Samenvatting van de 174e Overlegvergadering tussen de Centrale Studentenraad en het College van Bestuur gehouden op 26 februari 2019

Van de zijde van de CSR 2018-2019: Jamie van den Berg, Sofie ten Brink, Casper Golenbrander, Alex Gritsay (14:33), David Nelck, Omar Seleim (from 14:35), Sujet Shams, Ivanna Slipets, Malou Sprinkhuizen, Blink Ujjin, Liesanne van Veen, Roeland Voorbergen;
Afwezig: Kseniia Golub;

Van de zijde van het College van Bestuur: Karen Maex (rector magnificus), Geert ten Dam (president CvB, until 15:43), Mariska Herweijer (bestuurssecretaris), Iris Kingma (central student assessor);
Gast: Bert Zwiep (FS)

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

Publicke tribune:

Conceptagenda

1. Opening en vaststellen agenda // Opening and setting the agenda
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4. Mededelingen // Announcements
5. Onderwijs & Selectie // Education & Selection
6. Extra vakantieweek // Extra week of Holidays
7. Duurzaamheid: catering // Sustainability: catering
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9. W.v.t.t.k. // Any other business
10. Rondvraag en sluiting // Questions and closing the meeting

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 OV190115 are set.

3. Doornemen actielijst // Checking the actions list

Action point 190115-02 The CvB gives an update. A SPOC (Small Private Online Course) of approx. 20 sessions will be created to teach prospective international students their first 500 Dutch words. The content of the course will be related to both the UvA and the city of Amsterdam. The CvB commits to finalizing the SPOC before the summer holidays.

-- Alex Gritsay enters the meeting. --
Action point 180904-10  Voorbergen agreed with Anouk Tso that an overview of all different topics and files related to language and internationalization would be provided. The status of the *Handreiking Internationalisering* will be part of this overview, which the CSR is currently awaiting.

4. **Mededelingen // Announcements**

**Announcements from the CvB:**
- The President of the CvB will attend the opening of the Law Hub later this afternoon.
- The CvB composed a concept framework policy Diversity, which has been discussed in CBO and CvB meetings. The document will be sent to CSR and COR and will be put on [denkmee.uva.nl](http://denkmee.uva.nl) for input from the academic community. After gathering the input, the CvB intends to finish the framework policy before the summer of 2019.

--- Omar Seleim enters the meeting. ---

- The rector proposes to address the 6 shared focus points between CSR and CvB, as discussed during the IAO, at the upcoming OV's to keep track of the progress:
  i. Sustainability
  ii. Accessibility of education
  iii. Extra vacation week / 8-8-4 semester planning
  iv. Smoking policy
  v. Language course for international students (SPOC)
  vi. Communication to international students

Voorbergen stresses that in the communication about developments or accomplishments in this regard, the collaboration between CSR and CvB should be mentioned. The CvB agrees.

**Announcements from the CSR:**
- This is the first OV of 2018-2019 that Sofie ten Brink, who was also a CSR council member in 2017-2018, is attending.
- The CSR suggests continuing the discussion from the recent *hei-sessie* about accessibility and internationalisation if there is time left at the end of the meeting.

5. **Onderwijs & Selectie // Education & Selection**

Gritsay explains that the CSR's advice concerns two separate points: (i) implementing a numerus fixus on English tracks, if this would legally be allowed, and (ii) broadening selection criteria for programs with a numerus fixus.

i. **Numerus fixus on English tracks**

The rector stresses that the UvA does not have the intention as such to grow; this will be addressed in the Institutional Plan 2021-2025. The CvB is awaiting legislation following earlier discussions with minister Van Engelshoven (OC&W) about options and tools for applying selection, i.e. setting a numerus fixus for English tracks. The CvB stresses that these measurements should be carefully considered; Dutch students will be affected as well.

Voorbergen asks which measurements are taken to counter growth, as the responsibility currently lies at the program or faculty level, and the increase in student numbers is tangible. The CvB indicates that the growth of the university will be one of the themes for the Institutional Plan 2021-2026. The new legislation might enable more ways of countering
growth. The CvB will await this new legislation and decide whether and how to apply this. First, the UvA needs to discuss their stances on growth and desirable ways of dealing with this. The UvA recently set regulations to ensure that programmes only switch to English in order to improve the quality of education and not because of financial incentives. The switch to English follows a strict trajectory and should be considered at a program-specific level. Switching to English must be based on motives of quality and not merely on motives of the number of students. The CvB wants to avoid programs switching to English and subsequently applying for a numerus fixus due to the increase in (international) student numbers. The quality of education needs to be prioritized to the number of students; quantity should not be considered as a goal in itself and the tools for selection need to be applied accordingly.

Gritsay says that under the current regulations and safeguards, programs are still growing; especially those with an English track. Gritsay asks the CvB to commit to implementing the option for installing a numerus fixus on English tracks if the legislation allows doing so. The rector says that the UvA has the intention to research this and therefore had requested this option with the minister, but no commitment can be made before the legislation and subsequent trajectory are known.

The President of the CvB reiterates that Dutch students will also be affected by these regulations; they often enrol in English tracks to prepare for an international labour market. The CvB finds it important to consider how it can be prevented that installing a numerus fixus on English tracks has a negative effect on the number of Dutch students applying. Commonly, the instalment of a numerus fixus has this negative consequence: Dutch students might choose a different program or do not feel welcome at the UvA and decide to study at another university. This is undesirable for the balance in programs and the composition of the international classroom. Gritsay stresses that the CSR does not want to harm Dutch students. The CvB stresses that effect of regulations can be measured only after a couple of years; application numbers first need to stabilize. Therefore, the CvB does not want to agree to a new approach upfront. Voorbergen asks whether English tracks should have a Dutch counterpart in order to attract Dutch students. The CvB questions whether Dutch students would be interested in following this Dutch track or whether they would choose a different university.

The rector offers the CSR to provide background documentation on the numbers of Dutch students following English tracks or being enrolled in programs with a numerus fixus. The CvB will also provide information on the effects of installing a numerus fixus on the number of Dutch students in a study program. (action) Based on this information and the legislation the discussion will be continued when setting the headlines of the Institutional Plan 2021-2026.

ii. Broadening selection criteria

The rector indicates that the selection criteria listed by the CSR are used to a large extent, for example, motivation letters, check of academic competence, background checks, and considering factors that might have limited academic performance. Each faculty proposes their criteria, which can be different per education program and need to be discussed with the respective FSR. The UvA’s current selection policy focusses mostly on grades and motivation letters. The rector and the CSR discuss how this could be improved. Adding interviews, self-assessment, and other checks to the selection procedure comes with an increase of the workload.
Gritsay says that grades and motivation letters are not sufficient to select students and suggests coupling existing procedures with extra measurements. Other selective programs at the UvA can be taken as an example of this. Gritsay adds that the selection procedures can differ per program or faculty. The President of the CvB explains that the CvB focuses on ways of avoiding biases, as much as possible, in the framework policy on diversity. Faculties are also urged to consider this.

Selection days – The CvB asks how to deal with extra selection days if most of the prospective students live abroad. Recently, an international matching program has been set up. The rector questions whether differentiating between physical and digital attendance for these selection days is fair; this needs further discussion.

Interviews – The rector stresses that conducting interviews with all prospective students is very time consuming, especially for large programs, and would be very costly. The President of the CvB adds that interviews are prone to biases, especially if conducted 1-on-1; it is very important to take accountability for this. Voorbergen and Shams recommend following the example of ACTA. Gritsay suggests setting these interviews as advisory talks to assess the students but not affect their application. The CvB asks whether the CSR would be in favour of allowing interested programs to start a pilot with conducting interviews; the council is positive.

Self-assessment reports – Gritsay says that self-assessment could be requested in addition to motivation letters, in order to gather background information about students. The President of the CvB stresses that these forms of self-assessment are very much prone to biases.

A point system – The CvB asks how to consider which achievements will be counted in the point system. Such a system would have a big effect on students from different backgrounds and might possibly also bias wealthy students if only considering ‘official contexts’. The CSR suggests considering circumstances and different forms of background achievements. The CvB adds that different types of students might choose different programs; this needs to be accounted for. As a possible idea, the CvB considers whether the Teaching Learning Centers could consider this suggestion after it has been set up. It is important to exchange best practices and selection procedures and to avoid setting uniform ways of selecting for different programs. The President of the CvB adds that an increase in numeri fixi creates a larger need for broadening of selection criteria.

Financial plan – The CvB acknowledges the importance of providing information about the living conditions and housing situation in Amsterdam to avoid disappointment amongst students. The rector offers to provide an overview of the current selection procedures to have an informed discussion about the CSR’s recommendations afterward. (action) The President suggests also considering the research that has been done in this field. Based on this information, the discussion on selection can also be linked to setting the Institutional Plan 2021-2026. Gritsay and Voorbergen propose to set a working group to discuss the decentral selection. The CvB will first await the analysis and further discussion with the CSR. Based on this, follow up steps can be agreed upon.
6. Extra vakantieweek // Extra week of Holidays

Sprinkhuizen asks for an update about the program for the CBO theme session on March 7. The rector explains that the CSR’s proposal will be discussed along with other focus points from Studiesucces 2.0. The CvB stresses that there will be an open discussion to reflect on the UvA’s current path and structure and to evaluate whether changes should be made. The CvB acknowledges the problems regarding workload for students that the CSR brought forward and will address this in relation to the workload for employees. Sprinkhuizen asks whether the discussion on this topic could end at the moment that the outcome of the CBO-session is negative. The CvB does not want to agree to a follow-up before discussing this with the deans but agrees that a solution to the high workload and stress needs to be found. The CvB will come back to this during the OV190402.

7. Duurzaamheid: catering // Sustainability: catering

Nelck explains that, in anticipation of the vision on sustainability, the CSR sent a letter giving recommendations about (i) catering during meetings, (ii) offering in the canteen.

i. Catering during meetings

The rector explains that the UvA needs to abide by the current agreements that were noted in the contract with the caterer. However, this morning the CvB decided to set the standard for all lunches and dinners organized by the CvB at ‘vegetarian’. In this, the CvB will follow the initiative of the FGw and other deans are also considering to set this standard. Voorbergen is positive about the CvB’s decision but asks why this will not be implemented UvA-wide. The CvB indicates that this is the responsibility of the organizers of events. However, all faculties are expected to follow over time. The President of the CvB suggests asking FS about setting the default for university-wide catering at vegetarian. (action)

ii. Sustainable offering in the canteen

Nelck acknowledges that the different proposals of the CSR indeed depend on the contract with the caterer but stresses that according to FS there would be room for changes. The CvB proposes setting a meeting with CvB, CSR, and Cormet to discuss the different option. (action) The President of the CvB adds that Lintsen is considering the catering as part of the sustainability agenda. A policy worker sustainability will be appointed to work this out further.

The CSR and CvB stress the importance of collaborating on setting a sustainability vision. Nelck says that the CSR and ASVA want to see the sustainability of education addressed in the Institutional Plan 2021-2026 as well. According to Nelck, the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (IIS), was not aware of the sustainability goals as included in the current Institutional Plan. The President of the CvB explains that IIS is involved in writing the manifesto about circular education. Setting up sustainable projects and goals can be started before the writing of the Institutional Plan 2021-2026 and incorporated in this document later. Voorbergen is concerned that decisions taken with regard to sustainability do not find their way to the decentral level of the university. The CvB acknowledges that this sometimes happens.

-- The President of the CvB leaves the meeting. --

Voorbergen stresses that in their advice, the CSR recommended setting the default option for the catering of business lunches at vegan. Voorbergen asks the CvB to change their decision
and nudge the academic community toward vegan food. The CvB will follow their earlier
decision to set the vegetarian default option for CvB-organized catering.

8. **Rookbeleid // Smoking Policy**

   -- For this agenda point, Bert Zwiep (Facility Services) is present. --

Gritsay indicates that smoking is a problem at the Roeterseiland campus (REC) and the P.C.
Hooft huis (PCH) due to the smoking area next to the entrance and the lack of regulations
keeping students from second-hand smoking. This creates an unpleasant environment for
students and staff.

The CSR requests to ban smoking from the entrances of PCH (Spuitstraat and Singel). As this
cannot be done by the university alone, the CSR recommends collaborating with the university.
Zwiep explains that smoking cannot be prohibited on public terrain. The Amsterdam
municipality is starting a taskforce which will consider installing no-smoking zones around PCH.
Gritsay requests the CvB to take an active role in requesting this. The CvB/FS updates the CSR
about the response of the Amsterdam municipality with regard to smoke-free zones at the front
and back entrances of the PCH. (action)

The CSR requests to relocate the smoking areas at REC to unburden the entrance zones.
Zwiep explains that this proposal needs to be considered by FS-REC and discussed with the
faculties housed at REC. Gritsay stresses that the CSR wants to ban smoking from the campus if
relocation is not possible. Zwiep explains that this would affect the neighbourhood. Smokers
would divert to the edges of the campus, adding to the current problems with bike-parking.
Prohibiting smoking in these areas needs to be discussed with the municipality. The CvB/FS
updates the CSR about the possibility of relocating the smoking area at REC after discussing this
with the respective faculties. (action)

Gritsay suggests strengthening the reinforcement of current smoking policies, for example
by increasing the presence of bike coaches. Zwiep stresses that students and staff have the right
to a smoke-free work and study environment. However, the UvA should look for solutions and
technics such as marks and appointing designated smoke areas. The rector agrees that hiring
bike coaches is not the best solution for the current problem and suggests considering
alternatives.

Gritsay urges the CvB to act quickly in order to prevent students from undergoing the
negative aspects of smoking. Van den Berg urges the CvB to find a suitable solution that is
accommodating to students. The CvB embraces the CSR’s proposal and agrees to consider
solutions. An update will be given during OV190406.

9. **W.v.t.t.k. // Any other business**

   *Nothing.*

10. **Rondvraag // Questions**

   • Sprinkhuizen asks whether the CvB will attend the national education strike on March 15.
The rector explains that the facilitation of a demonstration is different from the legal right
of employees to strike. The CvB will be present at the demonstration in Den Haag.

   • Voorbergen asks whether the formal GV-request for the University Regulations can be
expected in April, as indicated prior. Herweijer indicates that the planning is unchanged.
Shams asks the rector to reflect on the functioning of AIEC. The rector explains that former AIEC-chair De Haas recently retired. As the AIEC is currently looking for a new chair, the frequency of the meetings has lapsed.

11. **Sluiting // Closing**

Voorbergen invites all meeting participants to join the informal discussion about accessibility and internationalization directly after the meeting.

The technical chair closes the meeting at 16.00h and thanks all participants for their contributions.

### Actielijst OV

- **190226-01** The CvB informs the CSR about the number of Dutch student following programs with a numerus fixus and the effects of installing a numerus fixus on the number of Dutch students in a study program.
- **190226-02** The CvB informs the CSR about the current decentral selection procedures of programs with a numerus fixus.
- **190226-03** The CvB asks FS to set the default for ordering catering via OrderDirect to vegetarian.
- **190226-04** The CvB asks FS about the possibilities for sustainable catering as suggested by the CSR in their unsolicited advice.
- **190226-05** The CvB/FS updates the CSR about the response of the Amsterdam municipality with regard to smoke free zones at the front and back entrances of the PCH.
- **190226-06** The CvB/FS updates the CSR about the possibility of relocating the smoking area at REC after discussing this with the respective faculties.
- **190115-01** The CvB considers the CSR’s suggestion to implement an extra week of holiday during the second semester and discusses this in the CBO. The CvB reports back to the CSR during **OV190226**.
- **190115-02** The CvB sets up a plan for creating a MOOC Dutch language course and looks into collaborating with other universities for doing this.
- **190115-03** The CSR informs the chair of the University Forum about their suggestions for restructuring and evaluating the University Forum.
- **190115-04** The CvB informs the CSR about the rights and duties of the decentral medezeggenschap at the University of Amsterdam and forwards the legal framework as was researched for the report Sterke Medezeggenschap.
- **181127-01** The CSR sends their report about the International Youth Forum in Minsk to the CvB.
- **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.
- **181127-07** 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.
- **180904-01** The CvB updates the CSR about the new plans for the honours committee and honours programs and the subsequent timeline.
- **180904-10** 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.

### Pro memorie

- **181127-02** The CvB keeps the CSR updated about the steps that are taken with regard to (alternatives to) the NSE.
- **180904-01** The CvB emphasizes the importance of incorporating the input of the medezeggenschap while preparing for the annual talks with the deans.
- **161011-01** Het College houdt toezicht op de betrokkenheid van promovendi en postdocs.
- **140604-01** 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.