



*Centrale*  
**Studentenraad**

# Annual Report

---

Centrale Studentenraad

*Universiteit van Amsterdam*

2018 ~ 2019

## Introduction by the chair

Last year I've had the pleasure to work together with twelve other students filled with enthusiasm and belief in the power of medezeggenschap. They have made sacrifices in their studies, personal life or elsewhere to put time and effort in changing this university for the better. This commitment is not for granted. These are difficult times for the student councils. We see an increase in the amount of unfilled seats, a problem that also faces other student organisations. I hope that this annual report will contribute to changing this balance. To make student politics just a bit more visible. To make sure people see what happened in our office @CREA throughout this year. To make students believe in the medezeggenschap.

Now that our term has come to an end, I can look back with pride on what we as a team have managed to do for the students who placed their trust in us. With this annual report, we share a part of our achievements and experiences with you.

The year started difficult. The UvA was awaiting the *Instellingstoets Kwaliteitszorg* (ITK), which made the CvB very hesitant to pick up new initiatives. In the GV, the joint meeting of the CSR with the Central Workers Council (COR), we had a whole different issue. The CSR 18/19 consisted of five international students and the COR had multiple members who did not feel comfortable speaking in English. We managed to solve the issue by working with live-translation by a professional interpreter. Once we fixed the language issue and the UvA finally passed the ITK, things started to roll. One of the biggest topics this year was the quality agreements. We spent a lot of time negotiating about how to spend the funds from the abolished study grant. In the end we came to an agreement. For more information on the quality agreements, see the reflection on the Organization and Finance committee (O&F). In 18/19 the first step was made towards a new Institutional Plan, the long term strategy of the university. The CSR discussed the first memo with the CvB and added some additional themes, like sustainability.

The CSR has collaborated on these and many more files closely with the CvB, but also a lot with many different policy workers. Interesting and fun working relationships have been established throughout this year, for which I want to thank the CvB and all the policy workers that collaborated with us. These working relationships are what made the past year not only challenging, but also dynamic, fun and informative.

Last but not least, I would like to thank every student that voted for us. We could not have done all this without you.

On behalf of the CSR,



Roeland Voorbergen  
Chair of the CSR 18|19

## Table of content

<b>Composition of the CSR .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Reflection on the past year by the vice-chair.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Committee Organization &amp; Finance (O&amp;F) .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Financial Cycle .....	6
Quality Agreements.....	6
Regulations.....	6
Housing.....	6
Sustainability.....	7
Profiling Fund.....	7
Social Safety .....	7
24/7 University Library Pilot.....	7
<b>Committee Education &amp; Research (O&amp;O).....</b>	<b>8</b>
Vacation week.....	8
BSA.....	8
Honours.....	8
Education & Selection.....	8
Diversity.....	8
<b>Committee Public Relations &amp; Communications (PR) .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Outgoing mail.....</b>	<b>10</b>

## Composition of the CSR

The following people were members of the central student council 2018-2019:

Roeland Voorbergen	Chair & Delegate FSR-FGw
Blink Ujjin	Vice Chair
Jamie van den Berg	Committee Chair Organization & Finance (O&F)
Sujet Hashemi Shams	Committee Chair Education & Research (O&O)
Omar Seleim	Committee Chair PR
Kseniia Golub	General council member
Sofie ten Brink	General council member
David Nelck	General council member
Michele Murgia	General council member
Alex Gritsay	Delegate FSR-FdR
Malou Sprinkhuizen	Delegate FSR-FNWI
Casper Colenbrander	Delegate FSR-FMG
Ivanna Slipets	Delegate FSR-FEB
Liesanne van Veen	Delegate FSR-AUMC

## Reflection on the past year by the vice-chair

As the CSR's primary objective is to represent the students' interests, during our council year, as council members, we have made ourselves informed, discussed, and gave our advice regarding policies and issues around the UvA. The CSR is internally organized in a way that each council member is responsible of several topics in which they focus their efforts in looking into the development of the topic and have informative meetings and discussions with involved parties such as policy workers or student groups. Then the matters will be extensively discussed in a relevant committee and further discussed and decided on at our public Plenary Meeting (PV), our weekly meeting where all CSR members shall be present to ensure that varying opinions and perspectives are being considered on the table.

The past year was the second year that the CSR has international council members and uses English and Dutch language as internal working languages. Followed by the CvB's declaration to be a bilingual university, efforts are being made to facilitate both English and Dutch speaking students. Yet it is still a long way to go. One of our priorities this year was sustainability, in consultation with the relevant UvA staff members, we made a comprehensive sustainability vision which will be taken into account in the development of the UvA sustainability policy. Moreover, we made our case to ensure that the first-year students in the program committee or student council can get their compensation from the Profiling fund. Besides, since the process of Institutional plan 2021-2026 was commenced during our term, we had an opportunity to provide our inputs.

Furthermore, we took initiatives in social safety and smoking policy to make the university a safer place. We gave our comments and remarks on the diversity policy document that is being developed. Moreover, as an external representation initiative, we decided to send a delegation to attend the International youth forum 2018 in Minsk. Finally, with great efforts made from our PR committee, this year the election turnout rate at the central level has increased for the first time in many years. These appreciable and meaningful achievements could not have happened without every CSR members and their efforts and determination put in the CSR work. As a vice-chair, I am more than grateful for everyone's contributions and I could not ask for a better group of fellow student representatives.

During my council year, I have perceived and realized how much impact motivated and enthusiastic students can make when they are given the right seats at the right tables. Hence, I believe striving for a more engaged student community is the way to further improve the UvA community. The potentials of student engagement are especially clear during the student council elections where ideas for improvement and student initiatives were circulated on several campuses. However, great ideas would only remain ideas if they are not executed or discussed. Hence, encouraging students to be more informed and engaged with the ongoing discussions within the university is essential. Lastly, I would like to thank everyone from the voters, my fellow council members and everyone we have collaborated with for this great journey. On behalf of the council, I hope our contributions this year would be beneficial to the UvA and the UvA-students in the long run.

Blink Ujjin, vice-chair CSR 2018-2019

## Committee Organization & Finance (O&F)

### Financial Cycle

Last year the CSR checked, controlled and steered the Financial Cycle of the UvA, which consists of the Budget and the Framework Letter, within the context of the GV. The GV has, in the end, consented to both the Budget and the Framework Letter, with some remarks. The decision on the Budget 2019 was delayed by a couple of weeks, because of irregularities within the faculty budgets and the absence of a good process. By cooperating with Finance, Planning & Control (FP&C) the GV could consent on the headlines of the Budget 2019. The two biggest remarks were on the financial incentives of internationalization and the financial reserves of the different units within the UvA. The GV wanted to decrease both and got an amicable response from the CvB. The first version of the Framework Letter 2020 was not approved by the GV. Fifteen remarks were made on this version. Two of these are the Matching Budgets from the Sectorplans, which could possibly move millions between faculties, and a request for a fund for UvA-wide student engagement projects. In several meetings with the CvB and FP&C, the GV came to an agreement that the implementation of the Sectorplans on the Matchingbudgets will be delayed until more information is available. Both the Matching and the Student Engagement fund will be implemented into the Budget 2020.

### Quality Agreements

Since 2015 students no longer receive a Basic Scholarship, *basisbeurs*, but instead this money will be invested in the quality of education of the universities through the Quality Agreements. The CSR, in collaboration with the GV, has discussed and decided upon the implementation and financial division of the Quality Agreements. The CSR was mainly in favour of dividing the funds amongst the faculties based on the number of students per faculty, but the Central Workers Council (COR) did not agree with this. In the end, the decision was made to divide the funds through the regular weighted system, where students from medicine and science weigh more. In the following months, the CSR worked together with the UvA on several themes: Teacher Professionalization, Educational Facilities and Teaching & Learning Centres. A lot of the money from the Quality Agreements could not be spent this year, but agreements have been made to spend more money next year to improve the quality of education.

### Regulations

The CSR is responsible for or has consenting rights on all student and university regulations. The CSR has also been involved in the process of setting up a new Student Charter. This document describes the rights and obligations of both the students and the university. This regulation hadn't been updated very carefully over the past couple of years, so this year, we were involved in a working group to revise every chapter thoroughly. The updated Student Charter is now, in our opinion, more clear and will be able to help students better to have a comfortable time studying. Besides updating the content, making the student charter more visible for students is now also a real priority.

### Housing

The UvA keeps on working on expanding and improving its Housing Capacity. This will be done at every campus, but the biggest project manifests itself in the Centre of Amsterdam: the University Quarter. At the same time a new University Library is being built in this area and will be finished around 2022. This new campus will enlarge and improve the educational facilities and has been designed in collaboration with the CSR and FSR FGw (FSR of the Humanities faculty). On REC a new lecture hall is being planned called REC-V, this building is still in the pipeline so the CSR 19|20 will work on this as well. At Science Park a new building for the ICAI, the Innovative Center for

Artificial Intelligence, and AI related studies will be built, called Lab42. In general the CSR has achieved an increase of over a thousand extra studyplaces with a higher standard of quality.

## **Sustainability**

The CSR has been actively involved in setting up a Green-Paper that will be the starting point for an UvA-wide vision on sustainability. In collaboration with the FSR FMG, the CSR advised the CvB to set up policy on more sustainable travelling. The CvB has committed itself to most of our recommendations.

## **Profiling Fund**

At the beginning of the year the CSR received the response to the letter on the profiling fund from the previous CSR, indicating the fund would not be changed this year. During the year the discussion was reopened by the CSR due to a ruling by the *College van Beroep voor het Hoger Onderwijs* regarding other universities profiling fund regulations. The CSR managed to reach a compromise with the CvB to allow first years' medezeggenschap students to receive funding in 2019-2020. The CSR and CvB also agreed on a setup for the evaluation of the regulations to take place next year.

## **Social Safety**

During the year the CSR was involved in an expert group on sexual harassment. During the second semester the CvB sent an overview of Social Safety policies currently in place at UvA. The CSR has advised to add measures and create an integral policy on Social Safety. The CvB agreed to send a survey about the state of Social Safety to students, design an awareness campaign and improve the system for confidential advisors.

## **24/7 University Library**

After continuous discussions within the council, it was decided to request a pilot to extend the opening of the UB Singel for the duration of 24 hours a day, for a period of one academic block. We consider this to be the most optimal decisions due to necessity to analyse the desirability and cost-efficiency of the project. The CvB is currently researching the possibilities of running the pilot and the CSR 19-20 will take this up further.

## Committee Education & Research (O&O)

### **Vacation week**

As a small step in reducing the pressure on students, the CSR worked hard on realizing an education free week in the second semester. The CSR reached an agreement with the CvB on this issue, but the exact moment for when the week will be scheduled is still a point of discussion. The goal is to realize this week in 2021.

### **BSA**

On recommendation of multiple faculty student councils and the CSR a couple of years ago, an evaluation on the BSA (binding study advice) had been started up during the spring of 2018. The CSR took part in the working group responsible for doing this evaluation. A concept report was made, which still needs to be finished. The report contains multiple recommendations regarding the BSA, with which the faculties can improve their policy surrounding the BSA.

### **Honours**

A new Honours regulation was implemented in December 2018. This would lead to a new structure. The CSR has sent an advice suggesting three points: to lower the grade needed for Honours from a 7,5 to a 7, to make it more clear which interdisciplinary courses are not yet full, and to improve the medezeggenschap on the interdisciplinary courses. The first point will be considered when setting up a new regulation, the second point will be taken up immediately and the third point will be dealt with in consultation with the responsible OC (programme committee) and the Honours dean.

### **Education & Selection**

More and more programmes are becoming selective. The CSR has had many different discussions on how to respond to this development. The council came to the stance that selecting should only happen when there is no other way and that when selecting is necessary, it needs to be done using a proper procedure that takes a broad scale of different factors into account. Especially the role of diversity within selection is something the CSR has stressed with the CvB. It is important to programmes who have more experience in this field, to share their experience with other programmes. Selection should never be a step back in diversity, but it often can be. Related to selection, were the discussions about language policy. Selectivity is often a consequence of rapid growth as a result of the programme being taught in English. The CSR 18-19 never reached a shared position on how to respond to this development, but stressed the importance of discussing these issues when developing the new Strategic Plan for the UvA in the academic year 19-20. Especially the possible negative consequences for the accessibility of the UvA for Dutch prospective students is a concern that needs to be discussed further.

### **Diversity**

The CSR has provided input on both the plan of action of the Chief Diversity Officer as the Framework Diversity Policy of the CvB. Some of the important points of attention for the CSR were the facilitation of the faculty Diversity Officers and special courses for staff-members.

## Committee Public Relations & Communications (PR)

In the committee for Public Relations and Communication, we focused on improving the student engagement and bridging the gap between the students and the UvA organization. Relevant files from the committee included the website, social media accounts, creating events for the students and the FSRs, and the student council elections.

We maintained social media accounts by posting and promoting CSR related content that also includes surveys to engage the audience and receive feedback. We hosted the *Constitutieborrel* and we hosted different organizations and employees of the UvA.

We worked on engaging projects like New year dinner and Library night. We worked with ASVA and the bureau of communication on Lecture of the year which saw a 4.5% increase in the rate of votes reflecting on the engagement of the students of UvA.

Lastly, we worked on the student council 2019 with the bureau of communication that in a small increase to 12.7% turnout. This collaboration has been evaluated thoroughly and the results have been passed on to the new CSR. Collaborating closely with the UvA's bureau of communication has proven itself fruitful and poses many opportunities if used throughout the entire academic year.

## Outgoing mail

### **The CSR's (unsolicited) advices and responses to requests for consent & advice during 2018-2019:**

CSR-1819-01	uit CvB Selectiecriteria Tandheelkunde
CSR-1819-02	uit CvB Studentenstatuut 2018-2019
CSR-1819-04	uit CDO Plan of Action CDO-team
CSR-1819-05	uit CvB Numerus Fixus BA Psychologie 2019-2020
CSR-1819-06	uit CvB Regeling Experiment Flexstuderen 2019-2020
CSR-1819-07	uit CvB Duurzaamheid – Catering
CSR-1819-08	uit CvB Education & Selection
CSR-1819-09	uit CvB Profiling Fund
CSR-1819-10	uit CvB Sustainability Vision
CSR-1819-11	uit CvB Internationalisation – <i>April Fool's joke</i>
CSR-1819-12	uit CvB Draft framework policy Diversity
-	uit CvB (i.s.m. FSR-FMG) Sustainable travel policy
CSR-1819-13	uit CvB Folia Verkiezingskrant
CSR-1819-14	uit CvB Instellingsplan 2021-2026
CSR-1819-15	uit CvB SLA-cyclus
CSR-1819-16	uit CvB Advies facultaire selectieregelingen bacheloropleidingen 2020-2021
CSR-1819-17	uit CvB Honours
CSR-1819-18	uit CvB Advies facultaire selectieregeling bachelor EBE 2020-2021
CSR-1819-19	uit CvB Studentenstatuut
CSR-1819-20	uit CvB Inschrijvingsbesluit en Instellingscollegegelden
CSR-1819-21	uit OCW Reactie n.a.v. rapport Van Rijn
CSR-1819-22	uit CvB Nota Diversiteit & Ombudspersoon
CSR-1819-23	uit CvB Studentpsychologen op locatie
CSR-1819-24	uit CvB Onderwijsvisie
CSR-1819-24	uit CvB CSR Reglement

### **The GV's (unsolicited) advices and responses to requests for consent & advice during 2018-2019:**

COR 19/u029	GV Instemming kaderbrief 2020
COR 19/u025	GV Reactie kaderbrief 2020
COR 19/u024	GV Instemming integrale notitie kwaliteitsafspraken
COR 19/u018	GV Advies business case IT voor Onderzoek
COR 19/u011	GV Reactie Integrale Notitie Kwaliteitsafspraken
COR 19/u006	GV Instemming research master Business Data Science
COR 19/u005	GV Beleidsprioriteiten kaderbrief 2020 en financiële cyclus
COR 19/u003	GV Instemming opheffing research masters FdR
COR 19/u002	GV Instemming opheffing rMA Neerlandistiek
COR 19/u001	GV Fluistertolk
COR18/u041	GV Instemming conceptbegroting 2019
COR18/u040	GV Instemming startnotitie kwaliteitsafspraken
COR18/u039	GV Reactie op FSR FGw inz. evaluatie Draaiboek Opleidingsaanbod
COR18/u038	GV Reactie op FSR FGw inz. herziening UR en HR
COR18/u034	GV Reactie op instemmingsverzoek startnotitie kwaliteitsafspraken
COR18/u033	GV Instemming actualisering Kader Kwaliteitszorg