



4th meeting of the Faculty Student Council of Law

Date	September 27th, 2021 18.30 – 20.00	Location	Roeterseilandcampus A, Moot Court
Present	Ruben Peetam, Alla Molibog, Vincent Loos, Sam Atherton, Mark Sivolap, Janne Vrenken, Chiara Zuber, Roos de Rooij, Django Wagenaer, Hollando Bangun	Absent	Tuncay Yazar, Amal Zouin
Guests	-	Secretary	Daniel Kraamwinkel

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

Ruben opens the meeting at 18:32.
Tuncay is absent, and mandates Django.
Amal is absent, and mandates Janne.
Mark joins via zoom.

2. Setting of the agenda

The agenda is set.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (September 20th)

Note: No requests for changes have been received.
The minutes of last week are accepted.

4. Review of the action-list

Janne has her meeting with Jeroen tomorrow and will ask him then.
Tuncay has talked to the Islamic student organization. He also has received their survey as distributed. He is not here however to elaborate on his findings.

5. General updates or statements

a. Central Student Council

Mark states the CSR is currently discussing the following topics.
First of all, they are discussing central guidelines for online education, this is an ongoing debate.
Second of all, they are discussing putting up a central policy based on the sustainability white papers that were published last academic year.
Third of all, they are trying to get the central board to reduce the use of proctorio to the bare minimum.
Fourth of all, they are looking into offering students free coffee one day a month as the CSR to increase student interaction.
Fifth of all, the CSR is trying to switch the lingua franca of all documents to English to involve Dutch representers more into the exciting parts of medezeggenschap because at this moment the Dutch documents involve the more “boring” matters. Both the Dutch and Internationals of the CSR think this



is a good idea. The CSR has voted in favour of changing the languages of all files, documents and meetings to English from now on.

Sixth of all, the CSR O&F committee will be joining another student housing protest.

Seventh of all, the central OR (COR) has complained about the workload of hybrid teaching, the university however is receiving more money to cope with this. Also, there are ideas to reduce the workload in the form of lower research publications and less minors etc.

Eight of all, the UvA is looking into a central data gathering layer to make the data handling more efficient. The CSR is raising concerns of security and monetary issues but likes the idea of efficiency.

Ninth of all, the CSR has been looking into dropping mandatory in-person attendance, and giving people the option to join online instead.

Tenth of all, Mark will be meeting with the head of the libraries, if the FSR has any questions, feel free to forward them.

b. Premeeting GOV

Ruben states that this morning there was a premeeting for the GOV on 11 October, the agenda will be discussed in depth next week but here is a quick overview. First of all the contemplation room will be discussed. Second of all the continuation of online education (lectures specifically) will be discussed, O&O will look into this. There will also be updates on sustainability and the “vertrouwenspersonen” (O&F). Finally, Ruben states that the budget will be discussed separately with the committee and the board because the OR already discussed it.

c. Composition of the Opleidingscommissie Bachelor

Ruben states that the applications for all committees are ongoing. There is general consensus that at the OER discussion it could be proposed to increase the amount of student representatives from five to six, to have equal representation from each year.

Alla asks who the PPLE representers have become. Chiara states it is Ana Waschnewski (politics), Andreea Zetea (psych), Melina Hermann (law), and Alin Hampau (econ).

Roos states that the OC Dutch masters would like to cooperate more with O&O, especially concerning the OER. There is general consensus that this would be a good idea for all OCs.

d. Hollando’s quiz

Hollando has contacted JFAS and they are very excited. Hollando will join a committee for this to work on it.

Janne asks about the budget. Hollando states very little budget is needed and that he will discuss it with JFAS and ask what they might be able to add. Janne asks to be kept in the loop when it comes to the budget.

Ruben states that he and the council are very happy with these developments.

6. Adopting the internal budget of the Council

Ruben states this topic was discussed last week, now the council has to come to a decision.

Alla states that she would like to add some context to what was discussed last week concerning the sweaters. Last year there was a budget of about 60 euros a hoodie. That expense should be seen in light of corona, barely any money had been spend up to that point. Furthermore, they were sustainable and the council had just signed the green commitment.

Janne states that no big changes have been made to the budget from a treasurer point of view because no changes have been requested by any individuals concerning last week’s proposal.

Janne also states that last week every committee was asked to look at their expected expenses for the upcoming year. Concerning this, the PR committee has some discussion points on the budget for the council. First of all, she states that a second councilweekend could be fit into the budget as it currently stands under

what has been assigned to the transition weekend only for now, but that it would be a bit tight. This could however also be replaced by several smaller gatherings that are also cheaper and that is what the PR committee proposes. She also states that if the second council weekend is abolished, 500 euros from the transition weekend budget will be allocated somewhere else, probably to external activities. Therefore the PR committee asks the council if the second weekend should be abolished.

Alla states that the increase of the budget and the council weekend should be separated. She also states that she as former PR chair does not believe it is possible to fit the two weekends in the current budget. Janne restates that she believes it is feasible.

Janne also states that the second ask of the PR committee is for the council to have a separate vote on sweaters. The PR committee proposes to have 400 euros allocated to a merchandise budget, but that this could be also spend differently.

The other committees state they do not have any (big) expenses to add.

Therefore, Janne concludes that the current budget should work, and states that she believes if the budget would be expanded, it should go to external activities for students. Chiara seconds this and states that external activities are especially important with the world opening up again.

Roos asks if it would be possible to increase the budget later in the year if really needed. Ruben states that it is, this budget is meant as an estimation.

Sam asks why the budget is so tight compared to last year.

Janne states that this is due to external activities, cobos, and office supplies.

Alla adds that she thinks that even if the council does not want to increase the budget, the council should still host open days etc. There is general consensus on this point.

The council votes on the next topics:

First of all, there is a vote for the abolishment of the second councilweekend as discussed above. Ruben, Alla, Vincent, Sam, Tuncay, Mark, Janne, Chiara, Hollando, Roos, and Django vote in favour of abolishment. Amal abstains. Thereby, the second councilweekend is abolished.

The second vote is on the sweaters, does the council want sweaters? In favour: Alla, and Mark. Against: Ruben, Vincent, Tuncay, Janne, Django, Chiara, Roos. Abstaining: Sam, Amal, and Hollando. Thereby, the council will not purchase sweaters this year.

Finally, there is general consensus on approving the budget as a whole for the 21/22 year as presented.

7. (Re-)establishing the FSR's stance on the contemplation room

Ruben states that there are talks with the OR on the topic. He also states that O&F has presented their advice to the council. He also asks Sam to further elaborate.

Sam makes the following statement:

“We, the O&F Committee, believe the points suggested in our proposal sufficiently discuss the necessity for changes around the contemplation room in the J/K building and support the addition of one in the REC A building.

The inadequacy of the current J/K room, both in the design of the room itself and the location cannot allow for the room to fulfill its intended purpose of providing space for students to relax, refresh, or ‘contemplate’. By creating an inconvenience of the acts, we fall short in encouraging a safe and diverse space of the university as well as failing to promote mentally healthy behaviours.

In the developing and evolving society we live in, on a global, national, and local level, it is important to frequently reevaluate how we, the privileged, are treating those worst off in the community. We owe it to those people to help ease anxieties and provide a supportive environment for, in this case, quality education. The choices of cultural, religious, spiritual, or mentally healthy practices should be promoted by the student councils, works councils and boards but furthermore, should certainly not be a hindrance to one's acquisition of knowledge.

At the bare minimum, we owe it to those among us who might want (and currently use) the contemplation room in J/K to improve the quality of the room by repainting the walls, improving the lighting, and

renovating the furniture. But given our current positions within the student council, I would assume not only that we want to exceed the bare minimum, but that we are here because we volunteered our time and skills to aiding and improving student lives.

Designating a room in the REC A building extends the support of the FMG faculty unto our student body as a whole. The contemplation room is not just a space for prayer and meditation, it is a space for all students to practice mentally healthy activities like mindfulness but can also be a space for a break away from the stress and chaos of the university. We live in an increasingly integrated society and we are responsible for our part of a shift toward a better integrated society. We owe safety to all students. We owe quality education for all students. We owe a university for all students.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to an open-minded, considerate discussion.”

Django as a member of the O&F committee has a dissenting opinion on this topic as discussed below.

Django states that he as a committee member has a different opinion on the matter. He visited the room as well and he admits that it is not a great room, but so are many lecture halls, and he has seen many worse rooms than the contemplation room at JK. He states that if the contemplation room needs improvement, then so need lecture halls since lecture halls and study spaces as well should as much of a priority. He also does not see the secularization/colonial argument as written down and applied in the O&F letter. He also states that many students use other strategies to find stress relieve, he himself likes to have a beer across the street for example. Furthermore, he states that there are too little study spaces already, therefore no study spaces at ABC should be sacrificed for a contemplation room.

Sam responds that she does not believe the “seen worse” argument holds up. Furthermore. She adds that the contemplation room would be much cheaper to fix than a lecture hall. Furthermore she believes the colonial argument does hold up (they both consent to further discuss this specific argument later). She adds that she does not believe the council should promote alcoholism. Finally she states that having less stress should also improve the studying, and therefore the contemplation room could actually have more effect than added study spaces.

Django states that if anything, the current room should be improved, and he does see some reasoning for that. He adds that this is the cheaper option and that public money should not be spend lightly.

Janne states that in response to Django, the survey shows that the location is a big issue. 61.3% of the participants stated that they were late for classes because the room was too far. Also, she thinks study spaces could be moved from the ABC to JK if needed. Furthermore, people did not feel safe in the JK building again showing that the location is the biggest aspect to improve about the room.

Roos wants to ask what proof Django needs as prove that a contemplation room is necessary, because she wonders if he is very set on his opinion..

Django states about the survey that there were some participants that stated were not UvA students. Also, the survey is not representative of the entire campus. He also states to Roos specifically that he would like to look into other options to reduce stress before a contemplation room because he does not see the relationship between students having stress and a mandate for a contemplation room (this in relation to his earlier comments about other stress relieving strategies).

Alla states that since the university is focusing on inclusivity, the needs of minorities should be taken very seriously. Janne and Sam second this. Sam adds that the FSR is also there to represent minorities. Janne adds that indeed the survey might not be representative for the entire campus, but that the minority is the group of interest in this case which is why the survey is highly relevant.

Django responds that he thinks 60 respondents for the entirety of UvA is not enough mandate.

Chiara states to clarity, there are two votes about to be held. The first is on improving the current room, the second on adding an extra room at ABC.

The first vote is on renovating the current room. In favour: Ruben, Alla, Vincent, Sam, Mark, Janne, Roos, Django, and Amal. Against: -. Abstaining: Tuncay and Hollando. Thereby, the council will push for renovating the JK contemplation room.

The second vote is on having an additional contemplation room for the FdR at REC ABC. In favour: Ruben, Alla, Vincent, Janne, Roos, Amal, and Chiara. Against: Tuncay and Django. Abstaining: Mark and Hollando. Thereby, the council will push for adding a contemplation room at ABC.

8. Other points raised during the meeting (WVTTK)

a. Registration of first year students (Ruben)

Ruben states first years have been being misregistered, he is looking into this.

b. Representation to the Koepel

Ruben states that the FSR needs a representative to the Koepel of student organizations. He will be that representative (general consensus).

c. Cobos

Hollando and Ruben will go to the Wednesday CoBo.

d. TAQT

Alla asks everyone to fill in the TAQT doodles. She also states that if people want to follow additional trainings, feel free to do that. There is general consensus that non-pressing trainings will take place later in the year.

e. Office management

Janne states she would love to organize the office a bit. She is unanimously voted in as office manager. She will clean and organize the room, and all councilmembers are expected to keep the room clean and organized. Anyone who wants to help out is welcome to text Janne about this. Hollando states he definitely will.

Alla asks if Janne could purchase some office chargers. Janne states she will.

Daniel reminds everyone to clean their mugs after using them.

9. Final questions

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10. Closing of the meeting

Ruben closes the meeting at 20:00.

In the case of absence and/or mandate, please send an e-mail to ruben.fsr.fdr@gmail.com.

Action-list

Who?	What?	When?
Janne	Ask Jeroen for how the compensation is coming along.	28/09
O&O	Look into the budget plans to discuss with the board	In due time



O&F	Work out contemplation room advice and send it to the Board and OR	Before the GOV (in due time before the meeting)
Ruben	Finish up the paperwork for Janne to become the office manager	In due time