Minutes of the *Plenaire vergadering* of the CSR on the 13th of February, 2019

**Council members**
Jamie van den Berg, Sofie ten Brink, Casper Colenbrander, Alex Gritsay, David Nelck, Ivanna Slipets (11:04-12:00), Malou Sprinkhuizen, Blink Ujjin (11:11-12:51), Roeland Voorbergen;

**Absent**
Kseniia Golub, Michele Murgia, Omar Seleim, Sujet Hashemi Shams, Liesanne van Veen;

**Guest(s)**
Iris Kingma *Central student assessor*

**Minutes**
Tamara van den Berg *Ambtelijk Secretaris*

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**Concept agenda**

1. Opening
2. Mail
3. Adapting the concept minutes
4. Checking the action list
5. Announcements
6. Updates DB & taskforces, delegates, central student assessor
7. Setting the agenda
8. Sustainability – Catering
9. Scheduling Overlap
10. BSA
11. Honours
12. Student council elections 2019
13. University Quarter
14. Extra holiday week (Study Success 2.0)
15. Quality Agreements – Teaching & Learning Centres
16. UCO
17. AIEC
18. W.v.t.t.k. / Any other business
19. Input requests: FSR’s / Media
20. Evaluating the PV
21. Questions + closing the meeting

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1. **Opening**
   *Roeland opens the meeting at 11:01h and welcomes the participants.*

2. **Mail**
   *The council discusses the in- and outgoing mail.*
3. Adapting the concept minutes
*Setting the concept minutes is postponed until next week.*

4. Checking the action list
*The action list gets updated.*

--- Ivanna Slipets enters the meeting. ---

5. Announcements
- This week the following events take place: The half-year event FSR-FMG, CREA drinks, promotion event FSR-FEB.

6. Updates DB & taskforces, delegates, central student assessor
*The written updates are discussed briefly.*

- O&F discusses the safety of student housing campuses. *(action)*

--- Blink Ujjin enters the meeting. ---

7. Setting the agenda
*The agenda is set with changes. Added: CREA drinks,*

Alex asks why an exception for delayed meeting pieces has been made. For sustainability, this is due to the upcoming deadline of sending the CSR’s advice on the sustainability catering.

--- Blink Ujjin enters the meeting. ---

8. Sustainability – Catering
Alex doesn’t recall the CSR agreeing to set the default option for catering at vegetarian, and the same goes for the business lunches. The council confirms that it was agreed by the CSR PV that the business lunch will have the default option as vegan. It was also agreed by the CSR PV that there should be a more equal offering between meet/vegetarian/vegan in the cafeteria, to not have vegetarian or vegan as the exception, and that all should be clearly marked.

Blink says that better ways of separating waste should be specified. Sofie says that in the current situation, separated waste is afterward disposed of in one batch. Roeland suggests asking the CvB/FS for a concrete plan of separating waste and to address and solve these issues with the caterer.

David sends the letter for an editorial round from February 14 to Monday, February 17 10.00h to decide on the final letter during PV190220. *(action)*

9. Scheduling Overlap
Casper asks whether the delegates have input for setting a list of best practices. *(action)* As mentioned last week, the problems are not similar at the FNWI as double programs are taken into account and there are no mandatory lectures and exceptions for mandatory tutorials.

10. BSA
Alex asks what a ‘closing stone’ BSA is. Malou explains that study success measures should make programs ‘studiable’ while motivating students to follow the program and finish in nominal time. The BSA in this regard is the last resort, at the end of the line, that should not be needed when other study success measurements are sufficient.

Malou points out that a negative consequence of the BSA is that students who are suitable for a program are forced to quit. Malou suggests writing an unsolicited advice about this.
Roeland asks whether the BSA could be removed from the OER. Malou explains that this is not possible, but the BSA could be set at 0. Roeland points out that there is a large difference between the faculties, and Malou adds that, currently, there is no central policy on the BSA. Malou proposes including a binding guideline in the model-OER that sets the BSA at 0. Jamie suggests lowering the BSA instead to let faculties have some freedom in this. Alex asks whether small programs (i.e. PPLE with a BSA of 54 ECTS) are considered as well. Sofie says that PPLE could be exempted on grounds of their different legal status. Sofie argues for setting the BSA at the faculty level.

Jamie asks in which regards the BSA costs money. Malou explains that costs are made by the committees dealing with the dispensation and the lawsuits. Roeland says this falls mostly under the responsibility of Legal Affairs, and asks how much time and money is spend on this. Malou will inquire this. (action)

Sofie argues for the abolishment of the BSA due to mental health issues this adds to. Alex argues in favour of a BSA as this prevents students from keeping up a spot in a study program for too long. Blink suggests lowering the BSA to allow certain faculties to keep the benefits and to allow attracting and keeping motivated students. Roeland argues that a lower BSA doesn’t create more motivated students and might be counter-productive. Malou explains that the BSA-report supports the idea that the BSA doesn’t make students more motivated; Matching and sufficient information have provided to be more useful. Alex adds that a BSA can be obtained with low grades as well, but that the BSA mostly is counter-productive due to the amount of dispensation granted. Alex argues for a higher BSA or an increase in selection criteria. Sofie explains that the exceptions are legally mandatory and argues against selection and the BSA. Jamie adds that the BSA causes stress for students. Casper suggests intensifying the UvA-Matching program and argues against the initial idea to install a BSA.

Malou asks how the difference between a BSA of 36 or 42 ECTS should be decided on and explains that the BSA was never intended to improve students’ performance but to influence their study time. Malou argues that students should be allowed to finish programs in their own way and time; Sofie agrees. Blink asks what the effect of the BSA is on students who are not stressed. Malou explains that all students have stress at the beginning of the year, which drops for those who have a good 1st semester. If students get negative first results, this causes a lot of stress throughout the entire year. Alex says that the university is paid from tax money and therefore has the obligation to create space for as many students as possible, as long as they make good use of the education. Jamie explains that the BSA only works for the first year but doesn’t stop students from studying for 10 years.

Roeland asks the delegates to gather input from the FSR’s. Tamara stresses the importance of giving the FSR’s enough time to discuss this issue before giving input. Malou will ask the FSR’s for input and organizes a file holder meeting. (action)

11. Honours

Honours academy – Roeland says that creating an extra committee or academy would complicate the UvA’s organization and increase costs. Roeland suggests solving the issues within the existing structures instead. Blink proposes not to abolish programs or go against excellence but to make the programs more accessible instead. Malou says this has been tried before by opening them up, Sofie suggests not setting any entry selection criteria to allow all students to participate and to gain the honours diploma when finishing the courses. The FSR-FNWI prefers the Honours Academy as alternative.

Abolishing honours - Alex is against this proposal and stresses the importance of allowing students to excel. The FSR FGw wants to abolish all entry requirements and the certificate. They believe there is too much focus on excellence and don’t want to reward this with a diploma.

--- Ivanna Slipets leaves the meeting. ---
Iris suggests the council to check why universities offer honours courses and what the perspective of the CvB on honours courses is. Alex argues that the benefit of honours courses as small scale education should be cherished. Enlarging classes would make them of lower quality. Roeland suggests asking students to send a motivation letter to participate instead of evaluating their grades. Blink says that prove of honours courses is important when applying for a (master’s) program abroad. Abolishing masters would negatively affect students with these ambitions. Sofie asks whether it would be sufficient to follow these extra courses without the entry selection criteria. Malou checks which rights the university has to give honours certificate when removing entry selection. Blink says this would negatively affect the supply of honours courses, as there is a shortage already at this moment which negatively affects the quality of the programs. Roeland argues for abolishing the honours program and states that this would solve the need for installing the Honours Academy. Casper asks for a financial overview of the current costs for honours courses and programs; Malou will check this with Mieke Sillekens. (action) Sofie again suggests taking up all IIS courses in the Honours Academy, which Malou disagrees with due to the quality assurance by the OC’s. Alex urges the council to appreciate the benefits of academic excellence, which creates opportunities for talented and hard-working students and allows them to use their motivation for a better future. Malou says this is a glorified picture of the honours program; many students dislike some of the courses offered and would like to see this changed. Roeland asks the delegates to check the FSR’s standpoint on the honours courses and Honours Academy. (action)

12. University Quarter

Sofie asks if there are fewer square meters it would be cheaper for the FSR FGw, and who the extra costs in the case of later expansion will go to. Jamie answers that indeed it would be cheaper, and the extra costs for a later expansion will go to the HO/central level. Roeland asks whether it is realistically indicated how much the FGw will grow, but states that this is probably or more technical question. Sofie states that it might be better to not only make the extra space for the FGw, but for other partners. Sofie states that it would be more expensive to expand it later than expanding it now. Roeland states that the faculty doesn’t want this and finds it very difficult to determine what is best, but this is a very good location so he prefers to expand it. Iris asks what the floorspace will be used for, regarding the growth of the staff versus the students. Jamie explains that staff growth is expected to grow by 4.69% when students grow with 10%. Alex asks whether it can be used for other uses e.g. the Law Hub. Jamie answers that this could be the case. Sofie mentions that we shouldn’t limited the capacity of the buildings to limit the amount of growth. Roeland asks whether the expected growth isn’t already calculated into the roof parts of the buildings. Jamie answers that this is partly the case but the calculation of the amount of students doesn’t really workout. Alex says that this should be a technical discussion with the FGw. Jamie says that we should go to the decision whether we want enough capacity for the students or limit the growth. The general consensus is to build for growth. Sofie asks why the CSR is not in the Aula working group. Jamie responds that there is no use for students to be in there. The CSR temperature is to be in the working group either way.

13. Extra holiday week (Study Success 2.0)

Roeland asks about the thematic sessions. Malou writes a memo about the holiday week and the CSR’s plan to sent to Karen for the Theme session. (action) The CSR seems positive about going about the Holiday week separately from the 884 system.
Blink asks how we are going to separate the holiday week from the 884 system. Malou explains that there are different ways of creating a holiday week without changing the 884 system.

--- Blink Ujjin leaves the meeting. ---

Roeland asks whether people want a survey. Alex responds that we should go at it without a survey, everybody wants it so no survey necessary. Roeland says that it is still important for at least the staff to get a survey. Malou says that the CvB won’t immediately agree with a survey, and asks whether to ask Mieke or the CvB about this. Roeland says that Malou should ask Mieke about what is possible and let our decision depend on how this discussion will go.

During the OV the CSR will discuss the Memo with the CvB and possibly advise to use the memo during the thematic session.

Alex says that the holiday week should be synchronized it with PPLE. Roeland says that this has been discussed multiple times already and we agreed to not do this.

14. Quality Agreements – Teaching & Learning Centres

Roeland says to David that this is not really a summery. David says that it didn’t feel right to scrap more than this and that this is all key information.

15. UCO

Roeland says that this is not update and that he was expecting a lot more information. He asks what Erik Weijers explained during the UCO. Malou answers that it takes at least one FTE, 25 FTE in the entire UvA, to have someone double check the thesis judgements, and that’s why Erik wants to scrap it. The NVAO really does want this. Jeroen Goedkoop says that the FNWI will never scrap it because the FNWI really likes the system. Sofie asks whether there are already programmes that don’t have double checking thesis. Malou answers no, non-exist right now. Roeland mentions that this is a really interesting topic that should be discussed more within the CSR, not the scrapping of the double check, but the standardization could be interesting.

Roeland says that he missed the new education vision and the TLC’s in the update. Malou answers that the UCO is pretty much fine with the educational vision, because there will be program groups set-up and they want some new stuff but no huge changes. The CSR 2020-2021 will be involved with this. The UCO is only getting information about what is happening right now. Roeland says that this should be discussed because some policy goals are being set right now.

Malou and Sujet should prepare the upcoming files discussed in UCO with the CSR in advance. (action)

16. AIEC

Roeland asks about the follow-up action and what it says. Malou answers that it is unclear what role the AIEC has, and an effective chair. Roeland says that we should get two commitments from the CvB stating that they would get a new chair, and a document defining what the AIEC committee does. O&O will discuss the AIEC and how it can be fixed. (action)

--- Tamara enters and takes over the minuting. ---

17. Student council elections 2019

Sofie asks when the Kieswijzer will be promoted, this will be added to the timeline. It is agreed to place the concept timeline in a google document to give input for PR. (action)

Alex asks when parties can start campaigning. Parties are legally allowed to start but based on the ‘gentleman’ agreement parties usually wait until the elections period.
Joran van Apeldoorn has written the code for the Kieswijzer, as requested by the CSR, and will enter the statements in the program. Sofie suggests asking the FNWI parties if there are objections against SLAAFS' involvement in this; Malou doesn't expect there will be controversy about this. Malou asks whether student parties have been contacted for setting the initial meeting. Omar has not yet set a meeting but will do this soon. Sofie and Alex ask about financing. Tamara explains the system for campaign financing and the central facilitation of the organization of the elections. Tamara asks for the budget of the elections and promotion. Jamie and Tamara ask Omar to work out all concrete plans for the elections and to provide information about the ways of promotion and the setup for all events. Omar writes a meeting piece for the information event, the goal of the event, and possible locations. (action)
Malou states that the information event should be organized before the end of March and the setup needs to be discussed before this. Malou expects that the parties running at the FNWI or FdG will not be involved with the promotion at REC as the students from their faculties cannot be found there. Omar needs to check whether the parties are available and set a date for the information event before PV190220. (action)
Roeland says Omar should meet with Joran and Bart (BC) together to discuss the Kieswijzer.

18. W.V.T.T.K. / Any other business
- CREA drinks/speech Jamie will attend the drinks/presentation at CREA. Alex and Sofie will try to join and help him with the speech.

19. Input requests for the FSR’s
- Scheduling overlap
- BSA
- Honours

20. To the media
- Promote Commoning UvA event
- Student newsletter: sustainability, David makes a proposal. (action)

21. Evaluating the PV
The CSR evaluates the course of the PV and the quality of the meeting pieces.
At the end of committee meetings, it should be discussed which pieces come to the PV, which status the document has, and how much time is needed.

22. Questions + closing the meeting
- David asks about the revision of the University Regulations. The formal GV request can be expected before the summer.
- Alex asks about the revision of the Election Regulations. Sofie informs that JZ will take this up in Q2 2019.
- Roeland asks other council members to help with the organization of the elections. (action)

Roeland closes the meeting at 13.40h.

Decisions
None.

Action list
190213-01 Roeland contacts Jaco van Veen about his role as RvA-chair and with the DB how to follow up on the problems with the RvA.
190213-02 O&F discusses the (problems with regard to) safety at student housing campuses.
190213-03 David sends the letter on sustainable catering for an editorial round from February 14th until February 17th 10.00h. A decision on sending the letter will be made during PV190220.
190213-04 The delegates ask their FSR’s for best practices with regard to scheduling overlap in case of additional courses or double programs.
190213-05 Malou inquires the costs and FTE required for dealing with BSA (dispensation).
190213-06 Malou asks the FSR’s for their stances on the BSA and organizes a file holder meeting.
190213-07 Malou inquires which rights the university has to grant an honours certificate in the case that entry selection criteria would be removed.
190213-08 Malou inquires the financial situation of honours courses and programs.
190213-09 The delegates ask their FSR’s for their vision on the (inter-)disciplinary honours courses and programs.
190213-10 Malou writes a memo about the extra Vacation Week for the theme session of the CvB.
190213-11 Sujet and Malou prepare the files that will be discussed in the UCO in advance with the CSR PV.
190213-12 O&O discusses the role and functioning of AIEC.
190213-13 Omar checks the availability of all student council parties and sets a date for the information event in March, before PV190220.
190213-14 Omar writes a meeting piece for PV190220 to discuss the goal and plans for the information event in March.
190213-15 Council members give input on the timeline for the student council elections 2019. PR incorporates these comments in an updated meeting piece for PV190220.
190213-16 David (with help of O&F) writes a draft for the student newsletter about sustainability.
190213-17 The DB discusses setting up a taskforce for the student council elections 2019.
190206-01 O&F discusses the End of Project Report AVG.
190206-02 Malou forwards the update of the FSR-FNWI on Internationalization (Groningen) to the CSR and student assessor.
190206-03 Sujet checks the Institutional Plan 2016-2020 on Diversity policy.
190206-04 Roeland informs Erik Weijers about the CSR’s concerns regarding the procedure for decentral selection.
190206-05 Tamara checks when the regulations ‘Regeling Selectie en Plaatsing Fixusopleidingen Uva 2017-2018’ will be updated to include the central policy.
190206-06 Sujet sends the comments on the CDO plan of action for an editorial round.
190206-07 Sujet writes a draft opinion article against noting the extra time on diplomas and sends it for an editorial round from February 7th.
190130-01 Malou inquires the FSR’s about the change in the WHW regarding the personal circumstances for the BSA exemptions.
190130-02 Malou requests input from the FSRs towards the end of the OER cycles regarding the M-OER to pass on to the CSR 2019-2020.
190130-07 O&F requests the BOL survey.
190123-04 O&O discusses weighing different modes of selection in relation to each other.
190123-05 Alex writes the draft advice about the CSR’s vision on Education and Selection and sends it for an editorial round before deciding about the document during PV190130 from February 14th until February 17th 10.00h. A decision on sending the letter will be made during PV190220.
190123-09 PR contacts AKvV for the organization of the UB-night.
190123-11 PR creates a timeline for the organization (booking rooms, computers, promotion material, etc.) and events (meetings with FSR, debates between parties, etc.) in preparation for the student council elections 2019, and sends this to the DB before February 4.
David checks what commitments the caterer made with regard to sustainability during the public tender contract or afterward.

Blink asks the chair of the *Raad van Advies* to acquire which RvA-members will stay on and who want to step down to make room for new members.

Casper contacts Mariska Herweijer about the regulations for exam rooms, as discussed in GALOP.

### Pro memorie

- **140908-04**: The DB is strict about *nazendingen* and being present in time.
- **140908-05**: A double check on the spelling and grammar should be done for all communication. Committee chairs have the final responsibility in this.
- **141208-04**: The committee chairs notify the PR-committee after their meetings which files, that the CSR is working on, should be raised in the media.
- **150420-01**: All DB-members send their updates before Sunday 20.00h. Delegates send their updates before Wednesday 09.00h.
- **160502-01**: Alex and Sujet take good care of the plants.
- **161017-04**: The committee chairs make sure that everyone gives proper feedback in their committees about the work, steering and soundboard groups, and they make sure the documents are saved on the P-drive. Council members archive all their documents in the P-drive.
- **161108-05**: The committee chairs oversee the diverse division of speakers for the OV.
- **170201-04**: The DB oversees a proper balance between small and large files in the PV.
- **171108-04**: The delegates check whether the agendas, minutes and letters of the FSR’s are being published online.
- **180207-01**: Council members try to take care of expressing their opinions and give arguments for their standpoints.
- **180917-06**: Blink organizes individual coffee moments with all council members to discuss the council work and input on the evaluation weeks.
- **181203-01**: The committee chairs make sure that the responsibility for the meeting piece becomes clear during the committee meeting.
- **181203-01**: The committee chairs keep their OV-planning up to date and fill their OV-planning in the printed calendar in CREA 1.16.