



**Minutes of the Overleg Vergadering (1) of the FSR FMG '21- '22**  
**Faculty Student Council of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural sciences**

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2021

Location: Hybrid C6.00A/ Teams

Present executive board FMG: Agneta Fischer, Sterre Minkes.

Present FSR FMG '21-'22: Pedro Gonzalez, Joselyn Moran, Alicia Vignali, Natalie Safarova, Eirini Symeonidou, Nathan Larigauderie, Esra Joo Weijenberg, Zaina Pakabomba, Leila Hammoud, Matthijs van der Scheun, Titus van der Valk

Absent FSR FMG '21-'22: Anastasiia Anikina, Esra Joo Weijenberg

Technical chair: Elias Marseille

Minutes: Lieve Bastiaan

**1. Opening and setting the agenda**

Elias opens the meeting at 10:03, the agenda is set without changes.

The council starts by introducing themselves. Pedro has to leave at 11:15.

**2. Setting the draft minutes of the OV (6) on June 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

**3. Announcements**

Dean

The dean has a few. There will be a social safety awareness campaign, she thinks it is important. It starts October 21<sup>st</sup>, it means there will be quotes in social media outlets and the narrow casting in the buildings. The idea is that there is a discussion about it and to raise awareness. To discuss what the boundaries are of what is and is not acceptable. Students and staff will be directed to a website where they can find all kinds of information, for example, about confidential advisors, and training. She thinks it is also important the study associations are aware of it.

The bachelor social geography and planning are considering starting an English track, right now it is partially English and dutch but international students cannot follow the full programme. International students are able to follow electives in the course right now. Together with ISW (Interdisciplinaire Sociale Wetenschappen) it is the last social science programme at the faculty without a full English track. They will write a proposal, when it is

finished it will be presented to the council. They have the right to consent on changes of the language of the programme.

There are three candidates for the faculty diversity officer. Joselyn, a council member is joining the selection board.

In September 2022 the new master's in educational sciences will start, it is a masters to become a primary school teacher. Its aim is to increase the number of primary school teachers. It is a collaboration with the Vrije Universiteit and Leiden University. The NVAO has approved the programme via the initial accreditation. They will start campaigning for the master's this year and it will start in September 2022.

#### **4. Subject 1: Faculty Learning Centre**

##### FSR

The council send a policy proposal in the attachment, they will give a summary. The problem is that there are currently limited opportunities for students to receive extra help from professors and tutors, alternative sources of academic assistance charge very high fees. The course summaries provided are often incorrect. The faculty learning centre will allow students to sign up for tutoring sessions. The peer tutors will also gain experience.

It is necessary as the current sources of academic assistance charge very high fees; this puts students with fewer resources at a clear disadvantage. This programme will provide free training to students. The five measures are, first, that peer tutors would need an 8 for the course that they tutor in. Secondly, they need a 7.5 in their programme to ensure they have a good grasp of the material. Thirdly, Peer tutors will need to meet language requirements. Fourthly they need to commit to a minimum number of sessions. Lastly, the programme will evaluate its tutoring throughout the courses.

The buddy system concerns itself with social and practical matters but not with academic assistance.

As the financial compensation is a problem the council is okay with the study active certificate being the compensation for the tutors time.

If no staff members are available to evaluate the tutoring, there will be a student board for the faculty learning centre that can monitor the programme. The council would like to start with a pilot. The study associations could be involved if they are willing, study association Machiavelli is already assessing course evaluations from the political science courses. If the faculty learning centre board is made up out of the FSR FMG there already is a connection with the programme directors.

The council can do a qualitative investigation, but the existence of commercial providers should show clearly that there is a lack of support.

The vision is that the faculty learning centre will be independent.

The council would like to work on it tangibly, they want to start with a pilot programme.

During the next OV, the council would like to bring up the programme again so they can start as quickly as possible with their pilot. The council understands that the programme is very likely to not be finished during their year. They do know that a similar programme is in place at NYU.

Dean

The dean applauds the idea of having students support the academic learning process of other students, she also sees the point of not wanting it to be expensive for the students and thus wanting to compensate the tutors. She thinks the plan is too much in its infancy there are many problems that need to be addressed before it can be implemented. The council may not see how much work it will be. The faculty does not have money for the programme, the university hardly has money to keep the teaching programmes as they are now. She sees that there are some students who probably need extra support, but financially speaking the faculty cannot pay students to be a tutor, the study active certificate is something that can be used for this. The study associations are responsible for this, this should be kept in mind.

This proposal concerns student for student support, so external to the study programmes. The programme directors are responsible for the teacher and what they teach. If there are student tutors, they do not fall into the responsibility of the teaching programme, they are external, and she would like to know how they relate to the teachers and the teaching programme. Who will be responsible if the tutors teach the students the incorrect things and how will this be monitored. In order to continue with the proposal extra steps, need to be taken. The council may need to focus on one bachelor's programme to start with. It would also be good to talk to first-year teachers to see if students find the programme difficult and need extra support, they know what the academic problems are. It would also be good to talk to the programme committee and the exam committee, they also need to know about this if it will be pursued. This can not be done without complete involvement from the programme director, programme committee, and exam committee. Teachers are not very happy with the summaries of their courses made by the commercial tutoring services.

The council should rewrite their proposal, they should start by stating the problem more clearly and with more investigation. The dean is curious to see how much it is needed, she needs to be a bit more convinced about the necessity. Ideally, the student approaches the teacher when the student has questions. She would also like to know if there are specific courses that are problematic. It should also be clearer what type of support the faculty learning centre is aimed to give. She can give the council comments on their document via email. The relation between internal and external support should be explored and especially the question of responsibility.

Teachers and teaching directors are not happy with the commercial tutoring services, especially when exam questions are sold. The teachers are also unable to correct mistakes within the commercial tutoring courses. It is hard to combat the services. Teachers are doing their best to help students pass their exams. The dean is not sure if there is an official stance on the issue of commercial tutoring services.

She would also like to know what the tutoring services look like.

The study association are responsible for the study active certificate, they decide what would be part of it. If the dean is asked to sign them, she will.

The dean wants the council to reassess their plans first and think of everything that could go wrong before they start a pilot programme. When they have picked a bachelors programme to do the pilot, they should talk to all the relevant people to gain support and feedback.

The dean understands that the council wants to get started but she thinks the council should think it through and talk to the relevant actors , and if everyone is satisfied with how and what will be organized, the FSR can start with a pilot. The council should also see if there are

other student organizations that do something similar, so the council can learn from them. The LSVB or ISO might know about it.

It could be perceived as invasive as it might look as if the courses are lacking in some way, thus communication is very important.

The council can start the pilot if everything is ready, there might encounter new problems when investigating more and talking to new people thus she does not want to make any guarantees.

Action points:

211007-1: The dean emails the council feedback on the faculty learning centre plan

212007-2: The council rewrites their plan and incorporates the feedback

212007-3: The council contacts the study association about the study active certificate related to the faculty learning centre proposal.

211007-4: The council contacts ISO and the LSVB about other initiatives related to their faculty learning centre proposal.

## **5. Subject 2: Standard Covid Regulations on Campus**

### FSR

Most students are happy that the university is back in person. Whilst the number of infections is still low they are expected to rise again. There are growing concerns about the lack of unity about the regulations are the university.

The lack of unity is confusing to students, they have large differences between courses. This can cause many problems such as students showing up sick and students who are still at risk or have a family member at risk still do not have an online option for all of their education. A course in communication science only allows students to take their weekly test if they are in person.

The worker's council has also sent a letter about their concerns about the lack of clarity about the covid education.

The standard minimums the council would like to see are the following. Lectures and tutors should provide an online alternative if at all possible. Lectures and seminars should be prioritized in rooms fit for hybrid teaching. The regulations should be hung up in all classrooms in the building to ensure clarity.

If there is a rise in the cases it should be clear what the rules are. Teachers are also not clear on what rules they should follow in their classrooms. The council wants to allow students more hybrid education as Covid is still a risk for some students.

The council wanted to bring this up to the OV first so if they are talking to the teaching directors, they can say they have already talked to the dean about it. The teachers mainly do not provide online education because they argue they do not know how to set up the zoom and technology.

Most courses where the standard is hybrid education show that most students show up physically, thus this would not be a concern. Hybrid is just about providing the resources where students can get the same information as their classmates when they are at home. This does not need to be a live stream. Most concerns come from political science. The council would like to go into meetings with programme directors with support from the dean.

## Dean

The dean will focus on the standard minimum. She states that there are clear rules that are present rules from the government for all Dutch universities. The university must follow these regulations. There are currently no regulations, but the basic rules still apply, if you are ill, you stay home. The dean thinks that is quite clear. Regulations were communicated a lot towards both students and teachers. There is a grey area where students and teachers who are vulnerable do not want to come to the campus.

The dean states that there are different forms of hybrid; a recording, a live stream without interaction, and a live stream with interaction. A general rule like the council proposes is very difficult as the programmes have different circumstances. It would be good to talk to the teaching directors and the OCs about the lack of an online alternative in some courses. For the dean, it is almost impossible to impose these rules because of the differences between courses. There are often good reasons why teachers do things the way they do them.

She does not want the faculty to end up with big groups of students at home, it might be easier at some point for students to say they are sick.

211007-5: The dean will talk with the Social Science teaching director about the online accessibility of courses of Political Science, specifically about teachers saying they have a hard with the technology.

## **6. Any other business**

No other business.

## **7. Questions and closing**

Elias closes the meeting at 11:22.

No questions are asked.