Facultaire Studentenraad
GEESTESWETENSCHAPPEN

Spuistraat 134
1012 VB Amsterdam
(020) 525 3278
fgw@studentenraad.nl
studentenraad.nl/fgw

Concept Minutes Plenary Meeting 11th of September 2025

Date: 11-09-2025 (16:00-18:00) PCH 3.19

Aanwezig: Alivia Peterli, Io Carpiso, Kevin Eng, Stef Talboo, Aditya Pandey (online), Constanza Planas Buendia, Florence Lynch, Jasmine Lee, Nimaye Nambiar, Jozef van de Visse
Afwezig: Noah de Campos Neto, Thomas Groot
Gast: Neha Thantry, Hidde Heijnis
Notulist: Tahira Mohammad

Concept agenda

1. **Opening**
2. **Mail, agenda, and action list (4 min)**
3. **Announcements (2 min)**
4. **Confirmation agenda (3 min)**
5. **Confirmation minutes (5 min)**
1. **Updates (10 min)**
   The chair, vicechair, workgroups, and CSR delegate share updates.
6. **Discussing – Religion and secularity (15 minutes) (attachments:0)**
   The FSR discusses and decides their stance on religious displays within UvA.
7. **Discussing – Disability and neurodivergent student support (10 minutes) (attachments:0)**
   The FSR discusses what can be done to improve support and accommodations for disabled students especially for neurodivergence.
8. **Discussing – indexation in the tuition fee (10 minutes) (attachments: 1)**
   The FSR discusses the indexation that has been set into tuition fees since January 2025.
9. **Discussing – Credit card payment for tuition fee (10 minutes) (attachments:0)**
   The FSR discusses credit card payments and making payment more accessible for Non-EU.
10. **Discussing – preparations for the next OV meeting (20 minutes) (attachments: 0)**
    The FSR discusses, prepares and decides what will be brought up to the OV.

12. Treasurer to talk about the budget

13. Announcement for the OER masterclass training (10 minutes)

14. Committee topics (4 minutes)

15. Palestine strategy (2 minutes)

16. PR of the week (5 minutes)

17. Final points and closing

Notulen

2. Opening

Peterli opens the meeting at 16:09.

3. Mail, agenda, and action list (4 min)

There are no updates on the mail.

The council goes through the action list. Mohammad confirms that Van de Visse shared the FSR's feedback on the future dean's profile with the Selection Committee. Mohammad shares that the council received an advice request from the Faculty Board regarding the topic of the joint ACASA degree program between the UvA and VU. The deadline is set at 10 October.

4. Announcements (2 min)

Eng shares that Van de Visse will partake in today's plenary a little later. Throughout the meeting, Eng will provide multiple updates on Van de Visse's behalf. Mohammad shares that Groot might not be able to attend the second half of the plenary due to an extended lecture. Pandey will have to depart the meeting 15 minutes earlier due to a doctor's appointment.

5. Confirmation agenda (3 min)

Nambiar asks for space towards the end of the meeting to discuss and inform the council on the FSR's budget. This agenda point is included after point 11. The agenda is confirmed.

6. Confirmation minutes (5 min)

The minutes of 04-09 are confirmed.

7. Updates (10 min)

The chair, vicechair, workgroups, and CSR delegate share updates.

Pandey provides O&M updates. He shares that he has sent a lettucemeet to plan the council pictures. The O&M Committee is furthermore in the process of planning the CoBo.

The date currently set for the CoBo is the 7th of November. Pandey will send an online poll to check the council's availability on this date [ACTIONPOINT]. The council can feel free to suggest potential locations to Pandey. Eng provides O&O updates. They will hold their first meeting tomorrow, but in the meantime the committee members have individually taken up various tasks. Talboo provides O&F updates. They have established a file division.

Lynch provides CSR updates. The CSR of 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 had their first (transfer) OV where they presented their year plan to the CvB. Lynch says that the rector said the word 'genocide' deliberately. The CSR furthermore received an apology for being denied entrance into Maagdenhuis during the opening of the academic year. The CSR has officially selected Lynch to partake on the CSR's behalf in the selection committee for the new CvB chair. The CSR has passed their working agreements.

8. **Discussing – Religion and secularity (15 minutes) (attachments:0)**
The FSR discusses and decides their stance on religious displays within UvA.

Eng introduces the agenda point. He provides a summary of last council year's progress on the topic of religion and secularity. The FSR FGw of 2024-2025 reached a consensus that the University should not be held responsible to initiate and organize religious and cultural events, but should provide funding to associations that want to organize such events, on the condition that the FGw Diversity Officer has signed off on the initiative. The council extensively discusses this topic. Pandey says that he is of the opinion that the University should remain secular, given the big amount of religions and cultures, it is possible that due to the practicalities of it, some religions and cultures will remain neglected. A secular identity of the University would create a less chaotic state of affairs. Carpiso says that European secularity is not pluralism. Given the diverse student population at the University, it should be respected that they bring stuff from their own cultures and religions. Carpiso furthermore makes the point that funding such associations allows for students to gain experience in various skills. Nambiar seconds Carpiso's opinion. He says that we are currently working in the University's version of secularity, with our current calender still consisting of Christian religious holidays. He argues that cultural and religious festivities provide students with a sense of belonging. Lynch seconds the latter two statements. Planas Buendia asks whether the University has ever rejected to fund/celebrate a cultural/religious event. Eng says that he cannot say for certain, but he does not think so. Thantry asks for permission to chip in, Peterli grants her permission. Thantry explains the complaint that was brought forth last year to the faculty Diversity Officer. Planas Buendia retracts her previous statement [the minutes have been edited to reflect this retraction]. Peterli proposes to make this an actionpoint for the O&O Committee [ACTIONPOINT].

9. **Discussing – Disability and neurodivergent student support (10 minutes) (attachments:0)**
The FSR discusses what can be done to improve support and accommodations for disabled students especially for neurodivergence.

Peterli introduces the agenda point. There are many complaints on students being denied support and accommodation for study related things. Peterli says that we should abolish the idea that neurodivergent students need to provide medical documentation to proof their neurodivergency. Eng provides an update on Van de Visse's behalf. There is a big policy recommendation for research taking place, Van de Visse is currently trying to acquire communication from the boss of the study advisors. Lynch will report back on the current status of this topic in the CSR [ACTIONPOINT]. Carpiso agrees that there should be relaxed restrictions in place for accommodations. Peterli asks whether this falls under the umbrella of the FSR or CSR. Carpiso says that similar complaints exist in other faculties as well. The O&O Committee will further pick up this discussion.

10. <u>Discussing – indexation in the tuition fee (10 minutes) (attachments: 1)</u>

The FSR discusses the indexation that has been set into tuition fees since January 2025.

Carpiso introduces the agenda point. Non-EEA students have been met with an unannounced annual indexation, despite being told that their intuiton fees will remain stable all three years. With her findings in the enrollment provisions, this was amended on 10 September 2024, with the CvB signing it off. Carpiso says that she was not informed about this. In January, this change was mentioned on the website, and announced by Studielink in June 2025. Carpiso will ask the CSR and ASVA to mitigate it if possible, and in the case it is not possible to refund students, to ask the University to be more clear in their communication to students what they can truly expect. According to Van de Visse, this indexation was planned five years in advance, thus it is not a decision made based on the budget cuts but based on inflation. Talboo proposes to discuss the next steps within the O&F Committee. Lynch says that she is working on this within the CSR. Eng proposes for the O&F Committee to consult this with ASVA [ACTIONPOINT].

11. <u>Discussing – Credit card payment for tuition fee (10 minutes) (attachments: 0)</u>

The FSR discusses credit card payments and making payment more accessible for Non-EU.

Planas Buendia introduces the agenda point. She says that it would be ideal if credit card payment for the tuiton fees would become an option. Currently, the only form of payments is through ten installments or an upfront payment. She says that not all students have the funds to pay these installments, even leading to deregistration from their program. Credit card payment would allow students to handle their payments better. The University did not provide an extensive explanation as to why this is currently not offered as an option, besides the fact that they deem it not feasible. Eng discusses multiple reasons as to why the University has chosen this approach. Lynch says the University fears cases of fraud. The council agrees that they are not against this proposal. Van de Visse enters the room at 17:06.

12. <u>Discussing – preparations for the next OV meeting (20 minutes) (attachments: 0)</u>

The FSR discusses, prepares and decides what will be brought up to the OV.

The meeting resumes at 17:16.

Van de Visse updates on the technical ACASA meeting he attended today. No one is against the plan, it is mainly an administrative step that has to be taken, which comes with administrative risks.

The council starts their preparations for the OV on the 2nd of October. The Daily Board will bring forth De Campos Neto's case during upcoming TTO.

Eng talks about the incorrect costs that had landed on the FSR's budget of last council year and discusses how to proceed forward.

Peterli shares that the current state of Oudemanhuispoort (OMHP) is deteriorating. Lynch says that the University is facing issues with upholding the state of OMHP. Van de Visse/O&F will look into the maintenance situation of OMHP [ACTIONPOINT]. All Committees will discuss what points they want to bring to the OV [ACTIONPOINT]. Heijnis enters the room. The council agrees to await the meeting with the fDO before bringing forth the topic of religion and secularity to the Faculty Board.

Potential OV topics:
Palestine;
Incorrect FSR costs;
Indexation of tuiton fees; and
O&O will discuss further potential points.

The O&M Committee will organize a Mock OV in the last week of September [ACTIONPOINT].

13. Treasurer to talk about the budget

Nambiar will draft a *stappenplan* for declaration of costs [ACTIONPOINT]. Carpiso asks when the FSR can promote their funds for study and student associations. The O&M Committee will discuss what the FSR needs to get the funding for study and student associations up and running [ACTIONPOINT].

14. Announcement for the OER masterclass training (10 minutes)

Eng asks for the council's availability. Eng will look into a potential date to hold the training.

15. Committee topics (4 minutes)

There are no updates.

16. Palestine strategy (2 minutes)

Talboo says that O&F will discuss this during their weekly meeting.

17. PR of the week (5 minutes)

There are no updates.

18. Final points and closing

The meeting ends at 17:57.