



12th meeting of the Faculty Student Council of Law

Date	November 30th, 2021 13.00-15.00	Location	Roeterseilandcampus A
Present	Ruben Peetam, Alla Molibog, Vincent Loos, Sam Atherton, Tuncay Yazar, Mark Sivolap, Janne Vrenken, and Hollando Bangun	Absent	Vincent Loos, Chiara Zuber, Roos de Rooij, Amal Zouin, and Django Wagenaer.
Guests	-	Secretary	Daniel Kraamwinkel

Agenda

Notes by the chair are written in cursive and are part of the agenda and the minutes, after publication.

1. Opening of the meeting

Ruben opens the meeting at 13:04
Roos is absent, she mandates Janne.
Amal is absent, she mandates Janne.
Chiara is absent, she mandates Sam.
Django is absent, he mandates Tuncay.

2. Setting of the agenda

The agenda is set.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (November 23rd)

No requests for changes by members of the Student Council have been received.
The minutes are approved by evident majority.

4. Review of the action-list

Ruben states that a law perspective has been added to the blind grading proposal. This letter is reapproved by the council by evident majority. Ruben states it will be sent out today together with the accessibility proposal (discussion under point 6.b).
Janne states that PR has not yet promoted the covid measures. She asks what the idea is exactly.. Ruben states the focus should be on the general measures, specifically the wearing of face masks and self-testing. Janne states she will make the posts today or tomorrow.
Janne states that she made some comments on the recommendations still, but mainly typographical. Ruben states he will still incorporate those comments in the final drafts.

5. General updates or statements

a. Central Student Council

The delegate to the Central Student Council can use this agenda point to report on relevant activities at the central level.



Mark states that last week the CSR met with the CVB. He states that they discussed an uni app that would be for online meetings both professional and social.

Tuncay joins the meeting.

Mark also states that the university is trying to adhere to the Paris agreements. They have allocated 75 million to this purpose and they should be on track to achieve their goals.

He also states that last block a software programme for plagiarism glitched. Now the CSR is thinking about getting different software because it should not happen again.

Finally, the CSR discussed the discussed two exam opportunity with the CVB. The CVB said it was just a couple of instances for which it was relevant so those students have to figure it out themselves with the exam board. The only thing the CVB added was that they might talk to the deans about it, but they stated it is mainly a topic for the individual faculties to decide.

b. Working methods

Ruben states that almost everyone has had their evaluation meeting with Alla. It was a request from the members who are often absent during the PVs that they receive a draft agenda before the weekend so that they can prepare their mandates eg. Ruben states he will do this in addition to the final agenda each Monday.

Ruben asks the councilmembers that if they have docs for the meeting, please send them before the weekend if possible to give everyone enough time to properly read them.

Alla states that another request by the absent members is to send context with any texts that are sent after the PV. She asks the council to adhere to this request.

6. Preparations for the Joint Meeting of December 13th

The premeeting was held on November 29th. The Joint Meeting will be presided over by the chair of the Student Council. The Student Council is asked to consider the following agenda points. See also the attachments.

a. Recommendations regarding blind grading

The Student Council has already approved the recommendations at the meeting of November 23rd. The final letter is for the biggest part equal to the text that has been considered. Without objection, the letter will be filed with the faculty board and the Works Council after the meeting.

There are no further questions to this point. The recommendation will be sent out tomorrow.

b. Recommendations regarding accessibility

The Committee for Organization & Finance has prepared numerous recommendations regarding the accessibility of education. These recommendations are to be discussed with the Works Council and the faculty board, after approval.

It is proposed that the Student Council approves the recommendations for consideration during the Joint Meeting.

Ruben states he sent the most recent version. Sam states that O&F added some things at the top to clarify. She states it mainly concerns examples of the problems. The content has remained the same. Sam states she will send this version ASAP, and that any amendments can be sent to her after the meeting.

Sam now clarifies the contents of the recommendation, there are eight different proposals.

Proposal A on the revolving doors. The proposal is to have one normal door unlocked at every entrance to ensure that disabled students can access all buildings.

Proposal B, there are monitors that make reading more easy but they are not reserved for the students who actually need them. The proposal entails to have several of these monitors containing a reserved sign that may only be removed by students with a disability.

Proposal C, some students have a lot of extra trouble with tutorials in basements. When changes are made to the schedules, the schedulers should take a look at if such students are in a group before placing that group in a basement. Ruben states that these changes can be made up to the last minute. Therefore, this should be discussed at the GOV also from the workers point of view.

Proposal D, readings should be made accessible to everyone. Not all readers can be put into special programmes that read out loud to students with sight troubles. The proposal states that teachers should only use texts that can be read by such programmes.

Tuncay states that some super old texts might be relevant to courses like history of European law (Grotius eg.). Therefore, the rules cannot be too strict. Sam states they could be transcribed into a programme. Janne states this would only have to happen once. Ruben proposes that the proposal is a bit milder, and that the teachers can be asked to transcribe some older texts.

Proposal E, if you go to the accessibility page of UvA, they recommend some readers. The best one is the third one, it costs about 100 euros per year. If UvA buys an educational account, it would be 440 euros for everyone in total. So even if just a couple of students use it, this would save a ton of money. This could be purchased under quality insurance in the budget which the FSR can influence. Ruben explains that these funds are used for tutorship or anything that adds to the quality of education, and therefore are indeed the appropriate funds.

Proposal F, the marketing of the UvA (newsletters etc.) should be readable by the earlier discussed content reader programmes.

Proposal G, there is a problem for students who have to retake courses because of doctor appointments. This mainly concerns PPLE because it has a very strict policy on attendance. The proposal entails making it possible to join another tutorial as the standard.

Janne adds that every course says you cannot attend tutorials if you miss too many, which comes down to the same problem in case of doctor appointments. Alla states that officially you can get an exemption for this from the examination board. So there is already a process, but it is too strict. Ruben adds that this is indeed the case. However, it is too complicated. Ruben adds that this could be done through the OER. We could maybe change it for PPLE too. Alla states that the attendance policy will probably not be changed, it is very embedded in the culture.

Proposal H, elevators do not have proper braille and the same goes for some eyelevel signs. This can be fixed very easily by some stickers.

Tuncay states he thinks it is an awesome proposal in general, this could really make a change.

Ruben gives his compliments to Sam and O&F for this well drafted proposal.

Sam adds that they would like to institutionalize one person somewhere in the faculty as a representative for disabled students, something like an ombudsman. Ruben states this could maybe be done by the review of the faculty regulations in the spring. This idea is accepted by evident majority. Meanwhile, we can ask at the central level if the officers of the disability platform can be reinstated. Mark will do this.

There is an evident majority on passing this proposal.

Final changes will be made today, it will be send tonight and added to the GOV agenda.

c. COVID

It has been requested that the current state of the COVID-measures is discussed during the Joint Meeting.

Ruben states the council is still awaiting the response to the examination policy. He is under the impression that nothing will change because the measures for education have not changed. He asks if there any relevant updates now keeping in mind that the CVB will not do anything.

Alla states that the council has to establish a stance for the faculty. She would like to see an ABC plan for which will make the faculty more adaptable to different scenarios, because the pandemic does not seem

to be going anywhere. Therefore, Alla proposes to make a demand for different plans and making online materials available everywhere at any time.

Janne asks about the formalities. It is really important to raise this issue, but she is not sure how to get to the end goal, she would like to have a strategy. Alla asks if writing an advice is the best way to go. Janne states that it probably is. Ruben suggests to focus on the unclarity of the current (non-existent) policy. Alla states the form of the advice can be free, but the demands should be very precise. She also states it is not up to the council to write a full policy letter on this. Ruben adds that this is very much up to the faculty, the council has a more reactive role Ruben states the council can at least raise the importance of clarity.

Daniel (in his role as a concerned student, because he is not an elected council member) states that he believes it is time for the council to take a more active role. The faculty seems reluctant to take proper measures in a proactive manner that would create certainty for students. The students have been the victim of this since the beginning because they end up with the uncertainty affecting their results and perhaps even causing delay; that is besides all the mental health issues. Therefore, the council as the student representative body can simply not stay passive and reactive anymore. Daniel (still not an elected council member) concludes that it is time for the council to step up and represent the interests of those who elected the council members on this vital matter because otherwise, the faculty will keep being reactive and the students will keep being the victims of this approach.

Alla says this is exactly why the council should start with the demands for online lectures, and an ABC proposal. Furthermore, the council should raise the issue of having only one option for exams and the problems and incentives this causes for sick students.

Ruben proposes to write a letter before the next PV. This can then be send to the OR and Faculty board to be discussed at the GOV. On the basis of this discussion the FSR can then write an official advice.

This idea is passed by evident majority.

Alla will write the draft.

d. Contemplation room

The faculty board has been asked to give an update on the contemplation room.

e. Year plans (drafts)

Not yet received.

We should receive it this week.

f. Evaluation of the Academic Excellence Track

Not yet received.

Will be discussed by O&O and send ASAP.

g. Herziening bachelor

Not yet received.

Same as F.

All docs that have not been received will be discussed next PV in preparation for the GOV.

7. Other points raised during the meeting (WVTTK)

a. Exchanges

Ruben states he received an email from a student who is planning on going to the US for an exchange. However, it is on orange which means she could not go. She has made clear that the safety policies in the US are in fact a lot stricter, so she does not see why she cannot go. Tuncay asks why the policy is in place. Daniel states he believes it is mainly because if the UvA sends students somewhere, they also have to host them which can be hard during lockdown. Alla adds that this year the risk has been put on the

individual students, this student can ask for an exception via the exchange coordinator but there is no general rule to help her out.

b. USC deal

Mark states this was first brought up in the council at the beginning of the year. It was brought to the CSR. Mark looked into the finances and he heard that it is a general first year discount as a marketing thing. If they start giving it to everyone, it will not work out financially. Therefore the main way to make it feasible is through UvA funds, which seems unlikely. The other option is to raise the fees, which seems like a bad idea. There is general consensus on not pursuing this further. Sam will reply to the student who raised the problem to explain what happened.

8. Final questions

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9. Closing of the meeting

Ruben closes the meeting at 14:24.

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

Action-list

Who?	What?	When?
Mark	Ask at the central level about the reinstatement of the disability platform officers.	In due time
Alla, Ruben	Draft written advice on long-term covid policy	If possible before next PV
Sam	Reply to the USC – student	In due time

