



To the dean of the FMG,  
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Date	29th of April, 2020	Ons kenmerk	1920-25
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Concerns	Accessibility of the office spaces	Attachement(s)	

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This concerns an English letter

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Dear dean, dear Agneta,

Hereby the Faculty Student Council of Social and Behavioural Sciences (the council) offers an unsolicited advice about the rules and regulations for the upper floors of the B&C building on the Roeterseilandcampus.

*Current situation and how we got here:*

When the new building at the Roeterseilandcampus was built, the doors leading to the office floors for the staff were entirely closed for students. This led to such vehement protest that within three weeks all those doors were opened, allowing access for students to the office floors. Unfortunately some students misbehaved in such a way that it disturbed the staff working on those floors. This in turn lead most individual departments to set up rules that prohibit the presence of students on their floors/spaces. According to Tom Verhoek these rules are mostly meant to ensure that staff have proper justification to send misbehaving students away. The rules are not meant to be taken literally and should not affect students who are behaving properly. Most students however do take the rules seriously and as a result those floors are almost entirely empty and unused by students and staff.

*What we propose:*

Our proposal is to implement general rules for every department within the FMG that allow students to be at the office floors in the B and C buildings as long as they don't disturb the people working there.

*Why the current situation is undesirable:*

1. Damage to community forming

In the current situation, students and staff are unlikely to interact actively outside the classroom unless agreements have been made to do so. Staff can't work properly on the lower floors and students are not allowed on most of the higher floors. At most they will see each other in the elevators. This means that there is a clear separation between students and staff. To some extent this is of course unavoidable but right now the rift is wider than necessary. When you look at the office floors of departments who do allow the presence of students under certain conditions (sociology and anthropology) you see a lot of very positive interaction between students and staff.

2. Status implication



Research done by Dear Hunter indicates that some staff are of the opinion that the floor on which they work has implications for their social status. They believe that the higher your floor, the more important you (or your department) are. This has obvious implications for the way those staff view students since they are not allowed on any of the upper floors. The higher status of staff is emphasized by being unapproachable while residing on the top floors.

### 3. Waste of space

On the vast majority of office floors, the space between offices is not used by anyone. If we can find a way to use it then that is obviously a positive development. By letting students use it, we are wasting less space which is generally a good thing. We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts that are already being made to increase the usefulness of the B and D buildings. Especially since this was done by increasing the number of study spots in those buildings.

#### *Conditions:*

If our proposal is to be implemented then it is very important to anticipate potential problems and to keep the interests of the staff in mind. In order to ensure this there are two things that need to be addressed. (1) The fourth and fifth building of the C building have closed their door to the D building for students. They have done this in order to lower the amount of traffic related to the Brug. This does not seriously hinder the use of these floors and does serve to limit disturbances to the staff. For this reason we do not ask to change this part of the status quo. (2) The last time the office floors were available to the students, it caused some problems. For this reason it is very important that the new rules enable staff to send students who disturb their work away. Luckily we can look at the rules of sociology and anthropology for inspiration. They have already successfully implemented rules that allow students presence while preserving a good work environment. The exact rules that we propose in this advice are based on their rules and experiences.

#### *Proposed text:*

Dear student,

Please note that this is an office floor and that you are a guest here. For this reason we expect you to adhere to a few rules while you are here

1. Keep your voice down in order to avoid disturbing the staff working on this floor.
2. Students are not allowed to be here between 12 am and 2 pm as staff will need to use this space for their lunch break at that time.
3. Staff are allowed to send you away at any time if they wish to use the space you are currently occupying.
4. Staff are allowed and even expected to send you away if they feel you are in any way shape or form disturbing any staff.

We hope that you will consider implementing our advice and look forward to further discussing it with you during the OV.

Yours sincerely,

signature



Alexandra Rosca  
Chair FSR FMG 19|20

