

REC A, Room A3.12
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Date: 22 February 2021
Time: 17:00 – 19:00
Location: Online
Contact person: Domenico Ricciuto
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Present: Clemens Schreiber, Domenico Ricciuto, Alla Molibog, Robert Lange, Rogier Simons, Katarzyna Niedzwiecka, Vincent Loos, Thomas Owens, Zarah Winter, Assamaual Saidi and Jane Bhairosingh
Absent: Olaf Stolk
Guests:
Secretary: Daniel Kraamwinkel

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

Domenico opens the meeting at 17.03.

2. Setting the agenda:

a) CSR Update (Assamaual)

Assamaual states that he will ask Olav to send the attachments of the agenda in the future. He also states that the CSR had a meeting today. He also states that three topics were discussed. The first topic was about the information security policy in the context of the cyber-attack. The second topic was the government announcement that tuition fees for all students will be cut in half next year. Assamaual states that there were concerns on this because it should go for students this year. The third topic was the language policy in the CSR and in the university in general: it should be bilingual but in practice Dutch remains the dominant language.

Robert asks about the consequences of the cyber-attack. Assamaual states that the services are still running and that a working group has been established that is looking at what happened exactly. He also states that the central board is not very transparent about this topic. He also states that their final announcement on this was that the hackers were of a high level.

b) Contemplation room (Assamaual)

Assamaual states that there are two meeting documents for this topic, one with general information on the REC A proposal, the second is the accompanying letter we are asked to sign by the diversity committee as was also discussed two weeks ago. He also states that a contemplation room is a room for people who want to have some quiet/down time for a bit (reflect, rest, meditate, pray etc.). He also states

that there are already four at UvA, one at REC JK, but that this proposal is for one specifically at ours the law faculty (REC A).

Robert states that he thinks it is a good proposal. He also states that it needs a system to regulate who can go in there when to prevent crowded situations. Assamaual states that we can discuss that with the board. He also states that he has not seen a capacity problem in the other rooms, and that there is a max of four or five people.

Rogier states that he and his party 'De Vrije Student', agree with the general principles of this proposal. He also states that he examined the letter and has the following six arguments that will lead to the conclusion to not sign the letter. 1. He states the document (the letter) is incomplete and lacking concrete facts. 2. He also states there is lack of need for a complementation room at REC A. According to a survey, only eleven people found the need, and eight of those still had reservations about it because the one at JK is dirty, small, and not a lot of students know about its existence. 3. He also states there are already existing contemplation rooms, four in total, one at REC (JK). This room will stay open and it is less than 3 minutes from REC A. Furthermore, he talked to the CSR and faculty personnel and heard there are plans to renovate this room to make it more appealing (see point 2.). 4. He also states the student interest in this since there is a lack of space at the faculty for self-studying, teaching and study association rooms already. Therefore, using space for a purpose lacking need would be against the student interest. 5. He also states that the current room will be fine for use (see point 2). Furthermore, the distance should not be a problem because it is only 3 minutes leaving plenty of time in a 15-minute break to use it. He also states that from what he has heard the break is not when the room is used, so we should not use it as our main criterium, it can be used better in between breaks anyways. 6. He also states that there is a similar room for breastfeeding purposes: room REC A8.61. He also states that this room is not used that much so maybe we could combine that with the contemplation room which would mean a contemplation room itself is not necessary. Rogier concludes that a (separate) contemplation room is not necessary.

Assamaual thanks Rogier for spending time and energy on analysing the proposal. He states that there is evidence for demand by the survey, and by people he has talked to. He also states that this proposal is very important for diversity and inclusivity: the faculty should make people feel at ease/home. He also states that the travel time of six minutes is too much for people to make proper use of the existing room. He also states that he is happy to hear that the room at JK will not close, but that we still need one at our own faculty, in a more central position. He also states that combining REC A8.61 with the contemplation room would be a good idea to safe space but to initiate that we would still need to send the letter.

Clemens asks what would happen to the JK room. Assamaual states that he has heard there are no plans to remove that. He also states that anyways the faculty should still have its own. Clemens seconds that. Zarah asks about what would happen if A8.61 would indeed be used for several purposes, and what would happen when interests conflict. Assamaual acknowledges the problem and says this should be worked out by rules etc. but that this is of later concern.

Alla asks whether Rogier's issues are with the idea, or with the way it was laid out. Rogier states that he still has a lot of questions (see above). He also states that he is very concerned about the lack of room for study spaces and study association board rooms. Alla states that this letter could start the conversation. Rogier states that he sees that point. He also states that the current set up could support inter-faculty relations.

Thomas states that sending this letter would be in line with Rogier's point about A8.61, because it would start a conversation. Alla seconds this by saying that this should not be seen as competition to other use of rooms. She also states that if Rogier has proposals for that those should be dealt with on their own. Rogier states that he sees this point in combination with the lack of need, and therefore sticks to his conclusion.

Domenico initiates a vote: 8 yas, 4 nays: the proposal is passed.

Domenico states that he will sign and send the letter to the faculty board.

c) Open day (Alla)

Alla states that the open day is next week. She also states that it will be focused on the upcoming elections. She also states that the plan is to first explain how to join a party, then to have party representatives explain their parties, then there will be a job description, including what we did this year, then the practical workload will be explained. She also states that there will be room for questions and that the entire schedule should take about an hour, after which the attendants can join the PV. Domenico states that he will make sure the PV will be interesting.

Clemens asks if it is necessary to join a party. Alla states that you need a party to be elected, but you can also create one yourself.

d) Working agreement proposal (Domenico)

Domenico states that the current proposal is based on last year. He also states that he went for less rigid regulation because he believes it should be up to the council considering voting etc.

Robert states that we need more regulations as guidelines to fall back on. He also states that he likes the general approach, but thinks the current proposal is too little. He also states as example that the council could use an article on how to deal with the press. Domenico states that this would fall under article 14.2. He also states that this proposal should be discussed over email to fine tune it.

Domenico also states that technically last year's is currently still in effect.

e) FSP (Domenico)

Facultair strategisch plan. Domenico states that we have until the first of March to decide on our opinion. He also states that we are very positive. He also states that one addition was discussed at the GOV, and that he would like to make that official. He states that this addition was about executive education getting priority. He states that he is in favour of having it, but that we should add that it should not interfere with the students' level of education. Vince states that this actually could benefit our education, because it would teach our teachers. He also states that in general he does not expect the students' teachers will go to teach the professionals. Thomas, Katie and Assamaual second this, it will depend per situation. Domenico states that he understands that. A consensus is reached that the council will support the idea, but that the priorities should be kept in check.

3. Other updates

a) Discord room (Robert)

Robert states that he attended a meeting on faculty Discord servers. He also states that one faculty already has this as an online space to work and socialize in and it works very well, 100 active people every day. He also states that the Fdr is currently working on the online library as a similar proposal, but that this would just be for studying. He also states a Discord with socializing options would be better run by the FSR.

Alla states that she likes the proposal, Domenico seconds this. She, however, also states that this would be a very intensive initiative that the council would have to devote a lot of time to. Robert agrees. Domenico asks Robert to come with a scenario on how much time it would cost exactly and what the expectations of its positive effects are for next week's meeting to further discuss on this topic.

Clemens states his concern on that this is highly-covid related, and that he expects people to use it less in the spring when you can go to the parc more easily and regulations might be relaxed a bit. He states that therefore we should be careful with spending time and energy on this.

4. WTTK

5. Closing of the meeting

Domenico closes the meeting at 18.13.

6. Action list

- Send Alla suggestions for the Open Day achievement list or any other suggestions.