

AGENDA

OV FSR – Board, Monday 2nd of March 2026 10:30-12:00 in REC

A7.23

Present Board: Mireille van Eechoud, Nanda Oudejans, Marco Loos, Pim Koenen, Ingo Venzke

Present FSR: Livni Beck, Vincent Nap, Carla Gesell, Fabian Que, Eleonora van Koppen, Tom Scheer

1. Opening meeting and announcements

- Kick off of strategic process during the 'strategisch overleg' op 03-03-26. More detailed planning for sessions involving staff, FSR, and the OR will follow later this month.

2. Setting agenda

3. OER violations: Process and Responsibilities

According to FSR there is currently a lack of clarity regarding the division of roles between the OC, FSR, Board, and Director of Education.

- The Board confirmed that all items on the current OER violation lists have already been discussed with the necessary staff.
- A discrepancy exists in the definition of a "structural" violation. The Board defines it as the same violation occurring multiple times within the same course, whereas the FSR holds a broader view.
- It was agreed that the UvA website should be updated to clarify that students should first approach the Course Coordinator regarding OER violations before escalating.
- FSR proposed a full discussion of OER violations between the Programme Committees and the FSR as a way to close the academic year and prepare for the next.

a. Defining roles and responsibilities of OC / FSR / Board / CC and Director of Education

- While roles are defined in faculty regulations, Nanda acknowledged the need for a more "dynamic" understanding. A kick-off meeting at the start of the academic year between FSR and OCs was suggested to improve alignment
- Mireille clarified that neither the FSR nor the OCs are tasked with "policing" daily regulations for all 350 courses. Responsibility for addressing violations rests with the Directors of Education and Course Coordinators.
- Livni noted that students often feel ignored by Course Coordinators (e.g., regarding late grades). The FSR often feels forced to intervene because individual student complaints are not being taken seriously.
- Most violations occur within Master's programs, where the structure is less rigid. The Board believes the implementation of the COCO Dashboard (that is already there at bachelor level) in these programs will significantly improve compliance and automation.

b. Policy on Deadline Transparency

- There is a debate regarding "pre-warnings" for late grade publications. The FSR believes proactive communication reduces student stress and email volume; the Board is hesitant to turn this into a formal obligation but will remind Programme Directors of the importance of timely updates.

4. More student assistant positions to alleviate faculty workload

- The FSR suggested creating more student assistant positions to alleviate faculty workload and prevent OER violations.
- Mireille clarified that it is the specific role of sections and departments, not the Faculty Board, to determine and assign these positions.
- The Board expressed doubt about the broad effectiveness of this due to budget constraints but agreed to look at the "Private Law" department as a case study for success.
- High workload remains a primary reason for Master's-level violations. The Board suggested that while some resistance to new systems like COCO exists, it is necessary for long-term improvement. The Board is also investigating the use of standardized Canvas templates to streamline course management.

5. Student engagement

- New PPLE dean: There is significant uncertainty regarding the new PPLE Dean due to his educational background in Israel and potential links to

institutions associated with human rights concerns. The FSR emphasized the need for a Town Hall-style meeting. The goal is for students to get to know the Dean and understand the Dean's motivations for education and his vision for the faculty.

- The Communication Department will launch a campaign at the end of March to make the Faculty Board more visible and accessible to the student body.

6. Social safety Israeli students and personnel

- The Board has not recently heard of Israeli students feeling unsafe. However, the FSR shared an anecdote regarding a student being harassed, highlighting that even when such issues are discussed, no concrete action was taken, which discourages further reporting.
- There was consensus that singling out Jewish students might be counter-effective; the focus should be on general sensitivity and safety for all.
- Carla noted that the FSR is currently developing a more elaborate social safety file.
- A suggestion was made to foster collaborations between Jewish and Muslim student associations to combat polarization. FSR will provide a list of relevant contacts to facilitate this.

Action list

FSR

- Consult with Programme Committees and the OR to evaluate the necessity and timing of a joint OER violation review.
- Send the list of organizations/contacts for Muslim-Jewish collaborations to the Board.

The Board

- Update the UvA website to clarify the OER reporting chain.
- Organize a Town Hall meeting for the new PPLE Dean to discuss his educational vision with students.
- Communicate with Programme Directors regarding the necessity of timely updates on grading delays.