



Conceptverslag van het overleg tussen de Raad van Toezicht en de Centrale Studentenraad, gehouden op 7 juni 2021

Van de zijde van de Raad van Toezicht: Marise Voskens (RvT-voorzitter), Omar Ramadan (RvT-lid met bijzonder vertrouwen van de medezeggenschap), Albert Goutbeek (secretaris RvT);

Van de zijde van de Centrale Studentenraad 2020-2021: Nina Hol (voorzitter CSR), Ivan Muso (vicevoorzitter CSR), Daan Rademaekers, David Steenmeijer, Elias Hidoussi, Evelyn Pomasqui, Julia Nguyen, Sofiya Koba, en Tijmen Dietvorst;

Afwezig: Assamaual Saidi, Chimira Obiefule, Evrim Hotamis, Kaleem Ullah, en Taimoor Baig;

Van de zijde van het College van Bestuur: Geert ten Dam (voorzitter CvB), Karen Maex (rector magnificus), Mariska Herweijer (bestuurssecretaris), Rijk van Beek (Studentassessor-CvB);

Afwezig: - ;

Verslag: Olav Abbring (ambtelijk secretaris CSR)

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1. Opening the meeting

Voskens opens the meeting at 16:20 and welcomes the meeting participants.

2. Setting the agenda

The agenda is set without changes.

3. Announcements

There are no announcements.

4. Opening of the university

The Universiteit van Amsterdam will be fully opening its doors again, for the 2021-2022 study year. All students are informed that education during 2021-2022 will be fully on campus. The CSR is concerned that some groups of students will not be able to travel to The Netherlands, due to force majeure. According to the CSR it is important, that an alternative way of attending education is offered to these students.

Students have already started a petition, to gather support for the message, that not all international students will be able to attend on campus education.

The CvB informed the CSR that the university has indeed an obligation to take care of their students. However, it is impossible to offer on campus and online education at the same time. On campus education is the rule, exceptions will be evaluated on a case by case basis at decentral level.

The CSR finds it important that students will not be at a disadvantage due to the aftermath of the COVID-19 measures.

5. The future of education

With the opening of the university, the CSR also has a lot of questions about how education and exams will be facilitated. However, the opinions within the CSR differ. Programs with fewer students benefit more from on campus education. This way the students can contact their lecturers more easily. CSR members that are enrolled in programs with a lot of students find online education more fitting. During physical lectures there was not much involvement of students before COVID-19, and this did not change with online lectures.

One good addition to all programs is offering more study information and lectures online. This way students can review lectures or find additional information on a subject they were discussing during the physical lectures.

Some students fear that education, in general is shifting towards only passing exams and getting a degree. Instead, it should focus on sharing knowledge and the way that people can attain more knowledge.

Additionally, the CSR wants to prevent that the measures that were taken during the COVID-19 pandemic, will also be used after the pandemic. The CvB already informed the CSR that proctoring can only be applied in circumstances that are related to COVID-19.

6. Communication with students

The CSR has received complaints and questions from students about policies the CvB is either working on, or that have been announced, specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic. The CSR notices that these complaints and questions usually show that these students do not feel listened to, or that decisions are not fully applicable to their situation. Resulting in questions as to what a student should do. It could be helpful if the students are better and more timely informed about issues the CvB is considering.

Sometimes students are also misinformed about decisions that are taken, or lack information on the underlying considerations and the weighing of pros and cons by the CvB. This can lead to students feeling that their interests are not taken into account. If the decision-making process and the grounds on which a decision is based are shared with the student population more often and sooner, this could increase understanding and acceptance.



7. Responsibility of the university towards students

CSR members experience that there is a difference between the expectations of Dutch and non-Dutch students, regarding the responsibility of the university towards students. This leads to different solutions being expected on some issues.

CSR members would like to see more focus on the university's social responsibilities, towards students. This topic will be further discussed with the new CSR members.

8. Reflection on the council year

Steenmeijer experienced that the council year was dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, he did not expect there to be so many working groups. He expected that the CSR would only be involved in mandatory requests for consent or advice. However, during the year he experienced that staff members were happy to involve CSR members, when creating policy.

Nguyen states that for her learning to work as well as achieving successes during the pandemic made the year difficult. A lot of documents are in Dutch, this made it difficult to understand the information. She did experience that all CSR members were focused on bringing about change and supporting each other in that. Being a CSR member did help her to become more structured, combining multiple responsibilities.

Dietvorst was very happy with the university's willingness to listen to their students. The CSR was involved in many more topics than required by law.

Muso experienced that the input of the CSR on issues that were presented to them was being welcomed. However, he experienced more resistance on initiatives taken by students or CSR members. Priority was given to solving issues that came up due to the pandemic. He feels that because of this other initiatives were ignored.

Rademaekers has learned a lot about the university, how to plan his time and how to manage responsibilities. He learned from the perspectives of other CSR members.

Koba enjoyed the opportunity to achieve change, within the university. Sometimes she also experienced, when proposals from the CSR were denied, a lack of explanation on why the proposals were denied.

Hol liked to work together with the members of the CSR. There are many inspiring people, she learned a lot from them. She is happy that the CSR was able to achieve some changes within the university. It sometimes was difficult to accept that initiatives from the CSR were not even considered or taken up, especially when the CSR members spent a lot of energy and their time on it.

9. Questions

There are no questions.

10. Closing the meeting

Voskens wishes all CSR members successful final months in office. On behalf of the entire RvT, she expresses great appreciation for their willingness to take on the task as council members and for the hard work the CSR members have put in improving certain aspects and goings within the university.

Voskens thanks all meeting participants for their contributions and closes the meeting at 17.42.