



minutes

Meeting Faculty Council

Date and time

19 February 2018, 15.30-17.00 hrs

Present

Faculty Council : Gerd Weitkamp (Chair), Claudia Yamu (Consultant)
Anne Marel Hilbers, Mirjam Wempe, Bart-Peter Smit, Casper van
Mastricht, Jorrit Kootstra, Kim Poelsema, Ilse de Vries
Faculty Board: Oscar Couwenberg, Tialda Haartsen, Marga Hids, Elroy
van Ostheim

Guests: Leia Vader (Ibn Battuta), Theresa Langeler (University Paper)

Absent

Aleid Brouwer

Minutes taken by

Jeannet Brondsema

Jeannet Brondsema
T +31 (0)50 36 33896
j.t.brondsema@rug.nl

Faculteit Ruimtelijke Wetenschappen
Landleven 1
9747 AD GRONINGEN
The Netherlands

Action

1. Opening

The Chair Gerd Weitkamp opens the meeting and welcomes everyone.

2. Announcements

There are no announcements.

3. Determine the agenda

There are no extra items to discuss.

4. Discuss the minutes of the meeting of December 4th 2017

- Action list: most items are dealt with.
- Number 16-20 of 07-04: the FC is still waiting to receive the document on the difference between Career Services and Next from the FB.
This still needs to be done, it is related to employability. We will keep this on the list, the FR hopes to receive it before the next meeting of 26 March 2018. (See also agenda item 9).
- The minutes are approved with thanks to Tineke Dijkman.

FB

5. Yantai, update (see attachment 1/only in Dutch)

- FC: We all received the document of the University Council which was the basis in the end for deciding not to vote. In the preparation meeting the FC discussed their point of view. The main message is that our faculty voted for a program in Yantai. The FC still sees opportunities there and is looking forward what will come next.
- The FB gives an update on the process. Indeed no vote was taken on the document in the University Council, only a statement was made.
- It could still be taken to vote, but will not be taken forward to the Ministry for approval.
- Discussions are going on with the Executive Board about other possibilities. So the current status is investigating whether there

Action

are possibilities to start in Yantai. We wait for the alternatives from the Executive Board and developments at University level. Part of the process is that it has to be discussed with our Chinese counter partners.

- The FC sees opportunities and thinks it is very important that there is clear communication about further developments, they would like to make it a success. Keep the FC informed so that we can make up our minds what to do in the near future.
- The FB says these things take some time. It is not yet done, in this situation it is difficult to start negotiations, there is no good clue what kind of strategy we could follow.
The FB is looking at it in discussions with Executive Board. Maybe we have to schedule an extra meeting for this.
- The FC will look forward to further news.

FB

6. Appoint consultant Faculty Council/election new FC-members

- Because two FC staff-members left the faculty the FC has asked Claudia Yamu to join them as a consultant and she has agreed to this. She will be present at all the meetings except when the FC has to vote and when confidential information is shared.
- Another two FC staff-members, Mirjam Wempe and Aleid Brouwer have new positions in the meantime and will not or less be available for the FC, therefore a request has been made to the Executive Board to organize elections to recruit new staff-members for the FC. Their reaction should be given next week.
- The FC hopes to bring in new faculty staff-members around April. Gerd Weitkamp and Anne Marel Hilbers will remain as staff-members and of course the student-members will remain as well.

FC

7. Visualisation skills training (see attachment 2)

- Last year the Programme Committee of the Bachelor Spatial Planning and Design noticed a large demand for visualisation skills training.
- From a survey by Pro Geo among the students it appeared that about 95 students were interested in this. Together with Careers Company they have already scheduled 2 Adobe Photoshop workshops and hired a professional for this. These courses are extracurricular and there is need for more.
- Therefore, the FC thinks it is a good time to think of a more structural way to introduce digital skills in the teaching and suggests to set up a Committee to prepare a document on this.
- The FB thanks Pro Geo for this good initiative, it shows that these workshops can also be organized in an extracurricular way, but it also reveals the need for more digital skills or thinking about it in a more curricular way.
- Because this is an ongoing educational matter the FB thinks the Director of Education should be included in this Committee, and even a budget, so that can be discussed how to incorporate this. Also hands-on and operational people could be added, so

Action

that it could lead to more practical steps in this. The FB would like to receive an update on this.

- The FC should first think of the possible members of this committee, the program coordinators could be involved as well. First it could be introduced in the Bachelor programs, but there is also need for this kind of education from the master students, so the advice is: keep it broad.
- The FB suggest that if the masters are interested, maybe for them a workshop could be organized as extracurricular item, maybe the Careers Company could assist in this.
- The FC will set up a Committee and get clear who they want to address and what will be the target group.

FC

8. Internationalization update (see attachment 3)

- Pro Geo also has sent a document for our information where we are at the moment in the Bachelor program as to internationalisation. The information is coming from our Programme Committees.
- In general the internationalisation is a success. The level of internationalization of the master courses is overall very good. In the Bachelor programs the internationalisation of some courses could be improved. Especially Dutch concepts could be explained better making them more comprehensible for international students.
- The overall English of the lecturers is sufficient.
- Most problems occur with guest lecturers which have an insufficient level of English, resulting in them not being able to give a convincing lecture.
- A course coordinator should thus carefully look for guest lecturers with a sufficient level of English and if not consider that the lecturers could give the lecture themselves.
- Another issue is that some courses still do not provide all information in English. This problem is rather easy to solve, but requires some time and effort from the lecturers.
- Internationals were sometimes not equally divided among the groups, this affected the fieldwork as many internationals were not able to conduct interviews as they often could only be done in Dutch.
- The FB thanks the FC for this information.
- The general conclusion is that in general the internationalisation is a success, it is good for our lecturers and students to see that is going so well, this is very encouraging.
- There are some issues to tackle but we can handle this.
- The Director of Education will look into this. There will be ongoing monitoring.
- If and what we need to do will also be taken up in the monitor, these are items for reflection for next year. These will be handled for the next academic year.

Action

9. Statement Faculty Council concerning the decision on study advance funds (see attachment 4)

- The Study Advance Fund has been created to get better education for students. The FB decides on how to spend this money and the FC should give their ideas on this.
- In the FC-meeting of 9th October 2017 the FB came with the idea to spend these funds on two new assistant professors. The FC received this idea with some reservation and looked for possible alternatives which were presented in the FC-meeting of 4 December 2017.
- However, on 4 December the FB announced that the expenditure of the study advance funds were already fixed for the upcoming four years, whereas this was not mentioned in the proposal.
- The FC thinks this is not the correct way to think constructively about Faculty subjects. They feel that the alternative, presented by the FC was never considered by the FB and the decision had already been made before the alternative was proposed by the FC.
- Naturally the FC understands that in certain matters fast action is necessary. However, clear communication about the underlying motivations would help with understanding the decisions made.
- The FC has sent a letter on this to the FB.
- The FB deplores this. It was the first time we had this money, and the FB was very much driven by the biggest value for money at that moment. The Sean thanks the FC for thinking along with the FB.
- The FB will be appointing two extra Assistant Professors, but we will have extra funds, so extra funds will be used for extra student assistant ships for some courses, this would be especially important for Statistics 1 and 2, GIS, Introduction to Academic Research and Learning Communities. This would have the biggest benefits for the students.
- The question is : can we find enough students assistants for these courses? Especially for Statistics this might be a problem. Maybe they could be recruited from other faculties.
- The money for this can be covered from the Student Advancement Means and with the extra funds available.
- The extra funding is available because the bursaries were abolished last year and extra means have been made available by the Ministry of Education to help students in their study.
- The FC agrees to this, but asks the FB once again to think about the process how to inform the FC in time.
- The FB ensures that they will take this up again for the next round, this will happen earlier and they will not decide before the FC is consulted.

FB

minutes

Action

10. Employability workgroup update

- The FC has not yet received an update from the Employability Workgroup.
- Elroy van Ostheim says that things changed in the meantime. The workgroup opened the eyes of the students, but will be restructured. Also others, like alumni, will be involved since employability has multiple aspects and it will be more flexible.
- An update has been written but still has to be discussed with the FB on future procedures.

FB

11. Any other subject (w.v.t.t.k.)

- No other subjects to discuss.

12. Closure and date next meeting

- The next meeting will be on Monday March 26 from 15.15 – 16.45 hrs.

ACTION LIST

Number	Date	Action	Responsible	Status
16-20	07-04	Duidelijkheid verschaffen tav verschil Career Services en Next. 251016 Over 2 weken nadere uitwerking in het Faculty board met Wijnand Alderink en Arjan van den Assem 221116 Faculty board vraagt de Opl. dir. om een notitie hierover op te stellen. 091017 Evaluation is part of a different proces. That's why it takes so long. 041217: on May 18 th the Faculty Board made a document about this point. The Faculty Board forgot to send this document to the Faculty Council. Oscar will send it as soon as possible and will also ask Chris Diedericks for a short update. 190218: This has been combined with the Employability workgroup. The workgroup has been restructured, an update will be sent by the FB asap	Faculty board	
18-01	19-02	Yantai: Discussions are going on with the Executive Board about other possibilities. So the current status is investigating whether there are possibilities to start in Yantai. We wait for the alternatives from the Executive Board and developments at University level.	Faculty board	

minutes

Action

18-02	19-02	Depending on decision Executive Board bring in new staff-members in FC, because 3 members have left and 1 is less available.	Faculty Council	
18-03	19-02	Set up a Committee to introduce digital skills in the teaching in the curriculum.	Faculty Council	
18-04	19-02	Inform and consult Faculty Council earlier on how to spend Study Advance Fund and extra funds to improve the education for students.	Faculty Board	