



**Minutes of the Overleg Vergadering (5) of the FSR FMG '20- '21**  
**Faculty Student Council of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural sciences**

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2021

Location: Online via Zoom

Present executive board FMG:	Agneta Fischer, Sterre Minkes.
Present FSR FMG '20-'21:	Emilie van der Heijden, Pablo Mustienes, Robin Hellmich (second hour), Pedro Gonzalez, Johanna Lehr, Alessandro Ractliffe, Joshua Meijer, Joselyn Arevalo Moran, Siddharth Jethwani, Viktoriia Akhankova, Emilie van der Heijden.
Absent FSR FMG '20-'21:	Robin Hellmich (first hour), Ruben de Groot, Kaleem Ullah
Guests from the College of Communication science	Sarah de Jong, Bas van den Putte
Guests	Eva van Leeuwen, Maya Moreno
Student Guests	Abbey Gilchrist
Technical chair:	Alexandra Rosca
Minutes:	Lieve Bastiaan

**1. Opening and setting the agenda**

Alexandra opens the meeting at 14:03, the agenda is set without changes. Sarah de Jonge and Bas van den Putte are joining for subject 1. Eva van Leeuwen is joining for subject 2. Maya Moreno is joining for topic 4.

**2. Setting the draft minutes of the OV (4) on March 18<sup>th</sup>**

The FSR FMG has accepted all of the dean's changes to the minutes of the fourth OV of '20 - '21.

**3. Announcements**

Dean

There is a lot of protest about the decision of the College van Bestuur (CvB) to cancel exchanges for the next semester, as it is a central decision the dean can not do much. She is trying to see if exceptions can be made, this is possible but the general policy of the CvB will be refined. An updated document will be sent soon.

In September, the basic scenario is to come back to campus, but it is clear that it can not be expected that everything is back to normal next year. The dean expects an updated decision

about September by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Most likely there will be a hybrid form of education but there are a lot of possible scenarios.

There have been a lot of student initiatives in relation to student wellbeing. One initiative that is almost ready to launch is the All-ears initiative from the psychology study association. They have set up a phone number that all students can call or chat. Psychology students are volunteering to participate in answering calls and texts. This is not a substitute for therapy.

#### **4. Subject 1: Communication Science TER**

##### FSR

The council wants to include social safety somewhere in the communication science communication towards their students. At first, they wanted this to be in the course guide,

The council is setting up a canvas button that will include all information regarding student wellbeing, this will include social safety. They do believe it would give more salience if it were included in the OERs.

If the message and information are brought to students the council will be satisfied, they also agree that Bas & Sarah have the most information about what channels reach their students most effectively.

The council wants to work together to decide when the information is given and how it is presented.

Since more attention is paid to social safety in the academic skill course and communication channels the council agrees that the social safety paragraph will not be included in the communication science OER. The council, Bas, and Sarah will discuss how to optimally inform students about social safety.

##### Bas & Sarah

Bas and Sarah were thinking of putting information about social safety in the academic skills courses that all students have to take; it will also be put on the A-Z pages. The information will also be put on the canvas page to which students have access throughout their bachelor. To add other communication channels such as social media and newsletter attention will be paid to the topic of social safety. Bas agrees that most students do not read the OER and thus it would not be useful to put social safety in there.

Bas thinks it is important to mention social safety during the introduction, later more intensive attention will be paid to it during the academic skills course.

The academic skills course already provides students with information about services and where to find aid. Social safety will be added to these lessons. This will be happening during the first meeting and thus during the first weeks of the year.

##### Dean

The dean does not think it will become more salient by including it in the OERs. She does not think many students read it or that it belongs there. The dean is willing to help the council to make the Canvaspage/button process move faster. She thinks it is better to put this information in a place where students visit every day.

## Decision

The FSR voted during the meeting whether it agrees with not including the topic of social safety in the OER, but in another place. The FSR agrees, on the condition that the subject will be discussed during academic skills. Bas van der Putte commits that social safety will be discussed during academic skills. This concludes the discussion.

*Bas van den Putte and Sarah de Jong exit the meeting*

## **5. Subject 2: Buddy system**

### FSR

The FSR and Fv\_FMG want to propose two things: for the buddy system to be included in the buddy system and for buddies to receive training. Over the course of the pandemic, the council has realized student support is essential. The council and the Fv\_FMG have evaluated the buddy system using a survey. A formal proposal outlining the results will be sent to the dean later.

The expectations of both mentors and mentees were not met in the current buddy programme. Incentives were important for the activeness of the programme. The study active certificate would make incentives equal across the faculty.

The second proposal is training, 40% of the mentors were never briefed about the expectation and or trained for their role. However, 72% of students would have liked to be trained to be a mentor. The ASVA organizes training, they can make a programme for mentors where they are given best practices, this will cost 8 euros per mentor. Michel has informed the study association and the council that their funds will be increased in the coming years, using this money for mentors might be a good investment.

### Eva van Leeuwen

The study active certificate is a certificate that students get when they participate in three or more committees. This is signed by somebody from their study. The council and Eva want to make the buddy system part of the study active certificate. To motivate them and to keep track of their activities. All boards of study association are on board with this idea.

The Fv\_FMG would be interested in creating a committee for the buddy system.

### Dean

The dean agrees with the importance of the buddy system and that they need some sort of training. She adds that this needs to be a coordinated within the institutes. The main thing to discuss is evaluating what best practices are. We should also discuss how this could be organized for the masterprogrammes. The dean asks the FSR to come up with a written proposal, regarding the evaluation of the buddy systems, the creation of a program committee, and the improvement of the mentorship.

### Action point

210511-1 The FSR shares a written proposal with the dean, regarding the evaluation of the buddy systems, the creation of a program committee, and the improvement of the mentorship.

*Eva van Leeuwen exits the meeting.*

## **6. Subject 3: Student assistants**

### FSR

Over the past year, the council has noticed that the workload of teachers has been too high. The council realised that there is not a lack of funds, but the teachers are not applying for them. They want to make the process of applying for funds easier.

The council wants to put out a survey for teachers to assess where their stress is coming from. They want there to be a person to

The idea would be to have a central coordinator that can help teachers apply for student assistants.

As far as the council is aware teachers need to apply under quality funds. The main problem was that the process of applying adds to the workload.

The council's main aim is to make the process of hiring student assistants less stressful and time-consuming.

### Dean

The dean appreciates that the workload of the staff is seen by the council. The number of student assistants has increased in the past year. The TLC's train students to help teachers with all forms of digitalization. She agrees that it should not be that hard to apply for quality funds. An application should be used to increase the intensity of teaching.

She does not think this should be done on the central level, as the tasks of student assistants widely differ.

The quality funds are not there to reduce the stress of teachers but to increase the intensity of teaching and we must account the use of these funds in detail (which is a lot of work). Therefore the teaching directors are advised to create a general quality intensity programme, this is more workable. Employing student assistants is not necessarily the way to use the quality funds to achieve intensification of teaching (which is what the funds should be used for). With the additional funding that will come in (called NPO) more student assistants could be hired (but these funds must be spent on the theme 'Soepele in- en doorstroom'). The dean thinks this should be decided by the teaching directors and programme directors, not the council. She is weary of sending out another questionnaire as she thinks the number of questionnaires might become too much.

The dean wants to ask the teaching directors if they recognize these signals and if they have thought about how to make it easier to apply for funding.

### Action points:

210511-1: The dean will ask the teaching directors if they have received the signals that teachers are not submitting proposals to claim the quality funds because it is too much work and if so if they have thought about how to make the application easier.

*Maya Moreno joins the meeting.*

## **Subject 4: Sexual harassment**

### FSR

Maya represents Our Bodies Our Voices, who conducted a survey on sexual harassment. The council thinks the education of possible perpetrators is most important. They also believe that there is an issue with the lack of trust that students have in the systems in place. The council would like to see a timeline of when the current systems will be evaluated.

### Maya Moreno

A survey was to investigate how prevalent the issue of sexual harassment and assault is at UvA. They got 273 respondents across UvA, 63% were from the FMG. Over 72% of the respondents answered that they have experienced a form of sexual harassment. This suggests that a majority of the UvA students struggle with and may experience sexual harassment, which could potentially impact their experience as a student and their academic performance. Although not all these experiences have occurred at UvA or student context it still has a destabilizing effect on the students. It is also clear that students are dissatisfied with how this is handled when reported to UvA.

The group would like the process of reporting to be evaluated. The university should take an active stance against sexual harassment. Trust persons should be put in place at study associations and their work should be evaluated. They would like information on these issues to be mandatory, for example through academic skills courses.

### Dean

The dean believes more information and focus is needed to target the right individuals and groups. She adds that the number of respondents is satisfactory. Sadly, in a normal population, the same number will be found, this does not mean that nothing should be done. The dean wants to ensure that the systems in place to encourage students to report work for them. It should also be possible for students to discuss their issues with a fellow student or a teacher or to file a formal complaint.

The UvA has been active in creating a social safety network, trust persons and websites have been installed recently. There are trust persons, but they are not specifically appointed for students, they are there for everyone. The dean thinks it is important to evaluate the systems that are in place currently. The question is whether it is enough what is now being offered. Harassment between students is less visible to the UvA and might be reported on less.

It is noted by the dean that the incidents that have handled well are not reported on and not discussed.

The dean wants to add that the incidents that were in the newspapers, when you read that, the students did not get any feedback on what has been done with their complaints. The dean always emphasizes that this information should be shared with the victim.

## **7. Any other business**

### FSR

Following the last OV, the council had a meeting regarding proctorio with psychology and child development, they were supposed to have a follow-up meeting, but this has not yet taken place. The council will email about it.

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**8. Questions and closing**

No questions are asked.

Alexandra closes the meeting at 15:59