

Annual Report 2018 -2019

Faculty Student Council

Faculty of Social and Behavioural science



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM



Foreword

Dear student, collaborator, director or other person involved with the University of Amsterdam (UvA),

The document that's in front of you is the annual report of the Faculty Student Council of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences (FSR FMG) of the academic year 2018-2019. This document will give a brief overview of what the FSR FMG 2018-2019 has been doing this previous academic year.

The previous year, the FSR FMG has been enthusiastically working on several files. In the beginning, everybody had to find their way in the domain of 'medezeggenschap'. Eventually the FSR FMG 2018/2019 turned out a qualified and well-organized group of students striving for the best for our faculty. We have learned a lot about the workings of the UvA and the FMG and by working together in a team of 12 students, we have also learned a lot about ourselves. In this document, we will show how we have worked on the six central themes as stated in our policy plan. Besides that, an overview of the unsolicited advices will be given.

New this year was the district voting system and the subcommittees (ODC's). The idea behind the district system did not reflect in the voting procedure: the child development domain did not send candidates and therefore students from the child development domain were unable to vote for the faculty student council elections. Next years it should be investigated if the district system would work in the future.

A topic that also received a lot of attention this year was internationalization. The FMG has become a real international faculty, which has both its burdens and its benefits. We wrote an advice wherein we amongst other things asked the dean to improve the international classroom and to include a better monitoring procedure of internationalization processes. Besides that, we have had many discussions with the dean and other faculty staff members on the continuing internationalization of our faculty. This was for example reflected in the request of consent for a dual language bachelor at Anthropology. We have also talked about internationalization within the FSR itself. The FSR FMG has asked the faculty to involve the international students as much as possible and to minimize language barriers, since the FSR FMG 2019/2020 will have international students for the first time.

Another major and recurring topic was student involvement. Almost every student council faces difficulties reaching students. This year the FSR was located in a new office, next to the offices of the study associations and the common room of the FMG. The collaboration between study associations and the FSR has improved by this. It was also beneficial for our visibility. But it appeared that student involvement remains a difficult problem to tackle. We tried to include students and gain visibility by organizing social and informational events and by being more active on social media. But it appeared that it was hard to include students from 'outside the bubble'. However, we still regard increasing student involvement as important and necessary and we have confidence in the next council continuing this mission.

It has been an inspiring, interesting and very 'gezellig' year. Good luck to the FSR FMG 2019-2020!

Evi de Rover

Chair 2018-2019



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Studentenraad
MAATSCHAPPIJ- EN
GEDRAGSWETENSCHAPPEN

2. Personalia



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3. Themes

3.1 Healthy faculty

The FSR FMG sees a healthy faculty as a place where students are offered the opportunity to speak about their possible problems, if they want to do so. The FSR FMG strived for an environment where students are ambitious and motivated, but without extreme performance pressure. Throughout the year, we stayed in close contact with the board of the faculty on how to improve this at our faculty. In the upcoming years, the faculty will explore the option to create a 'health court on our campus. In this court, you will find a student dentist, psychologist and doctor. We are looking forward to the implementation of this policy. In addition, we also include sustainability as part of the healthy faculty. Together with the Central Student Council and other FSR's, we wrote a letter to the executive board of the UvA. In this letter, we advised for a more sustainable travel policy. The UvA should think more about how staff members travel to other cities for academic purposes. For example, in some cases it is better to take the train instead of travelling by plane.

3.2 Open faculty

The FSR FMG strives for an open faculty. This is a faculty where there is room for every student and where every student feels welcome on our campus. A faculty where there are enough facilities, ranging from sufficient study places to less heavy doors. In addition, the FSR FMG also thinks that the faculty should be open in the sense of having transparent processes and clear information provided to students. Students must be able to know where and when they can go somewhere and how associated procedures work. Furthermore, the FSR FMG also finds it important that it is clear to students what changes in education have taken place, so that it is clear to them that efforts are being made to improve education. Students should be able to express their opinion about education and it is important that these opinions are heard and taken into consideration. This year, we wrote an advice on creating more study places during examination periods. You can read the details of this advice later in this report.

3.3 Close faculty

The academic community is central in a close-knit faculty. The FSR FMG sees the inclusive faculty as a place where students, teachers, and all other employees of the UvA are one community. It does not have to be 'unprofessional', but the students should know that they can always ask questions to teachers and staff and that they will be treated with respect and equality. The same applies to the cleaners, employees of Cormet and the bike coaches, whom are treated with respect and also feel at home within this community. The FSR FMG finds it important that students are involved in education and know that they can share their opinions on education. We wrote an advise for the dean about a big survey to see how we can improve student involvement and to improve the academic community. This survey will probably be spread during the beginning of next year.

3.4 Quality-oriented faculty

In the past year, the FSR FMG has also strived for good quality of education. One of our main goals was to be aware of the events surrounding internationalization and to steer this in the right direction. Internationalization should not only be used as a revenue model and with this motto we have written our recommendations regarding internationalization the past year. For example, we approved the internationalization of anthropology after positive argumentations of the department and we considered how the future of the FMG will take shape in the context of internationalization. We have also discussed our concerns regarding different amounts of workload and the increasing student numbers caused by internationalization with the Dean on several occasions. We are happy to mention that efforts are being made to strengthen the international classroom and the social cohesion within it and that plans are being made to decrease the workload of teachers caused by internationalization. In addition, the FSR FMG has conducted research into the admission requirements of various Master's programs. Many students were satisfied with this, there was only one exception regarding communication from the faculty.

3.5 Progressive faculty

The FSR FMG has tried to monitor the quality of education in the past year and progressiveness in research and education is a big part of this. For us, this did not only mean that existing theories had to be reviewed, but also that the university should open up to become more diverse. In the past year, for example, we have had many discussions within the FSR FMG about flex studying and the various transition programmes. Together we welcome both initiatives, but we see that there is still a lot of work to be done in practice. Unfortunately, we have not been able to bring this to the attention of the Dean in a written advice, but these topics will be discussed with the coming FSR FMG during the transfer period.

3.6 Finances

The FMG has again dealt with the consequences of the budget cuts in the past year. Taskforce TOF of the FSR FMG has been on top of this for the past year and has tried to ask as many questions as possible, to open the dialogue and to gain transparency. We ourselves think that we have succeeded to a considerable extent and we stand behind the answers that we have received from the Dean. For example, since this year, the FSR FMG may participate in the budget consultations of the various domains and there will be more textual explanation of the domain-budgets. In addition, we have had many discussions with financial director Michel Telkamp about the cutbacks within the faculty, the workload and the additional vacancy stop, the various benefits and burdens of internationalization, and the new HST bachelor's degree. Have you missed this information and would you like to check what the financial picture of the faculty looks like now? Then read our OV minutes from the past year. These are online on our website!

4. Unsolicited advices

4.1 Study places

The UvA is working hard on creating more study places every year. During a normal study week, the amount of study places does not seem very problematic. The problem of insufficient study places occurs in particular during exam weeks. We advised the board of the faculty to create more study places during exam weeks by opening more tutorial rooms. Also, the communication about where to find a study place should be better. The UvA is working on a new app, named 'Spacefinder'. This app provides an overview of the available study places at the Roeterseiland Campus. You can already use it via www.uva.nl/spacefinder.

4.2 Internationalization

In March, the FSR wrote an unsolicited advice on internationalization. In this advice, the FSR made four recommendations. Firstly, the FSR requested trainings for teachers about intercultural sensitivity and teaching in the international classroom. Secondly, the FSR requested that dual language Bachelors should make an evaluation report on their internationalization process. The FSR thought it was important that this evaluation report includes not only student performance numbers, but also observations on for example interaction in the classroom and the 'character' of the programme. Thirdly, the FSR advised to offer Dutch courses from one central point and possibly also within the curriculum of a programme. It is not always that clear for internationals where they can follow a Dutch course. Besides this, the FSR thought that stimulating international students to follow Dutch courses, could be of good influence on social cohesion. Finally, the FSR advised teachers to stimulate cooperation between international and Dutch students within courses.

4.3 Student involvement

Our first advise of our year was getting out a survey regarding student involvement, to see if our ideas about why students aren't involved are the actual reasons why. We believe everyone has an idea what the main reasons are why students aren't as involved, however we wanted to know this for sure and use these results for more efficient ways to involve these students.

While this survey was approved, it took longer than expected to perfect our survey. This unfortunately means that we didn't roll out the survey this year, however, since the survey is ready now, the next council will be able to do the survey and use the results for their year.

4.4 Sustainability

We decided to tackle sustainability together with the CSR this year, since we found out the UvA didn't have a (sustainable) travel policy. Thus, we decided to write a letter to the CvB in order to make this happen. This letter included the idea other universities have already, which is having a green and orange travel list. The green list contains destinations that have the same travel hours per plane and per train, which makes it more sustainable to go there by train. The orange list contains cities that take a bit longer by train, but are still sustainable options.

4.5 Diversity

This year, the FSR FMG focused on the topic of diversity by meeting regularly with the Faculty Diversity Officer (FDO) Marieke Brand. Furthermore, the FSR FMG attended several working groups that were initiated by the FDO. Also, we decided to address the topic diversity to the dean with a discussion paper. This paper focused on the position of the FDO. More concrete, we addressed the responsibilities of the FDO and potential support of the faculty to the FDO. In addition, concerns about diversity policy amongst bi-cultural Dutch students were also addressed. The dean replied that she will discuss the responsibilities and the role of the FDO later on this year with Marieke Brand. Furthermore, the dean promised that the FDO will receive additional support of the faculty if necessary, but this will not mean the dean will assign a student-assistant or whatsoever to the FDO. To conclude, the dean acknowledges the concerns of bi-cultural Dutch students. Therefore, the dean is willing to get in touch with these students in order to discuss their concerns.

4.6 Mental Health

Mental health of students was an important topic this year. The FSR FMG is concerned about the increasing performance pressure and the consequences of this. Therefore we decided to write an unsolicited advice on mental health. The main goal was to improve the provision of information about mental health facilities students can make use of. The UvA offers a lot of services regarding mental health, but a lot of students are not aware of all these options. Therefore we asked the faculty to make these facilities more visible, by for example placing banners at the Brug, spreading (digital) flyers and creating an overview of all the mental health services the UvA offers, which study advisors can give to students.

4.7 Faculty Regulations

The FSR FMG advised the dean on the contents of the faculty regulations, specifically the level of involvement of the FSR and programme committees with the appointment procedures for education-, research- and programme directors and for the heads of department. Next to this the FSR FMG advised on some minor articles, mostly of a linguistic nature. The faculty regulation is one of the most important documents within the FMG, it can be seen as some sort of constitution for the faculty. The faculty regulation also lists the rights of the FSR, that are not already mentioned in the law or the university regulations. The FSR FMG advised the dean to give the council, and in the case of programme directors also the programme committees, the right of advice. The council and the dean disagreed on this point and in the end it was decided that the



FSR would get the right of information concerning the appointment of heads of departments and that all the proposed minor changes will be implemented at the next redraft of the faculty regulations.

5. List of Correspondence

In/out	Date	Type	Contents of correspondence
out	14-09-2018	unsolicited advise	The FSR advised the dean unsolicited about student engagement and proposed to hold out a survey.
in	17-09-2018	request for advise	The dean requested the FSR to advise on the faculty concept budget 2019.
out	30-09-2018	letter to the CSR	The FSR wrote jointly with the FSR FGw a letter to the CSR about the proposed decision to travel to ' the Minsk International Youth Forum ' and to reimburse the travel costs.
in	03-10-2018	request for advise	The dean requested the FSR to advise on the concept faculty Strategic Plan 2020 – 2026.
in	16-10-2018	request for consent	The dean requested the FSR to give consent to the proposed changes to the faculty regulations.
in	18-10-2018	request for consent	The dean requested the FSR to give consent to the creation of the new Bachelor program Humans, Society and Technology.
in	29-10-2018	request for advise	The dean requested the FSR to advise on the execution of the quality agreements within the faculty.
out	04-11-2018	reaction for request for advise	The FSR and works councils advised in their joint letter positively on the faculty draft budget 2019.
out	08-11-2018	reaction for request for advise	The FSR advised negatively on the concept faculty Strategic Plan 2020 – 2026.
out	08-11-2018	reaction for request for advise	The FSR advised positively about the proposed execution of the quality agreements within the faculty.
in	21-11-2018	reaction from the CSR	The Central Student Council responded to the letter from the FSR and from the FSR FGw about participating in and reimbursing the travel costs for ' the Minsk International Youth Forum '.
out	26-11-2018	letter to the CSR	The FSR wrote a letter about his position on the proposed numerus fixus increase for the Bachelor program in Psychology to the Central Student Council.
in	28-11-2018	reaction from the dean	The dean responded to the positive advise of the FSR on the proposed execution of the quality agreements within the faculty.
out	29-11-2018	reaction for request to consent	The FSR withheld its consent to the creation of the Bachelor program Humans, Society and Technology.
in	29-11-2018	reaction from the dean	The dean responded to the negative advise of the FSR on the concept faculty Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025.
out	31-01-2019	letter to the dean	The FSR wrote a discussion paper to the dean on internationalization.

In/out	Date	Type	Contents of correspondence
out	26-02-2019	letter to the CSR	The FSR wrote a letter about his position on the binding study advice to the Central Student Council.
out	26-02-2019	letter to the CSR	The FSR wrote a letter about his position on the honours program and the Honours Academy to the Central Student Council.
in	28-02-2019	reaction from the dean	The dean responded to the withholding of consent of the FSR for the creation of the new Bachelor program Humans, Society and Technology.
out	06-03-2019	letter to the dean	The FSR expressed his dissatisfaction with the procedure for the creation of The Bachelor program Humans, Society and Technology in a letter to the dean.
out	06-03-2019	letter to the CvB	The FSR expressed his dissatisfaction with the procedure for the establishment of The Bachelor program Humans, Society and Technology in a letter to the Executive Board.
out	10-03-2019	unsolicited advise	The FSR advised the dean unsolicited about the study places within the faculty.
out	10-03-2019	unsolicited advise	The FSR advised the dean unsolicited about the internationalization of the faculty.
in	11-03-2019	reaction from the dean	The dean responded to the letter of the FSR on the procedure for the creation of The Bachelor program Humans, Society and Technology.
out	11-03-2019	reaction for request for advise	The FSR advised positively on the concept Teaching and Examination Regulations for the academic year 2019 – 2020 for the domains of Child Development and Educational Sciences, Communication Science and Psychology.
out	13-03-2019	reaction for request for advise	The FSR advised positively on the concept Teaching and Examination Regulations for the academic year 2019 – 2020 for the domain of Social Sciences, with the exception of the negative advice for the OER of the Bachelor program Algemene Sociale Wetenschappen.
out	20-03-2019	letter to the dean	The FSR wrote a letter to the dean concerning the working-agreements and the faculty regulations.
in	05-04-2019	request for advise	The Executive Board requested the FSR to advise on the proposed decision to appoint the dean of the FMG.
out	08-04-2019	reaction for request to consent	The FSR agreed to give consent to the Teaching and Examination Regulations for all programs for the academic year 2019 – 2020.
out	09-04-2019	reaction for request for advise	The FSR advised the Executive Board on the proposed decision to appoint the dean of the FMG.

In/out	Date	Type	Content of Correspondence
in	13-04-2019	reaction from the dean	The dean responded to the unsolicited advice of the FSR concerning the study places within the faculty.
in	23-04-2019	reaction from the dean	The dean responded to the unsolicited advice of the FSR on the internationalization of the faculty.
in	24-04-2019	request for consent	The dean requested the FSR to agree to the proposed method of composition of the program committees within the faculty.
in	24-04-2019	request for consent	The dean requested the FSR to give consent to the language change/internationalization of the Bachelor program in Anthropology.
out	24-04-2019	unsolicited advise	The FSR advised the dean unsolicited on the subject of mental health within the faculty.
out	25-04-2019	letter to the CvB	The FSR wrote together with the CSR a letter to the Executive Board advising on the introduction of a sustainable travel policy UvA-wide
out	26-04-2019	letter to the dean	The FSR wrote a letter to the dean on bilingual 'medezeggenschap' in the academic year 2019-2020
in	09-05-2019	reaction from the dean	The dean responded to the letter of consent from the FSR for the setting the Teaching and Examination Regulations for all the programs for 2019 - 2020
in	15-05-2019	reaction from the dean	The dean responded to the unsolicited advice on mental health within the faculty
in	03-06-2019	request for advise	The dean requested the FSR to advise on the faculty's financial framework 2020.
out	05-06-2019	reaction for request to consent	The FSR withheld its consent to change the language/internationalization of the Bachelor program of Anthropology.
in	11-06-2019	reaction from the dean	The dean responded to the FSR withholding its consent for the language change/internationalization of the Bachelor program Anthropology and requested the FSR to revise their decision
out	12-06-2019	unsolicited advise	The FSR advised the dean unsolicited about the faculty regulations and the method of appointment of directors within the faculty.
out	03-07-2019	reaction for request to consent	The FSR decided to revise its decision and gave its consent to the language change/internationalization of the Bachelor program of Anthropology.
out	09-07-2019	letter to the dean	The FSR wrote a discussion paper to the dean on the subject of diversity and the diversity officer.
out	15-07-2019	reaction to request for advise	The FSR and works council jointly advised positively on the faculty's draft financial framework 2020.

6. Possible abbreviations

A

AS	Official Secretary
ASVA	General Student Associations Amsterdam
ASW	Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
AV	Audio Visual Services
AVO	Departmental Director Meeting
AZ	Academic Affairs (department at UvA)

B

BKO	Basic Qualification Education
BOB-cyclus	Image-forming , Judgement-forming, Decision-making
BoS	Board of Studies (meeting on domain level)
BSA	Binding Study Advice
BSW	Board Social Sciences

C

CA	Bachelor of Cultural Anthropology
COBEX	Board of Appeal for Examinations
CSR	Central Student Council
CSW	College Social Sciences
CV	Committee Meeting
CvB	Executive Board (from the entire UvA)
CW	Bachelor of Communication Science

D

DB	Daily Board
DSS	Day of Students' Say (weekly consultation hour FSR at the Brug)
DvdA	Day of Representatives (Meeting with OC's, BoS-students and FSR)

F

FdR	Faculty of Law
FGw	Faculty of Humanities
FMG	Faculty of Social Sciences and Behavioral Sciences
FNWI	Faculty of Science
FSR	Faculty Student Council
FS	Facility Services (in charge of the buildings etc of the UvA)
FV-FMG	Faculty Association of the FMG (meeting with all the Student Associations)

G

GPIO	Bachelor of Geography, Urban Planning and International Development Studies
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GSSS Graduate School of Social Sciences

I

ICTS ICT Support
IDS International Development Studies (Department)
ILO Interfaculty Teacher Training

L

LSVB National Student Union
LOF National Consultation Fractions

M

M-OER Model Teaching and Examination Regulation

N

NSE National Student Survey

O

O&O Education & Research
OBP Supporting Management Staff
OC Education Committee
ODO Education Directors Meeting
OER Teaching and Examination Regulation
OR Joint consultative committee
OV Discussion Meeting
OWI Education Director
OZI Research Institute

P

PDCA-cycle Plan, Do, Check, Act-cycle
P&M Promotion & Media
PNID Staff not Employed
POL Bachelor of Political Science
POWL Department of Pedagogy, Educational Sciences and Teacher Training
PSY Department of Psychology
PV Plenary Meeting

R

REC Roeterseilandcomplex

S

SGPL Bachelor of Human Geography and Urban Planning
SOC Bachelor Sociology
SR Student Council
SV Study Association



U

UPvA University Pabo of Amsterdam
UvA-data Data system in which all data is stored
UvA-Q Digital evaluation system for courses

W

WHW Law regarding the Higher Education and Scientific Education
WKV Law regarding the Quality in Diversity
WP Scientific Personnel
WVB Law regarding the Strengthening of Administrative Power

V

VSNU Association of Collaborating Dutch Universities
VZO Chairman's meeting



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Faculty of Social and behavioral sciences

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