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Datum 24 september 2018
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Locatie REC A7.23

Anne van den Bergh, Anna Schröder, Anna de Koning, Ginger Mooren, Guillano Payne,
Alexander Gritsay, Minh Quan Bao Nguyen, Latif Sleibi, Vanessa Romeijn, Svedha
Krishnaraj, Felix Wolthuis Scheeres, José Brugman- Augustijn, Benjamin van Rooij, Jan Dijk,
Arthur Salomons en Andre Nollkaemper (decaan).

Voorzitter: Anne van den Bergh

Notulist: Myron Warta



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

Agenda

1. Opening en vaststellen agenda

Council member van den Bergh opens the meeting at 15:08.

2. Mededelingen

Council member Gritsay requests on behalf of the council if these meetings and the meetings after can be conducted in English. Council member Gritsay states that conducting the meetings in English will benefit the cooperation between the board and the FSR. It will also benefit the effectiveness on the Faculty of Law wide issues. The PPLE students in the council would like to contribute to these issues as well. Council member Gritsay states that when English is maintained as the main language during the meetings the PPLE students can contribute. Council member Gritsay states that when a matter gets to technical, Dutch can be used. Council member Gritsay states that there is a second argument for speaking English during the meetings. Council member Gritsay states that he represents the Faculty in the CSR and without English in the meetings it would be difficult for him to represent the Faculty.

Nollkaemper states that he agrees that meetings will be conducted in English. Although it deviates from what was agreed earlier with the FSR. Nollkaemper states that he is not keen on providing all documents in English. Only the documents that specifically relate to PPLE will be presented in English. Council member van den Bergh states that the FSR itself can translate the documents if needed. Nollkaemper states that when Dutch OER articles are being discussed that this will be done in Dutch, because that would be more convenient for everyone.

Council member Schröder asks if Jan Dijk will be coming later. Nollkaemper states that Jan Dijk will be a joining later. Nollkaemper states that it would be better to wait for the arrival of Jan Dijk to discuss the building REC A and budget. Council member Schröder asks if for the point of the lecture recordings it should be wise to wait for Salomons to join the meeting. Nollkaemper states that this point should be discussed with Salomons and that it would be better to wait for Salomons to join and discuss the matter in his presence.

3. **Gebouw REC A:** **- Studieplekken**

Council member Payne states that since the moving from the Oudemanshuispoort to Roeterseiland he has heard complaints from other students, that there is a lack of computers in the faculty library. Council member Payne states that many students do not own laptops or do not want to bring them to the library. Because students need to write many essays or work on their thesis and doing research it is noteworthy that the law library went from fifty computers to twenty-five computers. Council member Payne states that many law students cannot make use of the computers, because other students would make use of these. Council member Payne states that there need to be more computers or there has to be a change of policy in the law library, that not every UvA student can make use of the library.

Nollkaemper states that the access to the law library by other students has been an extensive topic that was discussed with the previous FSR. Nollkaemper states that it is difficult to make the library an all law library. This was discussed back and forth with the previous FSR. Nollkaemper states that he suggests that this discussion should not be reopened. The board is monitoring the library and this will be followed and will be discussed on a later occasion based on the new gathered facts.

Nollkaemper states that the lack of computers is a new topic for him and that he has not heard of yet. Nollkaemper states that he does not have hard figures of the amount of computers that were present in the old building. Council member Payne states that there were over fifty computers in the basement in the Oudemanshuispoort and that this has been reduced to 25.

Council member Payne states that during the time on the Oudemanshuispoort there were no complaints, but after the moving to Roeterseiland the students are forced to go to the UB or other places to use a computer. Nollkaemper asks Jan Dijk if he has information on this topic. Jan Dijk states that this is the first time that he hears about this topic. Jan Dijk states that the board can talk to the library if they recognize this problem. Nollkaemper states that it would be wise to collect facts on how the computers are used, by whom and what is known about the general student demand for computers.

Nollkaemper states that his initial thought is that there will always be more students than computers. The question would be what part of the students does not own a laptop and would be served by this type of service. Council member van den Bergh asks if the law library is monitored by itself. Nollkaemper states that, the library itself carries out the monitoring. Council member van den Bergh asks if there is a system that registers what type of students comes in the law library. Jan Dijk states that the only source that is present comes from the monitoring of the library. However the faculty does not have exact numbers on how many non-law students make use of the library. Nollkaemper states that also students from other universities are coming to the library of the UvA to study. Nollkaemper states that the key question in this matter is what the exact demand is for computers by students. The law library does not have that information, but they can observe how often the computers are being used.

Council member Payne asks if Nollkaemper could explain why the number of computers has been reduced. Nollkaemper states that this needs to be researched. Jan Dijk states that the total amount of computers at UvA has been reduced and that there were only few



complaints. Jan Dijk states that he does not know how many students need a computer.

Council member Gritsay asks about options on making the law library only usable for law students and PPLE by using their student ID's. Nollkaemper states that this was discussed with the previous FSR and this method was not used, because of technical reasons. Nollkaemper states that options can be looked at and steps can be taken, but the problem has to be significant. Nollkaemper states that this point stays on the agenda and can be discussed during the next meeting.

- Mobiliteit binnen REC A voor studenten met beperking

Council member Mooren states that she was in a wheel chair for a short period. During that period she encountered several problems with the building. Council member Mooren states that the first problem she encountered was that the student counselors were not helpful enough, because on certain problems they could not give an advice. Council member Mooren states that a second problem she faced was that the seminar rooms were too small. The chairs and tables are too close to the walls; this makes it impossible to maneuverer with a wheelchair. Council member Mooren states that a third problem she encountered was that when she would arrive early at the university the glass doors on the first and second floor would not be open. To open these doors in a wheelchair can be hard. Council member Mooren states that there is also difficulty for students in wheelchairs to be present in the lecture room A0.01, because there are no adjustable tables or removable chairs. Council member Mooren states that these are her experiences with mobility in the building, but that it would be wise to contact other students with mobility problems to gather and discuss problems they encounter.

Nollkaemper states that these points are important and that it is good that the FSR put these to attention. It is an important topic on the UvA. There have been initiatives for putting these problems on the agenda and there has been done a lot to make the building accessible. Nollkaemper states that there is a five-page-memo on the accessibility of the building and resources for students with disabilities.

Nollkaemper states that he is already impressed what is already done. However, it is still work in progress. Nollkaemper states that the accessibility of the seminar rooms is a problem that cannot be easily fixed, because of the rooms being narrow. There are plans made for rearranging the seminar rooms in a more efficient way, that wheelchairs are better maneuverable. A model will be made which shows what the effective way is for arranging the room. Nollkaemper states that the glass doors are equipped with lighter door closers, but that it is not good for every student. This is an individual assessment.

Nollkaemper states that the board will send an email address for the contact person to make the individual assessment. Nollkaemper states that the signs in REC A building will be shown more prominent. Facility services will take this up. Nollkaemper states that all lecture halls need a few seats of which the chair and table are removable. Nollkaemper states that the points will be taken up with facility services at the UvA.

Jan Dijk states that contact between the FSR and Tineke Seinstra on this topic would be a good solution, because she is a member of the disabilities platform. Several buildings of the UvA will be made better accessible. Jan Dijk states that there will be a week of accessibility on the UvA, but he has not heard about this week from communications yet.



Nollkaemper states that in addition to the points put forward by council member Mooren there are other points that are also worked on. For instance, the height of the student services desks, the doors in the stairways, and the accessibility of shops on campus grounds. Khalifa states that there is a student association for students with disabilities and that the FSR can contact this association about these matters. Council member Schröder asks if the FSR could receive the memo on the accessibility of the building and who the source of this report is. Nollkaemper states that Tineke Seinstra is the source of the report and that the FSR will receive the report and contact details.

4. **Beter benutten van Canvas**

Council member Sleibi states that Canvas is more streamlined than Blackboard. However there are several points about how the program was integrated for students and tutors. Council member Sleibi states that tutors have difficulties to properly and effectively use Canvas. There is no unified format on the use of Canvas. Some tutors will put documents on Canvas in a file others do this differently. Council member Sleibi states that there are also problems with setting deadlines on Canvas, because the times differ from the actual time of submission. This causes confusion among the students. Council member Sleibi states that there is a student manual for Canvas, but such a manual for teachers is not available. Council member Sleibi states that Canvas does not only have to be used as a platform for academic use. Canvas can also inform on events, student associations, and room for discussion. Council member Sleibi states that students can subscribe to this and receive messages, without receiving spam-emails. Council member Sleibi states that the FSR would like to have a page on Canvas. Council member Sleibi asks about the possibilities for a FSR Canvas page.

Nollkaemper states that Canvas was a major step forward. Nollkaemper states that there has been a major investment on the IT personnel at UvA to train tutors on how to use Canvas. Nollkaemper states that this was a massive training program, but he is not sure that there is a manual. Nollkaemper states that Canvas should be used for more than academic courses.

Nollkaemper states that Canvas should be used for the programs, because this can help to build a community between students, teachers and staff, this is being implemented.

Nollkaemper states that there is discussion about whether or not to use Canvas for non-educational related affairs. Nollkaemper states that there should not be too many platforms to give relevant information to students. This matter will be further discussed in the faculty. Nollkaemper states that a meeting can be arranged between Council member Sleibi and the communication department.

Council member van den Bergh states that students are not using Facebook often to ask other students questions about the courses. Council member Krishnaraj states that Canvas is the best way to distribute internal information, because it will be better to track the information that is given to students, than through other platforms. Nollkaemper states that internal communication through Facebook is not a good tool to use.



5. Online beschikbaar stellen van hoorcolleges

Council member van den Bergh states that the FSR has received many complaints from students about the lecture recordings not being available online. Council member Gritsay states that he will begin with explaining why the FSR thinks that the lecture recordings are important for students. Council member Gritsay states that inducted research from universities in the UK have shown that lectures can be complex and difficult. Because of this reason, it is difficult to obtain all the information that is being told. If assumed that students attend the lectures they still do not obtain all the information. By providing the lectures online this information can be obtained by the students and revised.

Council member Gritsay states that it is often difficult for students to ask questions during the lecture. With lecture recordings students can go back and have another look at the part they struggle with. Council member Gritsay states that making notes during the lecture can be a struggle too. Different styles of lectures, PowerPoint sheets and manner of talking can be factors that make it hard to write good notes. Again, the lecture recordings enable students to make better notes.

Council member Gritsay states that the ability to attend lectures is a great factor of why lecture recordings should be kept available online. Personal issues as disabilities, family issues and the social-economical status of students, which makes them unable to attend the lectures. The lecture recordings create the flexibility that many students need. Some students need the digital way of learning instead of the classic way of education.

Council member Gritsay states that the FSR understands that the lack of attendance at the lectures is problematic. However it is not justified to put students in a disadvantaged position to which every FSR member can relate. The FSR would like to refer to the system of last year in which the lectures were online available for one week to revise. Council member Krishnaraj states that making the web lectures available would motivate the lecturer to make better slides. When the lectures are not mandatory it is up to the lecturer to make better slides or provide better content to motivate students to attend the lectures. This both encourages the lecturer and the student to do better.

Salomons states that he can only speak for Law and not PPLE. Salomons states that he made an email in which all these topics that are brought forward by the FSR were addressed. The system from last year did not good for attendance rate, this was the main reason why the faculty has chosen to stop making the lectures online available. The education that is given at the faculty is a mixture of self-education at home and at the university for lectures and seminars.

Council member Schröder states that all the emails, including the reply of Salomons, were received by the FSR. Council member Schröder states that the system from last year did not help to raise the attendance at the lectures, but that this does not mean that the lecture recordings do not have advantages. The online available lecture recordings are greatly used by the students. The liberal system of education at the UvA has been a factor for students to apply to this university. Council member Schröder states that she questions the weight of importance for attendance at lectures.

Salomons states that the effect on grades is greater when the students attend the lectures. Council member Schröder states that the new system affects the lives of students and that this is a factor that should have bigger weight than the grades of students. Salomons states



that only 2.7% of the students are watching the whole lecture online instead of the 70% of students that state they watched all the lectures. Lecture recordings do not help students. Salomons states that students only watch the parts that are said to be important for the exam.

Council member Schröder states that when comparing the faculty of law, it can only be compared to the faculty of Medicine because of the amount of students. The faculty of Medicine still makes the lecture recordings online available. Council member Schröder states that attendance at the lectures is not good for writing down the information that is being given. Notes have to be made in law books, lecture notes and jurisprudence.

Council member Schröder states that the current students at the law faculty have build their lives around the online available lectures. The board should take responsibility for making this system available in the first place and letting students adapt their private lives to it.

Council member Schröder states that ALF is also suffering of this new system. ALF has been created during the old system and has been built on flexibility for students. Council member Schröder states that the council members themselves are victims of this system. They are missing lectures at this very moment and can only be watched back in the week prior to the exam.

Salomons states that the university never gave students the right to web lectures and for that reason there is no obligation to continue with making the lectures online available. It is purposely not been integrated in the OER, because the faculty was not sure if they wanted to continue with this. Salomons states that last year it was announced that the board had problems with the web lectures, because of the low attendance. For that reason it was clear for students that the policy was changing. It was discussed internally during the months of June and July and it was published online in August that there would be a change of system regarding the web lectures.

Council member Schröder states that the system that was followed last year had notably fewer complaints from students than the current system. Salomons states that students only have to be present for ten hours a week, of which 4 hours for lectures. Council member Schröder states that the rigorous way of implementing this system has had negative effects on the ALF program too. Salomons states that the problem with ALF can be fixed by rescheduling the program.

Council member van den Bergh states that there are students that follow different courses at UvA too. These students are experiencing difficulties with their schedules. Salomons states that when a student choses to do two studies it is their responsibility to measure programs and schedule it right. Council member Schröder states that the board is undermining these students, even though it is not the normal module. These students chose to do two studies, because the flexibility that was provided by web lectures enabled them to do another study besides it. Council member Schröder states that students are now hindered in being ambitious and doing two studies.

Van Rooij states that he is glad that there can be a discussion about this. Van Rooij states that the FSR has to look at the perspective of the board too. The faculty is not only responsible for the ambitious and well preforming students, but also for the students that are struggling. Van Rooij states that when the web lectures were offered the struggling



students were not educated well enough. The interaction between students and professors is essential. Laptops get in the way of this interaction. Van Rooij states that generations of students went to law school with just their books and taking notes and did double degrees without the web lectures being available. Van Rooij states that he understands the concerns of the FSR, but that the interaction between students and professors is undermined by the web lectures. Council member van den Bergh states that this can go both ways, because the students can have an extra opportunity to watch the lecture and take notes. Nollkaemper states that in theory it sounds good, but that students make it themselves as effortless as possible and choose to stay home. In practice even the most popular courses have empty seats during the lectures.

Council member Schröder states that van Rooij oversteps the argument of finance and distance that students are encountering problems with. Council member Schröder states that the FSR has some examples that they like to present.

Council member de Koning states that she will go over the arguments that the FSR received in the complaints of students. Council member de Koning states that Dutch students sent complaints and the board is aware of these complaints and that these will be read in Dutch. Council member de Koning states that she will present a couple of complaints:

'Ik volg aankomende blok drie vakken, wat betekent dat ik op de dinsdag zes uur college achter elkaar moet kijken. Dit lijkt mij concentratie-technisch vrij lastig. Goede voorbereiding voor de werkgroepen is vereist dus vind ik dat de mogelijkheid dit optimaal te kunnen doen vergemakkelijkt moet worden en zoals vorige jaren de video-opnames het gehele blok, of in ieder geval de desbetreffende onderwijsweek online beschikbaar moeten zijn.'

'Ik volg het honourstraject en de reden dat mijn cijfers bovengemiddeld zijn, komt mede doordat ik zo flexibel ben met het kijken van colleges. Als de UvA wil dat mijn cijfers, maar ook die van heel veel andere studenten, naar beneden gaan, dan is dit inderdaad de juiste methode. Zo volg ik ALF en zal ik dus niet tijdens de colleges op dinsdag van 11-13 aanwezig kunnen zijn. Dit houdt in dat ik gedwongen wordt de colleges pas de week voor het tentamen te kunnen bekijken waardoor ik minder goed voorbereid het tentamen in kan gaan. Het uitbreiden van CV en werkervaring op doen worden op deze manier extreem ontmoedigd door de UvA. De studenten die het goed doen en juist de beste cijfers halen zullen extra benadeeld worden nu zij, blijkbaar, goed om kunnen gaan met veel verantwoordelijkheid.'

'Met dit bericht doe ik mijn beklag over het beëindigen van het wekelijks ter beschikking stellen van de opnames van de hoorcolleges. Door deze wijziging is het voor werkende studenten niet mogelijk het onderwijs goed te volgen. De opleiding wordt enkel in voltijd aangeboden, dus werkende studenten zijn afhankelijk van de opnames.'

'Ik werk elke maandag en dinsdag bij een advocatenkantoor, maar heb volgens mijn rooster op dinsdag 5 uur lang hoorcolleges. Door dit nieuwe beleid zou ik alle hoorcolleges van 6 weken één week voor het tentamen terug moeten kijken, dan is er weinig tijd meer over om te studeren. Dit bevordert natuurlijk niet mijn studieresultaten (zachtjes uitgedrukt). Stel dat ik wel de hoorcolleges zou kunnen volgen aan de universiteit, dan zou dit met deze maatregel een studiebelasting van 5 uur aaneensluitend opleveren. Hetgeen een te zware studiebelasting is op één dag. Het feit dat er nu ook geen mogelijkheid meer is om webcolleges over een gespreide periode te volgen, bevordert de studieresultaten ook niet. Tevens wil ik opmerken dat ik tijdens de hoorcolleges gebruik maak van de pauze-mogelijkheid om aantekeningen te maken, aangezien docenten vaak te snel gaan en/of de stof voor mij nog niet geheel duidelijk is. Dit is nu ook niet meer mogelijk.'



'Ik probeer mijn bachelor in 2 jaar te halen en daarnaast te werken maar zonder opnames wordt dit vrijwel onmogelijk.'

'Nu de hoorcolleges niet meer online staan gedurende de onderwijsweken is het ontzettend druk in de hoorcollegezalen. Er wordt onder andere constant gefluisterd, hierdoor is de docent niet goed te volgen. Als ik de hoorcolleges online volg zet ik hem even op pauze zodat ik alles direct goed begrijp. Ook is het nu ook niet meer mogelijk om tijdens het college het wetsartikel erbij te pakken en deze door te lezen. Daarnaast ben ik (nog) niet woonachtig in Amsterdam. Doordat de hoorcolleges ineens niet meer online te volgen zijn moet ik een vaker reizen en het reizen kost ook geld. Als het eerder bekend gemaakt was dat de hoorcolleges niet meer opgenomen werden was mijn planning anders geweest en had ik eerder woonruimte gaan zoeken.'

Council member de Koning states that this was a short selection of emails that the FSR received. The FSR understands that the empty lecture halls are demotivating for professors, but the FSR feels that students are getting higher grades through the web lectures. Salomons states that the arguments students used were not convincing enough to show that the system is negative for students. Salomons states that the bachelor program at UvA is full time and that students are only asked to come to university for ten hours a week. Council member Schröder states that these students, that are experiencing problems, chose to go to UvA because they did not expect a sudden change of system. Salomons states that this system is chosen for students and not for the professors that give the lectures. The participation in education by students is important for them to perform well. That is what the board is trying to achieve and until now it had not led to less participation. Council member Gritsay states PPLE can relate to this matter, because they are experiencing the same problems. Council member Gritsay states that realistically exams are based on lectures. Council member Gritsay states that he as a member of the CSR cannot attend some lectures. Because of his membership to the CSR he is entitled to get access to recordings of these lectures, but he had to contact student services three times until he got permission for these recordings. Council member Gritsay states that Dutch students have a completely different situation than the PPLE students that live close to the university and do not have to travel from far. The board cannot overlook this situation. Council member Gritsay states that in his research about web lectures he found many prestige universities in the UK, that have praised the video recordings of lectures and this cannot be overstepped.

Nollkaemper states that students that do extra activities besides their study is a separate problem. The program is designed for full time. Nollkaemper states that he encountered problems with the extra activities of students when he was teaching. Students would use the extra activities as an excuse to not do work for the university or to do it later. This would result in a collapse of the system when the faculty accepts the given that law at UvA is not a full time program. Part of the ambition of the Amsterdam Law School is based on the idea that students dedicate themselves to the study and give it their full time. Nollkaemper states that this matter will be discussed within the board and that they will come back on this in another meeting.

Council member Schröder states that the FSR would like to discuss this matter in a less



formal meeting. The FSR would like to raise more points and present their solutions to the board. Nollkaemper states that the board would be pleased to have a meeting with a delegation of the FSR. Council member Wolthuis Scheeres states that it would maybe be helpful to compare the grades in the different systems. Nollkaemper states that at this moment it will be early to do that. Salomons states that the OCB is also involved in this matter. Salomons states that it would be wise to involve the OCB in these meetings too.

6. Begroting

Council member Nguyen states the FSR looked at the budget that was send by the board. The FSR has several questions and would like to discuss these in a separate meeting with Jan Dijk. Council member Nguyen states that at this moment there are no concerns. Dijk states that the budget as presented is a preliminary version. In October there will be a definitive version.

7. Grading system PPLE

Council member Krishnaraj states that on September 5th the PPLE students were informed about the change in the grading system. This message was a two-sentence message, which said that the grading system would not be rounded to 0.5, but to the decimal. Most students got concerned because of two problems. First, there would not be consistency throughout the transcript, because the first two years would be graded differently than this year. Secondly, the liability of the program itself is being questioned.

Council member Krishnaraj asks what the board would think of making the grading system only apply from this years first year students and not to the current second and third year students. Nollkaemper states that he finds it hard to believe that the grading system was not communicated earlier on, because it was discussed last year.

Council member Krishnaraj states that there were only two sentences about this change. Nollkaemper states that this rule is part of the mandatory UvA wide grading and exam rules. A solution is sought in providing the diploma with an explanation about the change of grading. Nollkaemper supports this solution.

8. W.v.t.t.k.

Nollkaemper states that there are various working groups in the faculty that are interesting for students. One of these working groups is for educational innovation (onderwijsvernieuwing). Council member Schröder is part of this group. Once it is in solid form it will be discussed during the meetings with the FSR.

Nollkaemper states there is another working group on Mission Vision that will create a series of roundtables in the law school to let students and professors give their opinions on what steps the university should take. Nollkaemper states that participation by the FSR in this would be appreciated.

9. Rondvraag en sluiting

Council member van den Bergh closes the meeting at 16:25.



Actiepunten

- AP 161219-01 Nollkaemper houdt de FSR op de hoogte van de HRM discussie.
- AP 180924-02 The board will update the FSR on the use of the library.
- AP 180924-03 Nollkaemper will give contact information of Tineke Seinstra.
- AP 180924-04 The board will set up a meeting between the FSR and Marleen Bakker about the use of Canvas by different study bodies.
- AP 180924-05 FSR will contact about an informal meeting about the lecture recordings.
- AP 180924-06 Meeting between Jan Dijk and FSR about the budget.

Besluitenlijst

- 150928-01 Zodra er meer informatie is over de minoren wordt deze met de FSR besproken.

Pro Memorie

- 150420-01 Nollkaemper zegt toe dat zware afspraken met de medezeggenschap niet in de zomer zullen worden gemaakt. De zomer houdt in half juli tot en met 1 september.
- 160208-01 Voorstellen voor de OER moeten voor de deadline van het bestuur worden opgestuurd (1 oktober).
- 160606-02 Het bestuur houdt de FSR op de hoogte omtrent besluiten over REC-A.