

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025

Time: 10:30 – 12:00

Location: A7.23

Contact person: Zofia Rytel

REC A, Room A3.12

Nieuwe Achtergracht 166

(020) 525 3446

[fdr@studentenraad.nl](mailto:fdr@studentenraad.nl)

[studentenraad.nl/fdr](http://studentenraad.nl/fdr)

E-mail: [fsr-fdr@uva.nl](mailto:fsr-fdr@uva.nl)

Secretary: Mirthe den Held

Present on behalf of the Board: Mireille Eechoud, Nanda Oudejans, Yvonne Donders, Radboud Winkels & Pim Koenen.

Present on behalf of the FSR: Len Holstein, Roza Wagenaer, Johannes Hüttner, Youssra Aarab & Mirthe den Held (secretary).

## OV-meeting

### 1. Opening of the meeting

10:37

### 2. Announcements

Winkels reports that the visitation of PPLE took place last week. Overall, the panel was impressed; the formal report will follow. They found it clear that PPLE is an international, English-taught program. One recommendation was to articulate our educational philosophy more explicitly and to consider alternatives to the current strict attendance policy. Van Eechoud adds that the student panel supported mandatory attendance, but the harsh consequence of exclusion from the course was a source of stress. It was evident that the panel was enthusiastic and noted that staff also gained valuable insights through teaching in PPLE.

### 3. Updates

#### a. Round of short updates

Van Eechoud states that budget cuts remain on the agenda, alongside staffing the Faculty Board. Vacancies for a new Graduate School Director and Research Director will be advertised. Additionally, José Brugman-Augustijn will step away from work for a few months, and a replacement will be sought.

Councilmember Hüttner states that the FSR is organizing a career event. In addition, the FSR continues to host a weekly student engagement table to connect with students. The FSR is present in the REC ABC Hall with a table and banners to increase visibility for the student council and get input from students. Councilmember Wagenaer reports that the FSR is preparing for the student elections, for instance by posting a newsletter in the toilets. At the CSR level, a Democracy Day will be organized.

Councilmember Holstein adds that he will give a speech at *Room for Discussion*, an event focused on student politics. Additionally, the FSR has visited lectures, focusing on law students, as PPLE already sees high participation from both candidates and voters. The FSR is also trying to reach prospective master's students by visiting third-year courses. Donders agrees that reaching master's students is challenging but necessary. Van Eechoud notes that there is data on which third-year students are more likely to stay at the UvA—for example, Dutch students. Holstein elaborates that the deadline to sign up as a student representative falls before students know whether they are admitted to the master's, which makes it difficult for them to engage in student politics.

#### **4. Budget cuts**

Van Eechoud reports that Cornelis Kroonenburg, Operational Director at FNWI, will be working at the Law Faculty two days a week in the coming months to help streamline the decision-making process. At the central level, there was a request for general information on our student numbers and internationalization, which has been submitted. With support from Kroonenburg, internal efforts are underway to work on the next steps.

#### **5. Implementation of AI in the bachelor's programme**

Councilmember Aarab states that the meeting piece on the implementation of AI in the bachelor's programme was written following a meeting with Daan van Versendaal, during which the FSR was informed that the developed AI tools will primarily be used in the Master's programmes. This proposal aims to introduce AI into the bachelor's programmes, as practical AI skills are essential and should be taught sooner rather than later. Oudejans responds that the pilot will start in the master's programmes, but the policy will also be integrated into the Bachelor's. This requires a structured approach that needs careful consideration and will take time. It is essential to teach not only practical skills but also critical thinking skills. This may be integrated into the ALF programme and will discuss this with the ALF director.

Donders adds that AI will be integrated into small, specific courses in each Faculty. Implementing AI is challenging due to ethical, sustainability, and financial concerns. The UvA is experimenting with its own AI tools to better protect privacy. Oudejans adds that it is also indispensable to examine which AI skills are required by the labor market. There are working groups at both the UvA and faculty level working to answer these questions. Winkels adds that, within PPLE, one of the teachers is exploring this topic, and it will be included in the research lab. Oudejans advises the FSR to discuss this with the Programme Committees. Councilmember Aarab states that the FSR's proposal is intended as a signal to implement AI skills in the bachelor's programmes as soon as possible.

#### **6. UvA negotiations regarding the Academic (Uniform) Calendar system**

Councilmember Holstein explains that *Folia* published an article about the possibility of revamping the calendar system. Additionally, the FSR has heard that the Programme Committees have discussed the topic. Currently, the Law Faculty follows an 8-8-4-week calendar, which could potentially be changed to 7-7-3 to allow for more time between blocks. The FSR would like to know the Board's position on this. Van Eechoud states that the Faculty Board is not actively discussing this topic. Faculties have been invited to participate in a pilot, but the Law Faculty is not taking part; the results still need to be awaited. The revamp of the calendar system could also be a response to the budget cuts.

Donders adds that shorter blocks would create space for staff to grade. Part of the discussion would be whether the free week should fall before or after the exams. While staff would prefer the week after, student opinions were mixed. Further, disadvantage of shorter blocks is that they result in more intense weeks, which could also create problems with room scheduling. Councilmember Wagenaar notes that she has heard students prefer the week after exams. Councilmember Holstein adds that students

complain about having an exam on Friday and class again on Monday, leaving little time to rest or prepare for the next course.

Van Eechoud states that the University previously used a 10-10-week system. The shift from 10-10 to 8-8-4 was intended to make it easier for students to take minors, among other reasons. Donders notes that the academic year is long compared to other European countries, which is challenging for both students and staff—especially staff who have little time for research. Van Eechoud points out that shortening the year would only increase the pressure, as the workload stays the same.

Councilmember Wagenaer remarks that knowledge clips could be a solution for explaining more material without the need to schedule additional lectures. Oudejans shares that Bachelor students generally do not watch online clips. It is important to encourage students to study in a more structured way to improve success rates. Winkels adds that it might help to include a small, graded test after the clips. Donders suggests that the FSR could explore different options for the academic calendar system, including for master's programs. Van Eechoud concludes that it would be useful to better understand the student perspective on this topic.

## **WVTTK**

11:25

### **7. Closing**

#### **Action list**

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>When</b>
Donders	Will investigate how to encourage master's students to participate in student politics and assess whether additional communication or information for program directors is needed.	In due time
The FSR	Will discuss AI implementation with the Program Committees.	In due time
The FSR	Will look into the Academic (Uniform) Calendar system from a student's perspective.	In due time