the '19-'20 FSR FMG to spend on the translation of documents, the current FSR FMG has not used the money. The incoming FSR or the later FSR's may find that they do need it. Thus the

About 75 percent of the incoming FSR are international students, thus they might face some obstacles. In attending OWI meetings for example. Thus, it may need to be considered to allow council assistants to join these meetings.

### Dean

The dean concludes that the communication in English, during meetings with the FSR, was good and has not led to any issues.

The budget, of 2000 euros, for the translation of documents will be reserved for one more year. The dean does not believe it is needed as official translations are costly and take time, to add programmes such as Deep-L and Google translate are improving rapidly.

## **7. Subject 4: Introduction of Incoming Council / Closing of FSR Year / Election evaluation**

### FSR

Regarding elections, many things are out of the control of those present. A point of discussion that is the distribution of seats across the subdistricts. The FSR FMG does see that this distribution is important for improving diversity within the FSR FMG. However, an issue is that if only one party is running, they automatically receive all the seats within a district. Additionally, if there are not enough candidates within a district, redistribution of seats should

be considered. Thus the '19-'20 FSR FMG argues this issue must be addressed by the '20-'21 FSR FMG.

The candidates introduce themselves to the dean.

Dean

The dean welcomes the candidates.

The dean finds it difficult that so little students are voting but acknowledges this problem goes beyond the FSR FMG.

**8. Any other business**

No other business.

**9. Questions and closing**

Dean

The dean thanks the FSR FMG for the collaboration this year. She thinks good meetings were had online. The FSR FMG evolved and adapted a lot, real and fruitful conversations were had.

FSR

The FSR FMG thanks the dean and Sterre for the collaboration. The FSR FMG is proud of this year's accomplishments and collaborations.

Arend closes the meeting at 15:28.