



minutes

Meeting Faculty Council

Date and time

22 September 2020, 13:30-15:00

Reference

final

Eliza van der Ploeg-Bout

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Present

FC: Gerd Weitkamp (chair), Roberta Rutigliano, Jodi Sturge (online), Claudia Yamu, Anthony Simpatico, Bart Folgerts, Nigel Onwuachu, Fleur Bogema, Martijn Hoekstra

FB: Tialda Haartsen, Marga Hids, Dirk Strijker, Coen Keijzer

Others: Peter-Jan Reinders (RECG), Ibn Battuta

Landleven 1

9747 AD Groningen

The Netherlands

Absent

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Minutes taken by

Eliza van der Ploeg-Bout

Last minutes (30 June 2020) approved

Yes, without changes

1. Actions

Number	Who?	What?	When?	See point
20200922-1	Board (GS) Done.	The procedure for getting extension due to Corona will be communicated soon by the board to PhDs.	soon	6.c
20200922-2	Sturge Done.	Sturge notes that the mandatory sessions for PhDs are now online, but always full and notifies the PhD Council and the Graduate School about this and suggests about offering more online possibilities.		7.3

2. Finished actions:

20200519-2: The notification about equipment and furniture for working at home has been repeated on intranet.

20200519-4: The FC has discussed about the personnel faction of the FC. At the moment it has been decided to leave it as it is. Perhaps when necessary an 'advisor' will be added. In 2021 new elections will be organized.

20200630-1: FC student members and Ibn Battuta requested to have access to the building (their rooms). However, FEB did not agree. A room in the Mercator building has been made available for them. Solved.

3. Decisions/Advice

Number	Subject	See point
20200922-a	Decision: The FC agrees to the Budget 2021-2024 and notifies the Executive Board by letter.	6
20200922-b	The FC informs the Executive Board of their opinion about the prospective new dean by letter.	4.4.

4. For information

4.1 Update Housing: Ongoing. Next week the Executive Board will decide about the atrium, located at the present picnic location between the Mercator building and the bicycle shed of the Smitsborg.

4.2 Update Research visitation: Haartsen: ongoing and according to schedule. The printed reports have been delivered yesterday.

4.3 Update Zero tolerance policy: Hids: the committee (working group) did not approve of the concept made by HR. To be continued.

Action

4.4 Procedure replacement dean: The FC had a meeting with the intended candidate and will inform the Executive Board about their opinion.

5. Corona update

The FC discusses the Covid-19 Student Survey (June) 2020 and the survey in relation to the Quality Agreements (QA). It is noted that more feedback from students is needed because of the low number of response. A follow-up survey is expected, but not for sure. Comments on the survey are:

- stress level among students is not as high as expected (however, the words used in the open questions indicate more stress than shows from closed questions);
- students miss contact with each other/miss interaction in the lectures.

The FC is concerned that the QA are not being met. The QA are for improvement of education. Is this still feasible with regard to Corona?

Strijker comments that it is known that students are not happy with the hybrid model, but in the circumstances, FSS is doing quite reasonable. The university has started executing its "Action Plan Education", which sets aside funds for hardware, software and support for hybrid and online education. Following this, ESI/CIT have assigned an embedded expert to our faculty, which is of great support for our lecturers. Furthermore, new cameras have been installed in several lecture rooms. The focus is now slowly shifting to improving education, but this has to happen without too much pressure on lecturers.

The Corona-taskforce of the faculty strives to do as much education as possible on campus, but is also working on a plan B (= much/almost everything online). And staff is trying to reach out to students and looking for alternatives and solutions.

For the information of the new student members, the chair explains the current division of roles concerning the Director of Education.

6. Budget 2021-2024

The FC agrees to the Budget 2021-2024. However, the FC has the following questions and comments, which are answered by or discussed with the Faculty Board:

- a) Risk analysis, page 20, item 3.1 about the intake of students. Why is this a substantial risk? This is noted as a substantial risk because the income of the faculty is highly based on the number of students. The student/staff ratio is not seen as a *financial* risk. From the budget, it looks like there is an ambition of growth. However, this is just noted to show the intake numbers are in line with the forecasts of the last strategic plan.
- b) Risk analysis, page 20, item 3.2 about the number of PhD ceremonies:
 - 1) The FC would like to comment that by (more) investing in PhD students at the start (especially because of Corona), the faculty has later more benefit from it (less delay). These are controllable costs. At the moment, there are no signs of potential delays because of Corona. The procedure for getting extension will be communicated soon by the board.
 - 2) There is no overview of how much time is spend on supervision of PhD's. Should there be? There are no indications promotors have difficulty with supervising time. It is part of research time and a promotor is allowed to refuse.

Other discussion points are:

- c) Page 4, Staff: the expected increase in female professors.
- d) Page 8, Outlines long-term budget: the year 2020 includes a projection of several financial consequences of COVID-19. No projection was made for 2021 and after, as it proved to be impossible to quantify.
- e) PhD-Covid-19 arrangement: it looks like this is only allocated for 2020, but Hids explains that this could be carried over to 2021.

Action

- f) With regard to the Quality Agreements: in this budget only staff is accounted for. But shouldn't finances for computers and digital skills also be in the budget? Otherwise, one cannot check it.
- g) Reserve of 10%: this is appropriate and safe.

7. Other business and closing

- 7.1 **Strategic plan:** Although round table meetings with the staff were organized last year in December, the Faculty Board has asked for and obtained permission for extension by the Executive Board, partly due to changes within the Faculty Board. To be continued.
- 7.2 **Education in semester 2A and 2B:** is decided upon half November by the Executive Board.
- 7.3 With regard to the report 'Erkennen en Waarden' the Faculty Board would like to know whether the FC has received indications from staff that they foresee/fear long-term repercussions in their R&O due to Covid-19 delay? The FC only knows of PhDs who worry about their progress. Sturge notes that the mandatory sessions for PhD's are now online, but always full. Sturge notifies the PhD Council and the Graduate School about this and suggests about offering more online possibilities.

Next meeting is **3 November 2020**.