Concept minutes Plenary Meeting 8th of November 2023

Aanwezig
Angelina Senchi (online), Ivar Kracht (online), Hidde Heijnis, Rembrandt Tip, Giovanni Prins, Thomas van Beersum, Sarah Boll, Teun van Kasteel, Carlos van Eck, Sean Berg

Afwezig
Huy Le, Noah Benjamins

Gast
Iris Bouw

Notulist
Liesje Verhave

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Mail and action list (15 min)
3. Confirmation minutes (5 mins)
4. Confirmation agenda (3 min)
5. Announcements (1 min)
6. Updates (10 min)
   - Chair, vice-Chair, DB-members, and CSR-delegate share updates.
7. CoBo (510 min) (attachment: 1)
   - The FSR discusses the possible approaches to the CoBo.
8. OER proposals (20 min) (attachment: 1)
   - The FSR discusses the changes proposed by the councillors and decides which will be included in the official change request.
9. Final points and closing
1. **Opening**
   The meeting opens at 13:10.

2. **Mail and action points (15 min)**
   The FSR discusses the email list. Verhave refers the council members to the Week of The FSR post if they’re confused about meeting times and locations. We received an email from a student asking a question regarding ChatGPT and our stance. We will refer them to the CSR as they are working on this subject. Van Kasteel will respond and refer them to the CSR [ACTIONPOINT]. Van Beersum will reply to the Israel/Palestine email and see if it’s still too late to collaborate. [ACTIONPOINT]. Van Beersum will pick it up and put fsr-fgw@uva.nl in the CC. Furthermore, we received emails concerning the ACASA OER timeline and Diversity commitment.

   The FSR discusses the action list. Heijnis asks the council members who have not written a personal introduction yet to send it to him. We will discuss the CoBo and the OER during the PV today.

   We will plan a brainstorming session for spending the remaining FSR budget [ACTIONPOINT]. One of the options is spending some of the budget on free menstruation products. Senchi says she had a meeting about this subject last week. The Diversity officer will need to send us a board-approved policy plan so the FSR can vote on the budget. **Van Kasteel will sit down with Benjamins tomorrow to discuss the unsolicited advice concerning studievereningen.** We will need to discuss the yearly plan next week.

3. **Confirmation minutes (5 min)**
   The minutes of the 30th of October are confirmed.

4. **Confirmation agenda (3 min)**
   The agenda is confirmed.

5. **Announcements**
   Van Beersum and Van Eck will need to leave the meeting a few minutes early.

6. **Updates (10 min)**
   *Chair, vice-Chair, DB-members, and CSR-delegate share updates.*

   Senchi and Heijnis have no updates. Prins went to the OC meeting where they introduced the FSR. Some OC’s were interested in collaboration on important subjects and were also interested in the subject of increased social media presence for medezeggenschap. [ACTIONPOINT] The FSR will send the email regarding the points they wanted to discuss if the other OC training is not rescheduled.

   Boll shares that there is a fundraiser for Palestine tonight at VU.

7. **CoBo (10 min) (attachment: 1)**
   *The FSR discusses the possible approaches to the CoBo.*
Van Eck introduces the meeting piece. The CoBo is scheduled for the 23rd of November at Café Diep. He explains that we need to decide between the two different options for the content of the CoBo. A traditional CoBo and a less traditional CoBo. Van Eck explains the details. Van Kasteel and Senchi are in favor of not partaking in the traditions of a CoBo. Senchi mentions simplicity, less pressure, and accessibility as arguments for moving away from CoBo traditions. Van Kasteel suggests to still be open to receiving gifts as the FSR, but only non-alcoholic gifts. Heijnis is also in favor of an alternative CoBo, mainly because of alcohol-related traditions and brassen. The council decides to partake in an alternative CoBo. Van Kasteel suggests not receiving alcoholic gifts. Kracht asks how to enforce a non-alcoholic gift policy, including creating an unjudgmental space for parties that bring or do not bring alcoholic gifts. Van Kasteel suggests specifying the policy in the formal invite.

Tip joins the meeting at 13:42.

Senchi suggests letting guests decide what to bring but to mention our preferences as FSR. She continues that the invite should specify that bringing a gift is not obligatory. There will be a houserule section included in the invite. [ACTIONPOINT] Van Eck and Benjamins will set up the email with the details regarding the location and plan of action. Van Eck mentions that we should budget for the consumption. Last year the council budgeted 300 euros, but this ran out quickly. He suggests budgeting 500 for the upcoming CoBo. The council agrees.

[ACTIONPOINT] We will discuss the year plan at the PV next week and the council will give input.

The council takes a break at 13:51.

Tip left the meeting.

8. OER proposals (30 min) (attachments: 1)

The FSR discusses the changes proposed by the councillors and decides which will be included in the official change request

The meeting resumes at 14:01

Heijnis asks the council members who read which part of the OER. The council discusses how to go about discussing the agenda point. Heijnis suggests going over it point by point, Van Beersum suggests having a larger discussion about the important topics beforehand. Heijnis says we will need to discuss the points for amendments first because there is a deadline on the 10th for handing in the Excel containing our suggestions. The council goes over the points of suggested amendments person by person.

Iris Bouw joins the meeting at 14:09.

Prins has a question regarding MA OER A, article 2.3. Prins explains that the response to his master’s application took longer than six weeks. Heijnis responds that this is more a point regarding the execution of the OER than the OER itself. Prins goes on to MA OER A, article 2.4. He suggests adding the topic of social safety in this article. In article 4.3.1 Prins questions why the article is specified as it is, as the phrasing is redundant. In his personal experience, he attended oral exams in groups. Heijnis responds that with the current phrasing, a student can always ask for justification from the teacher. Boll agrees with Heijnis. Prins moves on to article 4.5 concerning resits. He does not understand the final grade counts rule that is in place for resits. He understands that resists should be limited to not overload grading work for teachers. He
suggests instead a system where resits can only take place from a certain grade and then the highest grade counts. Boll agrees with letting the highest grade count for resists but not with only letting resists take place starting from a certain grade. As a lot of universities ask for a GPA during applications. Van Kasteel says the issue with this discussion is the workload for professors. When the highest grade counts to many students will partake in resits leading to a higher workload. Kracht agrees with Van Kasteel and explains that this is exactly the worry for professors. Kracht explains that we can use this as an opening because everybody is suffering under the current policy. Van Eck says we should take the workload for teachers into account, but we could propose a pilot for certain studies to implement a different resit policy. Then it can be checked if a different re-sit policy will lead to an increase of resits taking place. He specifies that the number of exams happening in, for example, the BA history is very minimal. Van Kasteel retorts that the problematics are more present in smaller studies with fewer students. Heijnis concludes that the council wants to suggest the possibility of implementing a pilot for a different resit policy. Kracht advises to be careful with the rhetoric in this advice as we cannot deny that teachers have a distressing workload.

Boll and Prins will look into the possibility of a pilot for resist and bring it up into the discussion for the OER advice letter [ACTIONPOINT].

Prins moves to article 4.17 of the OER A and asks why the possibility of a second examiner is not included here. As he understands it students always have the right to ask for a second assessment. Boll asks if this refers to grading or feedback. Prins says he is referring to grading. Heijnis suggests adding it to the Excel.

Van Beersum proposes to add the proposal to lower the BSA to zero. Bouw adds that they will probably not abolish the BSA. Van Beersum argues that it is a very inaccessible policy and makes a lot of students not be students anymore. Boll does not agree. She says that there are a lot of exceptions for the BSA. If the students approach the study advisors on time, they often can receive compensation for their BSA. She says the faculty is very lenient compared to other faculties as UvA.

Senchi responds that the faculty will be stricter for on the BSA policy in the future. That dispensation will not be available as easily anymore. Heijnis adds that the argument should also not be about compensation but also about the right to continue studying without actively asking for exceptions. BSA should therefore be lowered to zero.

9. Final points and closing

The PV closes at 14:51.
### Decisions

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De FSR FGw 2023-2024 besluit de brief van de CSR getiteld “Unsolicited advice - third party collaboration 230921” mede te ondertekenen.

De FSR FGw 2023-2024 besluit om de inhoud van agenda punt 8 “Relations between the voetnoot te plaatsen bij het agendapunt dat het zwartlakken heeft plaatsgevonden op verzoek van het fDB.

De FSR FGw 2023-2024 besluit om de brief “support for the unsolicited advice from the CSR regarding third party collaborations” te delen met de CSR.

De FSR-FGw 2023-2024 besluit om het statement aangedragen door Van Beersum te delen op sociale media als formeel statement met betrekking tot de situatie in Israël en Palestina.