

REC A, Room A0.04  
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Date Wednesday 26 September 2018  
Time 15:00-17:00u  
Location A7.65  
Contact person Anne van den Bergh  
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Present: Anne van den Bergh, Anna de Koning, Ginger Mooren Guillano Payne, Minh Quan Bao Nguyen, Latif Sleibi, Vanessa Romeijn, Svedva Krishnaraj, Felix Wolthuis Scheeres.  
Absent: Anna Schröder, Jinane Araqi, Alexander Gritsay  
Guests:  
Secretary: Myron Warta

## **Agenda**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

Anne opens the meeting at 15:03.

### **2. Setting the agenda:**

#### **a. OV debriefing: thoughts/remarks/suggestions/questions?**

Anne asks how council members experienced that the OV. Felix states that it went all right for a first time. Guilliano states that the debate about the lecture recordings was not satisfying. Latif states that the FSR reacted too emotional on the matter of lecture recordings. Guilliano states that at a certain point in the debate the FSR used the same arguments again. Svedha states that during the OV all members should have had their WhatsApp open to communicate about the direction of the discussion. Guilliano states that he and Felix wanted to contribute to the discussion, but that they could not communicate it.

Anne asks about what the FSR thinks of the point Benjamin made. Felix states that he was talking about the 'good students' that want to do internships or work, but that there are a lot of students that do not work or do an internship and do neither go to the lectures and seminars. Guilliano states that there are certain students that struggle during the lectures because they need more time to understand what is actually being said. Guilliano states that from his own experience he needed the recorded lectures to fully understand what was being said. Felix states that he agrees to the point made by Guilliano.

Guilliano states that the new measure taking by the Board encourages people that are not doing so well, but that it has negative sides too. Svedha states that Benjamin's argument was, that this was done for the people at the bottom, but that now everyone is experiencing the negative side of this new measure. Latif states that the FSR should make an agreement to extend the period of time in which the lecture recordings should be online available. Anne states that she had a talk with a professor who would be in favour of this idea. Felix states that the Board would like students to perform better and go to the lectures, for this they should be rewarded to have an extended period of time to watch the lectures back. Guilliano states that the Board looks unwilling to look at other options. Anne states that the board is willing to discuss this point further. Felix states that the FSR needs to make concrete points that can be presented to the Board in the informal meeting.

Latif asks about which member of the council had mandatory lectures and how the teachers checked that? Svedha that the checking was done by means of a form that students had to sign before entering the lecture hall. Latif states that the attendance could also be rewarded with a 10% counting for the end grade. Guilliano states that in previous years full participation in the seminars was rewarded with not making a particular exam question. Anna de Koning states that maybe a check-in with their student card could help checking the attendance of students. Anne states that she refuses this idea as a student. Felix states that this is also not in line with the university guidelines. Guilliano states that he feels that it is the student's choice to attend lectures or not. Ginger states that the intention of the Board is working. The lecture halls are full again. Svedha states that it motivates the lecturer to make better slides. Anne states that working groups on this matter will still be maintained.

**b. Set up working groups for issues discussed during OV**

- **Study spaces**

Anne states that she felt that the Board was upset hearing about the library and non-law students. Guilliano states that the computers should not solely be at the library, but on other floors too in REC A. Anne proposes that council members in working group of REC A accessibility get together with the working group on study spaces.

Anne asks who is interested in getting the working group REC A started? Quan states that Anna Schroder is starting this working group. Felix states that this matter is related to accessibility and that Ginger can get it started. Anne states that working group REC A accessibility and study spaces will go together.

- **REC A accessibility**

- **Canvas integration**

Latif states that he is waiting the contact-information of Marleen Bakker that José will send him. Latif states that the Board was surprised about the manual for teachers. Svedha states that the board was going to make the pro's and con's on this matter and will send it to the FSR when it is

ready.

- **Web lectures**

Anne states that it will be the working group of Anne, Anna, Alex and Anna de Koning. Vanessa states that she would like to be involved in it as well. Anne states that Vanessa can join. Anna de Koning states that the FSR has to conduct their own research on the comparisons between faculties that were made by the Board during the OV.

Anna states that the UvA ranking on a national scale is bad, but internationally it is doing much better. The rankings that UvA students give are a lot lower than at the other universities in the Netherlands. Guilliano states that he feels that the current status of the UvA is patronizing the students. Anne proposes that all the members of the FSR should think about what would be a good policy for the web lectures. Ginger states that the NSA will be worse this year because of the mandatory lectures.

**c. Honours program board meeting: discuss FSR views on HB/possible avenues for collaboration**

Anne asks who is able to make it to this meeting. Anna de Koning asks what will be discussed during the meeting. Anne states that she does not know that. Svedha states that she can be present at the meeting. Guilliano states that the honours program is discriminatory, because certain classes that are not open for students that do not follow the honours program. Felix states that the best teachers go to honours program, but that normal students should also get classes by these teachers. Svedha states that it seems fair that honours students get the better teachers. Guilliano states that all the students pay the same amount of tuition and for that get the same treatment.

Anna de Koning states that she understands this, but that honours should be an incentive for other students to do better. Guilliano states he is not in favour to abolish the honours program and that it should not be solely based on grades. It excludes students that are growing in their study. Anna de Koning states that intrinsic motivation should also be a part of this program. Felix states that the grade average at honours is quite low; it is a minimum of 7.5. Quan states that there should be looked beyond the grades. Vanessa states that there are a lot of students that do well, but just not well enough to enter the program. Ginger states that motivation, participation in the university and jobs in the law sector should count too. Ginger states that last year there were a lot of complaints about honours at the OC about being it discriminating.

Anne states that the honours program can come over as an elitish bubble within the UvA. Svedha asks if the discrimination is aimed at color or at first generation students. Anne states that it is aimed at the latter group. Svedha states that students of color should not be chosen solely based on their skin color. Guilliano state that choosing students based on their skin color does not have to be a bad thing. Guilliano states that motivation should play a bigger role in the Honoursprogram. Felix states that for ALF the first four courses have to be passed with a minimum of a 6.5, but in the second year all the courses had to be passed with a 6.5. Felix states that the grade to get in honours program could be

lowered to make it more accessible. Anne states that the 7.5 should be the goal, but that students with a 7 should also be allowed to enter. Ginger states that if a student wants to apply for a job at a Law firm he or she will be asked to present their grades. Anna de Koning states that applying for a law firm, grades are important. The honours program is aimed at the specific jobs at law firms. Anne states that the honours classes are full. Quan states that this can indicate that it is not as exclusive as they tend to show it. Guilliano states that the rule of passing classes at the first try with a 7.5 is rigorous and should change. Felix states that he agrees with that, because a student could have a funeral at the exam date.

#### **d. Constitutieborrel**

Quan states that the FSR should pick a date. Quan proposes 19<sup>th</sup> of October. Felix states the borrel should be on the same day as the one of FMG. Quan states he talked to FEB about the locations and that two were picked. Quan states that the date has to be agreed upon with FEB, but that this date will not be a problem.

### **3. To Dos**

TD's:

- 180926: Anne will set up a meeting with the new OCB (will be elected by the end of this week)
- 180926: PR will write a contribution to Studentennieuws
- 180926: PR will update the FSR website: <http://www.studentenraad.nl/rechtsgeleerdheid/>
- 180926: Working groups will get together to work on concrete steps forward re: respective issues
- 180926: Working groups will get in touch with relevant UvA bodies to request fact sheets/additional information to help them write a(n) (potential) advice to the board

### **4. Other updates**

Quan states that he had a meeting with the Diversity board and that they will meet with Radboud. In that meeting they will be advising on diversity policy, including literature and enrollment.

Anna de Koning states that there should be a better agenda with all the meetings and activities of the FSR. Anne states that this is a matter that should be discussed with Anna Schröder.

### **5. WVTTK**

#### **6. Closing of the meeting**

Anne closes the meeting at 16:20.

**TD 180926 Ginger gets in touch with Jan Dijk about REC A accessibility and study spaces.**

**TD 180926 Send Anne ideas about what would be a good policy on the web lectures.**