Concept minutes Plenary Meeting 28th of February 2024

Aanwezig  Noah Benjamins, Angelina Senchi, Carlos van Eck, Teun van Kasteel, Giovanni Prins, Hidde Heijnis, Huy Le (online)
Afwezig  Sarah Boll, Rembrandt Tip, Sean Berg, Ivar Kracht
Gast  -
Notulist  Liesje Verhave

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Mail and action list (15 min)
3. Confirmation minutes (5 mins)
4. Announcements (1 min)
5. Confirmation agenda (3 min)
6. Updates (10 min)
   The chair, vicechair, workgroups, and CSR delegate share updates.
7. Discussing: OV subjects (10 min) (attachment: -)
   The FSR potential OV subjects.
8. Deciding: Printing budget (15 min) (attachment: 1)
   The council discusses budget for printing posters.
9. Discussing: FSR budget proposal (20 min) (attachment: 1)
   The FSR discusses spending our own budget on Heijnis’s proposal.
10. Discussing: Instemmingsverzoek OER’en ACASA (10 min) (attachment: 7)
    The FSR prepares the consent request regarding OER ACASA.
11. PR of the Week (5 min)
    The FSR discusses PR of the week.
12. Final points and closing
1. **Opening**
   Senchi opens the meeting at 15:06.

2. **Mail and action points** (15 min)
   The council discusses the email list. The council discusses the agenda. Heijinis and Senchi will attend the meeting regarding the honours program and internationalisation.

3. **Confirmation minutes** (5 min)
   We will confirm the minutes at the end of the meeting. The council confirms the minutes from the 7\textsuperscript{th} of February and the minutes of the 14\textsuperscript{th} of February. Lastly, the minutes of the 21\textsuperscript{st} of February are confirmed.

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

5. **Announcements**
   Prins has to leave 10 minutes earlier. There are no other updates. Tip, Kracht, Boll, Van Eck are absent. There are no mandates.

6. **Updates** (10 min)
   *Chair, vice-Chair, workgroups, and CSR-delegate share updates.*
   Senchi has had contact with the board regarding the FGw museum night. Maria Hagen will have a meeting with Senchi regarding the date decision. Senchi will meet with a CSR member of UvA Sociaal to discuss mandatory attendance in the OER.
   At CSR-level they will discuss during the upcoming OV; internationalization, democratization, cirfood etcera.

7. **Discussing: OV subjects** (10 min) (attachment: -)
   *The FSR potential OV subjects.*
We will be discussing the letter regarding university ties to Israel. Heijnis wants to ask the board if they acknowledge that critical voices are important at Israeli universities and if they can also acknowledge that something is wrong. [ACTIONPOINT] The council will read the IMRQ3 before the upcoming OV.

8. **Deciding: Printing budget** (15 min) (attachment: 1)

   *The council discusses budget for printing posters.*

   The council decides to use 72 euros to print the posters. This will be for 6 posters. Verhave will organize the poster [ACTIONPOINT]. A test version will be printed during the break.

9. **Discussing: FSR budget proposal** (20 min) (attachment: 1)

   *The FSR discusses spending our own budget on Heijnis’s proposal.*

   Heijnis introduces the meeting piece. He asks the council if they agree on spending the specific budget on promotional material and cutlery. The council agrees.

   **Voting Proposal:** The FSR FGw 2023-2024 proposes to allocate 500 euros of its budget to use on the proposal for the Anti-Kantine.

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The voting proposal is accepted. The FSR FGw 2023-2024 decides to allocate 500 euros of its budget to use on the proposal for the Anti-Kantine.

10. **Discussing: Instemmingsverzoek OER’en ACASA** (10 min) (attachment: 7)

   *The FSR prepares the consent request regarding OER ACASA.*

   The council has a discussion regarding mandatory attendance. Heijnis says that he understands why some courses are necessary to have mandatory attendance because the value of education comes from group interaction in some courses. Senchi responds that it depends on the student and some students learn and study in different ways. Once mandatory attendance is used for a course like *Wetenschapsfilosofie* it can be applied for everything.

   Heijnis says that mandatory attendance can make people decide to actually attend class.

   Benjamins says that mandatory attendance puts a lot of stress and pressure on students who have legitimate reasons for not being able to attend certain classes.

   Van Kasteel says attending is important and it prepares students for the rest of their life. Furthermore, it differs a lot per faculty, and at the FGw in class discussion is very important.
Prins says that if a student cannot attend, they should pick a course that fits their schedule. He says personally he hates mandatory attendance because he feels like he’s in high school but it does force him to attend for example 9 am classes.

Senchi also says that if your course is so easy that you can pass it without attending the curriculum should be changed. Class importance should come from class content and not from mandatory attendance. Prins agrees that this element should be included in classes, but class attendance is also part of discipline.

Heijnis says that now some courses in the faculty have guidelines where there are repercussions once a student misses three classes. This also ties into the discussion for the borders of responsibility for teachers.

Senchi asks if adding it to the OER solves the issue.

Prins says he never met a teacher who made a big fuss about students having legitimate reasons for attending classes. However personally, lower attendance ruins the course for him. Senchi and Heijnis agree that it should be decided on the level of the course and not the level of the program.

Benjamins asks the council why the university should force students to attend. Heijnis says that in an ideal world, the quality and difficulty of a course will make attendance necessary, but in the current situation, low attendance makes the class quality even worse.

Prins also says that EC’s and the classes are part of the education and not attending harms your education which is a legitimate reason to force students to come as often as they can. Having a structural rule where it’s not mandatory every time but you have one or two free skips gives students the flexibility of not attending when they are not able to. Senchi says that mandatory attendance is too strict, she is more in favor of participation grades. It also gives students the option to improve their grades by just showing up and participating in their courses.

Heijnis proposes to double down on the participation grade.

Benjamins says that in his program even when there’s no mandatory attendance students still show up. Senchi agrees that in her classes she also has good attendance. Prins says that in his experience the only full classes he has participated in – even if the course is not the best attendance improves the quality. Ideally, it can be fixed on the course level, but the best of the worst options is to have an attendance policy. Benjamins agrees that attendance is good for education, but a mandatory attendance policy is a draconian way to go about it. Ideally, you want motivated students attending your class, not students who are forced to be there.

Heijnis concludes that there should be no mandatory attendance but allow participation grading. If teachers complain that they do not have enough tools to get students into the classroom, they then can use the participation grade and that this is encouraged by the faculty.

Senchi likes the idea of having a reward system that shows up instead of punishing the students that do not attend. Van Kasteel says the FSR should also talk to teachers about this. Senchi says that we should inventory where the most complaints are coming from, and which programs struggle the most with having students attend classes.
Van Kasteel is in favor of mandatory attendance for all courses. He thinks we should talk to teachers about this as it can lead to more administrative tasks but having a group of students that attends weekly creates a sense of community and a personal classroom experience.

Prins proposes to send an email to different professors he has had classes with to ask about their positions. Senchi proposes maybe organizing a session about mandatory attendance at VOX-pop to discuss this topic.

11. Final points and closing

The meeting is closed at 16:46.
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.

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

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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.

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

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The FSR-FGw 2023-2024 will send out a negative advice to the fDB regarding FGw Budget.

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The FSR FGw 2023-2024 decides to send the Unsolicited Advice Ongstenvergoeding 231129.

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The FSR FGw 2023-2024 decides to send the advice letter concerning the OER part A and format part B to the fDB.
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Activistenpartij

The FSR FGw 23-24 decides to send a negative advice on the proposed changes to part-time BA education.

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Activistenpartij

The FSR FGw 2023-2024 decides to send an email giving a positive advice on the FGw budget after the adaptations were made.

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Activistenpartij

The FSR FGw 2023-2024 decides to endorse the letter of FSR-FdG to send the letter formally requesting access to Canvas for the FSR's.

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Activistenpartij

The FSR FGw 2023-2024 decides to send the unsolicited advice concerning the connection to Israeli universities to the fDB.

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Activistenpartij

The FSR FGw 2023-2024 decides to send the reflection as written down in the proposed plan of action in the meeting piece regarding quality agreements to the central level.

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