Samenvatting van de 172e Overlegvergadering tussen de Centrale Studentenraad en het College van Bestuur gehouden op 27 november 2018

Van de zijde van de CSR 2018-2019: Jamie van den Berg, Casper Colenbrander, Alex Gritsay, David Nelck, Omar Seleim, Sujat Shams, Ivanna Slipets, Malou Sprinkhuizen, Blink Ujjin, Liesanne van Veen, Roeland Voorbergen; Afwezig: Sofie ten Brink Kseniia Golub;

Van de zijde van het College van Bestuur: Karen Maex (rector magnificus), Geert ten Dam (president CvB), Mariska Herweijer (bestuurssecretaris), Moataz Rageb (central student assessor);

Technisch voorzitter: Naomi Appelman
Verslag: Tamara van den Berg (ambtelijk secretaris CSR)

Publicke tribune: -

Conceptagenda

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1. Opening (14:30 uur) en vaststellen agenda
The technical chair opens the meeting and welcomes the participants.

2. Vaststellen van de conceptverslagen // Adapting the minutes
The minutes of OV181016 are not yet finalized and will be set next meeting.

3. Doornemen actielijst // Checking the actions list
Action point 180904-10
The rector explains that the staff is working on the UvA’s internationalization policy, which is a trail within the NVAO’s Institutional Quality Assurance Audit. The staff is actively shaping the international classroom and is working to set up the Handreiking Internationalisering in which input from different stakeholders as well as the CSR’s recommendations will be incorporated.
Action point 180904-06, 180904-07, 180904-08 are no longer upheld and taken from the action list after an agreement between CSR and CvB.

Action point 180904-11 The President of the CvB explains that due to the recent amendment of the law, the fees for students who follow a transition program (schakelstudenten) have been adjusted since 2017/2018. For a study program of 60 ECTS, the maximum fee is 1x the statutory tuition fee. For smaller study loads, students can be charged a proportionate part of this statutory fee at maximum. The UvA does not receive variable educational funding for these students. For most programs, this fee is insufficient to cover costs and causes study programs to cancel their honours programs. The UvA will further investigate the position of transition programs in order to help faculties building a business case for maintaining the honours programs. The UvA is collaborating with the UvA and HvA to set up a pilot for encouraging and improving the doorstroom (flow) of students. Voorbergen asks whether this falls under the budget for transition programs in the UvA's 2019 budget. This is the case indeed.

4. Mededelingen // Announcements

Announcements from the CSR:

• International Youth Forum Minsk: The CSR delegation (Gritsay, Nelek, and Ujjin) visited the International Youth Forum in Minsk, Belarus. Gritsay gives an update and states that the forum was fruitful. They discussed ways of international collaboration, the position of student associations, and forms of student engagement. The forum consisted of several roundtable talks and presentations. The CSR’s delegation found that the medezeggenschap at the UvA is positively unique, despite learning about possible points of improvement as well. The delegation is working on a report which will list what the CSR has learned by attending the forum. (action) The CvB is looking forward to reading the report and is pleased with the CSR’s conclusion that the UvA is on the right track with regard to the position of the medezeggenschap.

• Coaching program: The coaching program for the CSR has started. The first plenary session took place, the individual coaching sessions are ongoing, and the second plenary session will be held next week. The CvB is pleased to hear that the council is positive about the coaching program by Stichting Passie voor je Toekomst that was set up by the CSR’s ambtelijk secretaris.

Announcements from the CvB:

• The UvA is investigating the role and organization of the NSE via a public bureau and is considering alternatives which can help to see how the NSE could be improved. Ways of improving the NSE are also discussed in the VSNU given that other universities share the concerns. The CvB keeps the CSR updated about the steps that are taken with regard to (alternatives to) the NSE. (action)

5. Profileringsfonds // Profiling Fund

De CSR en het CvB bespreken mogelijke criteria voor de evaluatie van het Profileringsfonds. // The CSR and CvB discuss possible criteria for the evaluation of the Profiling Fund.

The CSR composed a list of focus points for the evaluation of the Profiling Fund. The rector indicates that the CSR was invited to bring focus points for this evaluation to set up a comprehensive evaluation. The evaluation will take place at the end of the academic year 2019-2020. The rector stresses that the Profiling Fund compensates students for a study delay and should not be considered as salary or payment. This should be reflected in the Profiling Fund and the way of evaluating. The rector suggests refraining from using criteria or terms that
indicate otherwise (i.e. amount of hours spent, time spent, payment, etc.) but refer to study delay and compensation. Nonetheless, the inflation of the compensation and financial arrangement and timing of the payment can be evaluated.

The rector suggests gathering data and information from other universities about the compensation for 1st-year students in the medezeggenschap and the Profiling Fund in general. Van den Berg explains that the policy-related evaluation questions as proposed by the CSR are also intended to gather data with regard to the BSA and 1st-year students, in order to ensure that the final evaluation can be conducted properly.

The CvB wants to wait with the evaluation until the results of the pilot Flex Studying are known. However, it is important to set up a plan and timeline for the evaluation in order to know which information should be gathered at given times. The CvB forwards the CSR’s focus points for the evaluation of the Profiling Fund to AZ, JZ and StS and sends a proposed evaluation and subsequent timeline to the CSR. (action)

6. Flexstuderen // Flex Studying

De CSR en het CvB bespreken het adviesverzoek over de ‘Regeling experiment flexstuderen UvA 2019-2020’. // The CSR and CvB discuss the request for advice about the ‘Regulations experiment flex studying UvA 2019-2020’.

The CSR received a request for advice without the documentation of the OC’s formal advice. Ujjin explains that the CSR found difficulties in gathering the advice from the FSR’s and OC’s with regard to the program’s participation in the pilot. The CSR would like to be provided the OC’s written advise when receiving the request at the central level, as was agreed between CvB and CSR prior when setting up the Pilot Flex Studying. The rector agrees that this workflow should be improved and suggests doing this in a similar way as the requests to the GV for installing or canceling education programs.

Ujjin and Sprinkhuizen explain that in this case, the FSR-FNWI was not informed about the programs intention to participate in the pilot. The CvB indicates that the FSR has no formal right in this regard, but should be informed nonetheless. The CvB will consider how the communication streams between programs that want to participate in the Pilot Flex Studying, and the respective OC’s and FSR’s, can be improved. (action)

7. Duurzaamheid // Sustainability

De CSR en het CvB bespreken het (proces voor het) opstellen van een brede en ambitieuze duurzaamheidsvisie. // The CSR and CvB discuss (the process for) setting a broad and ambitious Sustainability vision.

Ujjin and Nelck stress the importance of the sustainability file. The CSR is considering the best ways to approach improving the UvA’s sustainability policy through an open discussion with policy staff and related parties. The CSR asks the CvB to reflect on the creation of a sustainability vision.

The President of the CvB explains that sustainability is intertwined with education in various programs, interdisciplinary programs of the IIS, and research projects. Sustainability is also incorporated into the UvA-HvA shared services, in the UvA’s accommodation policy, and will be incorporated in the travel policy during the course of 2019 as well. A section of the UvA’s Annual Report 2018 will be dedicated to making the current sustainability policy and workings visible (cf. 2017).
Nelck asks whether the CSR should meet with other UvA staff besides Lintsen, Swartjes, and Doorman as was agreed prior. The CvB states that this depends on the intended scope of the vision. There is expertise on sustainability amongst the UvA’s staff, and the UvA is considering giving one staff member a specific task to implement and integrate different aspects of the sustainability policy, while also visualizing for the academic community what is being done. Van Den Berg stresses the importance of compensating the policy worker sufficiently in order for the job to be done in a proper manner. The CvB will take these concerns into consideration.

Currently, the CvB is working on an inventory of the existing policy, to see which steps can be taken next. The collected information and proposal for working out a sustainability policy will also be included in the UvA’s Strategic Plan. The CvB advises the CSR to set up a list of elements that should be covered in an ambitious sustainability policy. In combination with an overview of the status quo, this could be used for formulating a starting document. The CSR agrees and asks for the meeting with Lintsen, Swartjes and Doorman to be planned before OV190115. The CvB agrees and will compose a (start of a) working document that contains an overview with the current working and policy on sustainability, in preparation for the meeting with Lintsen and Doorman in January 2019. (action)

Ujjin asks, with regard to financial sustainability, whether the CvB would be willing to follow-up on the earlier letter that was sent to the ABP pension fund and which had led to small improvements. The President of the CvB shows to be aware of the social responsibility of the UvA’s finances but stresses that it is not possible for the UvA to change their pension fund. Ujjin asks whether the CvB would be willing to push ABP to become more sustainable and to place this on the agenda of the VSNU as well. The CvB explains that other universities already sent similar letters to the pension fund. The CvB agrees to again share their concerns and recent efforts to address the ABP’s (lack of a) sustainability policy with the VSNU. (action)

8. Onderwijs & Toegankelijkheid // Education & Accessibility

De CSR en het CvB bespreken de visie van de CSR op (de toegankelijkheid van) het onderwijs. // The CSR and CvB discuss the CSR’s vision on (the accessibility of) education.

The CSR has composed the first draft of their vision on education. Gritsay goes over the different points and asks the CvB for their initial response.

Sustainable admissions – The CSR is worried about the growth of the university as it is reaching its capacity. This could limit the UvA’s ability to accommodate students. The CSR encourages the CvB to be cautious and consider sustainable growth (i.e. by employing more staff and creating educational facilities).

Numerus Fixus – The CSR sees the need to address the issue of excessively expanding English track programs and the exponential growth of international students, which affects the housing market as well. The CSR also stresses that a language change to English should never negatively affect the quality of education.

Broader selection criteria – The CSR wants to promote a wider and broader implementation of selection criteria, going beyond criteria such as GPA and motivation letters. This could help to increase the chances of motivated and diverse (ethically, socio-economically, etc.) students and thereby making the academic community more diverse. The CSR wants to consider new means to help to find motivated students while considering the background and means for less advantaged students. The CSR acknowledges that soft skills may
be important for some disciplines, but stresses that the UvA should be cautious in weighing these factors in order to counter discriminative selection.

**Broader accessibility** – The CSR wants to investigate ways to improve the chances of prospective students who are less advantaged in accessing higher education by exploring a variety of approaches including financial support, deeper contextual analysis through selection, and the promotion of social initiatives such as homework classes.

**Decentral approach** – The CSR wants to refrain from imposing a central selection policy on the faculties and programs but wants to play an advising role instead.

The rector compliments the CSR with this draft vision and stresses the similar position of CSR and CvB. The CvB says that the vision on education will also play in the roundtable discussions that are organized in preparation for revising the UvA’s Institutional Plan 2021-2025.

The UvA is not actively trying to grow and has taken several measures to counter the exponential growth. However, the different tools that can be used to counter growth might have side-effects which need to be considered thoroughly. The CvB has asked the minister of OCW for tools to counter the influx of international students, such as a *numerus fixus* on English programs. The (average) number of Dutch students can be calculated, while the number of international students is growing rapidly. The CvB values the internationalization of the university but not if this would be at the cost of maintaining the quality of education and the accessibility of the university. Voorbergen asks whether other tools have been discussed with the minister of OCW as well, but the CvB wants to await the response of the minister before discussing this further. Another measurement that the UvA is considering, however, is providing more information in the UvA-matching about the housing situation and living conditions in Amsterdam. The UvA is also looking into providing an online language course that international students can take before coming to Amsterdam. Voorbergen asks what the CvB intends to do in order to improve the UvA-matching as the ownership of the matching trajectory lies with the educational programs. The rector asks the CSR to compose a list of possible improvements or focus points, which may be incorporated in the *Handreiking* for international programs. This could serve as a framework to provide the programs with the necessary and helpful basis to deal with providing information to international students while keeping the liberty of programs to set up the matching in a form that suits the program. Voorbergen stresses that the information provided to international students is in some cases misleading and that it is important to avoid this. The CvB agrees.

The rector stresses that the UvA has set up a trajectory for *voertaalwijzigingen* ('changing the *lingua franca* of a program') to English, which takes 1.5 years to complete. This ensures that the quality of education is the primary focus and that programs are required to reflect on the international classroom and diversity of the program before becoming international. Moreover, this gives programs time to consider teacher’s professionalization and their language proficiency, as well as the international learning outcomes and skills that are obtained in a program.

The rector is in favour of looking into the CSR’s proposed forms of selection but stresses that it is important to be very concerned with the details and possible implications that these criteria have for students and programs. Voorbergen asks which role the CSR or CvB could play on the central level with regard to selective education. The rector suggests the CSR compose a framework consisting of their core views which could be discussed further. Gritsay asks whether the CvB would discuss the different measures and views on selective education in the CBO. The CvB says that this could be a follow up after first discussing the core values and...
framework by the CSR. However, selective approaches to education could be seen from different angles and therefore need proper consideration. The CSR proposes during OV190115 which elements need to be considered or included when setting up a central policy on education while maintaining the accessibility of the university. (action) Gritsay suggests collaborating with the FSR’s to set these elements.

Van den Berg asks whether the CvB would consider offering homework assistance. The rector asks whether this concerns skill development as a part of educational programs. The President of the CvB adds that homework assistance at high schools is already part of the community service projects, which do not fall under the responsibility of the CvB. The CvB suggests contacting the CDO about this.

9. Internationalisation

De CSR en het CvB gaan over de gerelateerde actiepunten en bespreken de strategie voor de komende periode. // The CSR and CvB check the related action points and discuss the strategy for the upcoming period.

Seleim asks for an update about the Handreiking Internationalisering. This update was already given earlier during the meeting (see agenda point 3).

Seleim suggests making an online platform for language courses that can assist international students to learn Dutch in a tempo that is possible to follow next to a full-time study program. Alternatively, Seleim suggests creating a Dutch course as elective or as part of an existing study program. Seleim stresses the importance of learning Dutch for international students but adds that the courses currently have a low attendance rate.

The rector explains that CvB and staff are working on creating a MOOC to follow a Dutch course online, which could also help prospective international students to learn Dutch before coming to the Netherlands. This course would be available for all students without charge. The MOOC would not be a replacement of the existing Dutch language courses that charge a fee or are part of a study program. The CvB stresses that they want to continue offering Dutch language courses for international students in the medezeggenschap. The CvB agrees that Dutch proficiency can help to integrate into the Dutch society. Following a MOOC language course can help international students to make a start with learning the Dutch language which can be deepened through (extra) curricular language courses afterward. Seleim asks whether the CvB would be in favour of setting up a Dutch language elective course. The CvB indicates that this falls under the responsibility of the study programs, and should follow from an initiative at the decentral level and not through central policy. The CvB adds that the FGw is considering whether a Dutch language and culture course should be created, but that this is only an initial idea that has not yet been decided upon. Voorbergen asks when the MOOC will be finalized. It was decided that the MOOC will be worked out from July onward and the CvB will keep the CSR informed about this. (action) Gritsay asks the CvB which MOOC’s the UvA is currently offering; this information will be provided. (action)

The rector asks which CSR-members are following the language courses that the CvB provided a budget for. So far, only Golub and Gritsay are following a Dutch course and they are positive about the course. Colenbrander, Hashemi Shams, Van Veen, and Voorbergen have registered for an English course. The rector stresses the importance for the international council members to learn Dutch as the university is a bilingual university.
The President of the CvB informs the CSR that the CvB has discussed the language of the GV and the practical consequences of being bilingual. It was decided that simultaneous translation will be organized for the GV in order to overcome the language differences. Voorbergen expresses his content.

10. W.v.t.t.k. // Any other business
   None.

11. Rondvraag // Questions
   Voorbergen asks the CvB to elaborate on the signed UN-declaration. The President of the CvB explains that the UvA is concerned with the special educational needs for students and staff. The UvA co-signed the declaration as it deals with these issues. The support that can be offered to students and staff can vary, i.e. concerning the accessibility of accommodation, UvA-buildings, the digital network, and career opportunities or part-time internships.

   Van den Berg asks the CvB to provide the contact details of the OC’s. The CSR’s ambtelijk secretaris states to have this information.

12. Sluiting // Closing
   The technical chair closes the meeting at 15.59h and thanks all participants for their contributions.

**Actielijst OV**

181127-01 The CSR sends their report about the International Youth Forum in Minsk to the CvB.
181127-02 The CvB keeps the CSR updated about the steps that are taken with regard to (alternatives to) the NSE.
181127-03 The CvB forwards the possible focus points for the evaluation of the Profiling Fund to AZ, JZ and StS and sends a proposed evaluation and subsequent timeline to the CSR.
181127-04 The CvB considers how to improve the communication between programs which want to participate in the pilot Flex Studying, and the respective OC’s and FSR’s.
181127-05 The CvB shares their concerns and recent efforts to address the ABP’s (lack of a) sustainability policy with the VSNU.
181127-06 The CvB drafts a working document which contains an overview of the current projects and policy regarding sustainability, in preparation for the meeting between the CSR, Lintsen, Swartjes, and Doorman in January 2019.
181127-07 The CSR proposes during OV190115 which elements need to be considered or included when setting up a central policy on education while maintaining the accessibility of the university.
181127-08 The CvB keeps the CSR informed about the Dutch language course MOOC that is being set up.
181127-09 The CvB informs the CSR about the MOOC’s that are currently offered by the UvA.
181016-01 The CvB provides the CSR with an overview of the existing tracks and programs dealing with sustainability.
181016-02 The CvB informs the CSR about the different media outlets that will be used for promoting the central student assessor 2019 job advertisement.
181016-03 The CSR considers the proposed changes to the application text for the central student assessor 2019 and informs the CvB on October 17.
180904-01 The CvB updates the CSR about the new plans for the honours committee and honours programs and the subsequent timeline.
180904-03 The CvB sets up a meeting for January 2019 between the CSR, Jan Lintsen, Harold Swartjes, and Ewout Doorman to discuss setting an UvA-wide vision on Sustainability. The CSR gathers input from the relevant parties in preparation for this meeting.
The CvB informs the CSR whether the advisory requests for the decentral selection criteria 2020-2021 will formally be sent to the FSR or CSR. The CvB also informs the CSR about the procedure and timetable for setting the selection criteria 2020-2021.

The CSR provides the CvB with an example of examination and course material that needs an English language revision.

The CvB checks which information (international) students receive during the UvA-matching period and whether this is representative.

The CSR asks Intraweek & Helena van der Steege which information is provided to international students and considers what is lacking in this.

The CvB incorporates the points of recommendation from the CSR into the Handreiking Internationalisering and keeps the CSR informed about the progress of setting up this document.

The CvB will inform the CSR when the meeting with the HvA and VU about transition programs takes place and informs the CSR about the trajectory for the medezeggenschap.

The CvB informs the CSR about the procedure for revising the OC-Handreiking and the timing of involving the CSR in this.

The CvB and CSR discuss the evaluation criteria that could be used for the evaluation of the Profiling fund in 2019.

Pro memorie

The CvB emphasizes the importance of incorporating the input of the medezeggenschap while preparing for the annual talks with the deans.

Het College ziet er op toe dat de frase over het optimaal gebruiken van de wettelijke mogelijkheden van masterselectie zal worden geschrapt bij de herijking van het Instellingsplan voor 2020.

Het College houdt toezicht op de betrokkenheid van promovendi en postdocs.

Het College geeft indien van toepassing de CSR een update ten aanzien van de samenwerkingsplannen met andere instellingen of instituten.

De studentenraad wordt regelmatig geïnformeerd over de vordering op het gebied van studieadvisering.

Het CvB zal de capaciteit van fietsenplekken, studieplekken en ruimtes voor studieverenigingen tijdens het realiseren van de nieuwbouw en verhuizingen scherp in de gaten houden en ingrijpen wanneer een tekort ontstaat.

Voor het komende artikel24-overleg:

Het College voorziet de CSR van een halfjaarlijkse tijdsplanning voor adviesmomenten.

Er zal duidelijk worden stilgestaan bij (mondelinge) toezeggingen van het College, zodat er geen onnodige schriftelijke reacties hoeven te worden gegeven, maar de toezeggingen wel helder worden genoteerd.

Indien de CSR vraagt om een motivatie voor vertrouwelijkheid van een stuk, zal het College het stuk daarvan voorzien.

De contactpersoon van de medezeggenschap kan ook worden benaderd voor vragen en het verstrekken van informatie aan de FSR’en.