

Date: 3rd of November 2025
Time: 11:00-12:00
Location: A7.23
Secretary: Anouchka van Wier

REC A, Room A3.12
Nieuwe Achtergracht 166
Studentenraad.nl
E-mail: fsr-fdr@uva.nl

Present FSR: Alexandra Jurasova, Anastacia Piersma, Eleonora van Koppen, Tom Scheer, Livni Beck, Johannes Hüttner, Angie-lee Kruize, Fabian Que.

Present Board: Mireille van Eechoud, Nanda Oudejans, Yvonne Donders, Cornelis Kronenburg, Jaap Bakker

Absent: Carla Gesell, Vincent Nap, Danial Haidar, Wytze Adriaanse

Absent Board: Ingo Venzke, Radboud Winkels

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened at 11:00.

2. Announcements

Faculty Budget Process

- The FSR was reminded of the time-sensitive nature of the budget process, as the faculty budget forms part of the broader UvA-wide budget framework.
- Faculty councils advise the Works Council on the faculty's budget.
- A draft budget was prepared in early September based on preliminary data. A recalibration was done in October following the final student registration count.

Updates:

- Positive development: Income is increasing due to a growing number of students (especially in master's programmes) and slightly higher average study credits per student.
- Concern: The central UvA Finance Department has advised faculties not to spend the additional income, though this issue has not yet been discussed by the Faculty Board.

- The Faculty of Law remains one of the few faculties with a positive result, and there will be further discussion on how to respond to this instruction.
- The final budget must be submitted by Friday, which is why this additional meeting was scheduled.

General Update FSR: The recent CoBo went very well and strengthened internal bonds within the council. The FSR has continued work on various files, including the OER.

3. Faculty budget 2026

Johannes asked about the potential impact of the budget on the ALF course and whether there are already plans for the restructuring.

Nanda explained:

- Teaching hours will be reduced from 4 hours to 2 hours per week.
- A working group has been established to redesign ALF, though there were presented with obstacles as the current course director will not take responsibility for this process.
- The redesign aims to strengthen connections with other courses and reassess learning objectives—not solely as a cost-cutting measure but as part of broader course evaluation and improvement.
- The working group includes ALF instructors, lecturers from related courses, members of the Teaching and Learning Centre, and a teacher with expertise in Generative AI.

Livni asked whether the FSR could access the outcomes or recommendations of this working group. Nanda confirmed that the FSR should stay closely involved, particularly in cooperation with OC.

4. TER

Noor introduced the topic as a preliminary discussion (“soft launch”), explaining that specific articles will be addressed later.

Key focus areas include:

- Providing date of the examination (inzage) at the start of the course
- Clarifying the attendance policy (especially for PPPE)

- Collaboration with the Faculty's communication and social media teams was proposed to improve outreach and engagement with students, particularly those hesitant to contact advisors or councils

Discussion:

- Mireille asked if the attendance policy discussion refers specifically to PPLE.
- Nanda confirmed and added that communication improvements should also apply more broadly across Law programmes.
- Noor emphasized the importance of clear, accessible communication across multiple platforms, not just on the website.
- Yvonne suggested using peer-to-peer communication or student testimonials, as these messages may resonate more effectively than official communication.
- Mireille stressed the importance of consulting the Communication Department on messaging.
- Livni noted that current website information is too minimal (only one line).
- Noor expressed interest of FSR in being involved in revising online

Examination board and model answers:

- Pim mentioned that the Examination Board could provide anonymized decisions for transparency but must handle this carefully, as each case is highly individual. The focus should remain on well-being rather than on exemptions.
- Livni raised the issue of model answers being unavailable after exams, despite being required within one week.
- Nanda confirmed that this is listed on the COCO checklist, but compliance is not mandatory.
- Yvonne noted that the issue is more pronounced in master's programmes, where assessments are essay-based. Programme directors will be reminded of this responsibility.
- Livni asked whether COCO is active for master's programmes; Yvonne confirmed it exists but is not frequently used.

Problem of tax law exam:

- Yvonne confirmed that a solution had been found and there will be a follow-up.

- Fabian asked how similar issues could be prevented in future.
- Livni mentioned grade adjustments and confusion regarding the number of resit opportunities.
- Yvonne will check this with the Examination Board. The student in question was not formally disadvantaged (illness not officially recognized). Communication may have caused confusion, and Yvonne will verify this.

Tax law programme committee

- Mireille suggested merging the Tax Law Programme Committee with the main committees (Law, PPLE, Master's Dutch, and Master's English), as the current Tax Committee is isolated and faces challenges in recruiting members.
- Livni questioned whether Tax students could effectively evaluate other courses.
- Noor supported the idea, citing the recruitment challenges and benefits of shared experience.

Gaza walk-out:

Mireille noted an upcoming Gaza walk-out planned for noon (first Monday of every month) and asked for student perspectives.

- Johannes said the impact on Law is minimal compared to other faculties.
- Mireille stated that while staff cannot be prohibited from participating, they must mitigate any resulting disruptions.
 - o E.g. Yvonne advised lecturers to include a short break at 12:00 for flexibility.

Code Orange Communication:

- Yvonne mentioned the confusion during recent Code Orange weather warnings, particularly during exams.
- Mireille clarified that Code Orange means business as usual, though students should exercise caution.
- Livni noted that student WhatsApp groups were flooded with questions.
- Nanda confirmed that communication was sent out, but clarity can be improved.
- Johannes mentioned that first-year students may not understand what "Code Orange" means.

5. Closing

The meeting was closed at 11:45.