

Date: 3th of March 2025
Time: 10:30-12:00
Location: A7.23
Secretary: Mirthe den Held

REC A, Room A3.12
Nieuwe Achtergracht 166
Studentenraad.nl
E-mail: fsr-fdr@uva.nl

Present on behalf of the Faculty Board: Mireille van Eechoud (dean), Pim Koenen and Radboud Winkels

Present on behalf of the FSR: Zofia Rytel (chair), Len Holstein, Mihnea Loi, Johannes Hüttner, Livni Beck, Friso Tjittens, Youssra Aarab, Fabian Que, Roza Wagenaer, Hollando Bangun, and Mirthe den Held (secretary).

OV Meeting

1. Opening of the meeting

Council member Rytel opens the meeting at 10:35.

2. Announcements

Pim Koenen expresses that he looks forward to collaborating with the FSR in his new role as Board Secretary. Van Eechoud announces that Benjamin van Rooij will serve as the new interim Research Director until the end of the year. Recruitment for a permanent successor will begin in April. Additionally, the Faculty will start a selection process for a new Director of the Graduate School.

3. Updates

Van Eechoud reports that at the end of March, there will be a “meerjarenuitsvraag”. This is an assessment of how the Faculty’s financials will develop and will mainly concern how the shortfall in research funding will be addressed. An internal plan for the Faculty is being developed. At the moment, there is no vacancy stop, but it is examined on a case-by-case basis whether it is necessary to bring in additional staff when contracts end or when staff retires. Within this process, program directors have a lot of autonomy. She adds that the evaluation of the ALF course is ongoing. The objectives for introducing ALF are being examined, and an assessment is being made of what can be improved and how much money is being spent.

Council member Que asks how the Faculty will ensure that EC’s will be connected to the ALF course. Van Eechoud states that the issue is on the radar. Council member Loi asks how the budget cuts align with the new role of the Research Director. Van Eechoud responds that a new research strategy is needed now that the *Starters-en Stimuleringsfonds* is gone. The available funding is insufficient to meet existing obligations, and efforts are underway to attract additional funding.

a. Implementation of the Check-In Moments

Van Eechoud states that the implementation of the check-in moments is being discussed with the program directors. She adds that there are no further updates, and that the topic could be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Council member Rytel asks whether the FSR could receive a letter or memo with an update.

b. PPLE

Winkels reports that PPLE has conducted a test visitation to prepare for the accreditation process. The self-evaluation report has been finalized and is currently at the printer. The accreditation visit will take place on 26 and 27 March. The FSR is invited to meet with the visiting committee. Council member Rytel inquires whether

the FSR may receive the preliminary feedback from the test visitation. Winkels responds that the feedback consisted solely of practical remarks.

c. Budget Cuts

Van Eechoud adds to her earlier update that there will be meetings with the *sectiehoofden* and *coördinatoren bedrijfsvoering*. The aim is to discuss the budget cuts more broadly. It is also a standard item on the agenda of meetings with the Works Council. The *directeuren bedrijfsvoering* of the faculties are in discussions with central services regarding the service level agreements, which are expected to be concluded in April. Student services fees are charged to the faculties, and efforts are being made to reduce these costs to allocate more funding to teaching.

d. The FSR's position on the TER

Que states that the FSR has sent its advice to Thalita and Candida. Regarding the Dutch TER, the FSR objects to point A-4.8 lid 3. The proposal concerns requests for reassessment and suggests adding the term 'adequately' motivated. The FSR disagrees with this addition, as the word 'adequately' is vague.

Van Eechoud explains that the Board has observed a significant increase in the number of reassessment requests. Addressing these requests is time-consuming, and many lack sufficient justification. To enhance the efficiency of the process, the term 'adequately' has been added. Holstein argues that the article already allows courses to give extra instructions for reassessment requests, so adding the word 'adequately' to the TER is not needed, as it is unclear and open to different interpretations. Tjittens proposes that a standardized form could help students explain their requests better. Beck adds that the FSR wants to avoid situations where teachers reject a request without looking at it properly, just because it is not 'adequately' explained. Rytel says that the rise in reassessment requests may be due to teachers giving less feedback and that answer keys do not always include all possible correct answers. She adds that clear grading rubrics could help reduce the number of requests and proposes that the Board encourage teachers to use and communicate them. Que concludes that the FSR has the same comment regarding the TER of the master's programmes and agrees with all other submitted amendments.

Concerning the PPLE TER, Holstein explains that he spoke about the extra resit opportunity during the Q&A. Not passing the thesis still allows students to use the extra resit option. Additionally, not passing the integrated research seminar qualifies as a similar exception. This could be added to the TER.

4. Strategies to Increase Student Election Turnout

Rytel states that it is important to increase the number of students that vote and that sign up as representatives for the elections of the student council. Holstein presents the idea of the FSR to send a signed letter from the Dean to all first year's students at the Law Faculty. Wagenaer remarks that last year, a donation was given for every vote. However, it might be more effective to use the budget to create more visibility for the elections.

Holstein adds that the FSR is trying to reach students in other ways and is in contact with the communication department. Winkels asks if the FSR considered organizing a debate. Council member Wagenaer states that the CSR is organizing a democracy day which could involve a public debate, the Faculty could organize something similar. Concerning posting a message on Canvas; Van Eechoud states that the messages are kept limited to teaching related information so that students are not overloaded with information. Council member Tjittens states that a personal message from teachers during tutorials or lectures would also help to increase visibility. Beck adds that organizing the Deaner (a yearly lunch hosted by the FSR for the dean) around the election period could help engage students with the work of the FSR. Van Eechoud responds that she will need to consult with Marketing and Communication to explore what can be arranged. She adds that it would be effective to include a call to action during existing events, such as the Top Lunch.

5. TER compliance in PPLE

Rytel states that there have been issues with the timing of exam results and resits in PPLE, possibly due to an increase in appeals. Winkels responds that he is aware of the problem and that the large number of reassessment requests is indeed one of the causes. He will look into ways to reduce the number of requests. Rytel notes that the FSR previously raised the issue of teachers being late with grading or returning assignments. A refresher

email highlighting key points from the TER could help. Winkels agrees that sending a reminder about the rules wouldn't hurt. Rytel adds that grading rubrics could also help reduce the number of requests. Winkels mentions that new rules on reassessment are being considered, such as the possibility of grades being lowered or limiting the number of reassessment requests per year.

6. Raising Awareness of Accessibility Options

Rytel asks for an update on the efforts to raise awareness of the accessibility options available to PPLE students. Winkels reports that he has spoken with the Communications Department, which is currently working on improving the connection between the central UvA and the PPLE website. Council member Hüttner asks why there is no lift to the fourth floor of the P-building. Winkels explains that installing one was not feasible; however, that floor only contains study spaces. Beck asks whether there are study spaces available for students with special needs. Winkels responds that there are currently no students with special needs enrolled in PPLE.

7. WVTTK

Concerning the strike on 17 March; Van Eechoud reports that the Works Council held a staff meeting last week, which included discussion of the upcoming budget cuts. The Faculty Board is aligned with both the UvA Board and staff on this issue. While the strike may affect students, fully avoiding impact would undermine its purpose. WOinActie and the unions have deliberately scheduled it outside the exam period. Educational directors will inform course coordinators and teaching staff, there will be no reduction in study materials.

Van Eechoud asks whether students are aware of the strike and willing to participate. Council member Wagenaer notes that the CSR is participating, and ASVA is involved in organizing, though she is unsure about the Faculty Councils. Rytel says lecturers have informed students, and the FSR is satisfied with the timing. Holstein suggests that access to previous lecture recordings would help students who miss class due to the strike.

8. Closing of the meeting

11:36

Action-list

Who?	What?	When?
The Board	Will consider feasible and appropriate actions to increase student election turnout, such as sending first-year law students a signed letter from the Dean encouraging them to vote or run as a candidate in the Student Council elections.	In due time
The Board	Will send the FSR a memo with an update on the implementation of the Check-In Moments.	In due time
The Board	Will consider communicating the importance of clear grading rubrics to help reduce the number of reassessment requests.	In due time
Winkels	Will send a reminder about the TER rules to increase compliance.	In due time
The Board	Will discuss with the Programme Directors whether previous lecture recordings can be made available to students who miss a class due to the strike.	In due time