



minutes

Meeting Faculty Council (FC)

Date and time

9 March 2021, 13:30-15:00

Reference

final

Eliza van der Ploeg-Bout

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Present

FC: Gerd Weitkamp (chair), Roberta Rutigliano (joins later), Anthony Simpatico, Bart Folgerts, Nigel Onwuachu, Fleur Bogema, Martijn Hoekstra

FB: Tialda Haartsen, Marga Hids, Johan Woltjer, Coen Keijzer

Others: Jelmer de Rijke (Ibn Battuta); Mathijs Pott (RECG)

Absent

Claudia Yamu, Jodi Sturge (with notice)

Landleven 1

9747 AD Groningen

The Netherlands

Minutes taken by

Eliza van der Ploeg-Bout

Last minutes (26 January 2021) approved

Yes, without changes

1. Actions

Number	Who?	What?	When?	See point
20210126-5	Weitkamp/Hids	Check solution for problem of students (with regard to laptop requirements in GIS-course in 2B) with CIT.		2
20210126-4	Woltjer	Send format of DoE about plagiarism/fraud to FC.	Follows: together with instructions for students	
20210309-1	Woltjer	Check comment about planning of the study load for HGP specifically.		4.2
20210309-2	Woltjer	Check progress Teaching Academy.		4.2
20210309-3	Woltjer	Adapt Strategic Plan.		
20210309-4	Weitkamp	Write letters for the board with the positive opinion on the Strategic Plan and the Progress Report.		6 7

2. Finished actions:

20210126-2: The board has checked the formal role of the Faculty Council about the Strategic Plan: the FC has to give its opinion.

20210126-3: The board has send the Update Quality Agreements to FC for opinion. The FC has given its positive opinion on 15-2-2021.

20210126-5: Haartsen has contacted the DoE about making mandatory laptop requirements. However, it's not possible to make these requirements obligatory, because students can only be obliged to spend 600 euro per year. So, the problem with the GIS-course is solved in another way (Weitkamp/Hids checks this with CIT).

20210126-6: The board has checked the decision about restricting electives during an academic year with the DoE. It turns out this happened in only one course and was an isolated incident. It will not happen again. Furthermore: no students were disadvantaged by this decision.

3. Decisions/Advice

Number	Subject	See point
20210126-a	Opinion: with the comments mentioned in point 6, the FC gives a positive opinion about the Strategic Plan. Suggestions will be adapted by Woltjer. Weitkamp sends a letter to the board.	6

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20210126-b	Opinion: the FC gives a positive opinion on the Progress Report Health, Safety and Sustainability. Weitekamp sends a letter to the board.	7
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4. For information/received documents

4.1 Financial Report 2020

This is a follow-up for information on the budget on which the FC has to agree. The FC expressed their gratitude for this transparency/sharing.

4.2 Education Monitor

For information. The comments in this monitor are about last year.

The FC notes that in general the study load is often fine, however the planning of the study load could be improved. Suggestion for improvement is to make sure that lecturers talk about what they do in their course per semester. According to Haartsen coordinators could/should take this up (also with respect to the assessment plan). Woltjer checks the comment about the study load for HGP specifically.

Furthermore: it is mentioned that the Teaching Academy (TA) hasn't start up yet because of Covid-19. Woltjer checks any progress. The FC is of the opinion that the TA is a good idea for sharing best practices. And this is also a recommendation from the accreditation committee.

4.3 Faculty Education Plan

The FC has some comments about the tracks and about the numerus fixes. But these will be discussed under Strategic Plan.

5. Corona update

Study Spaces

The FC has received a letter with the request for more study spaces for students during the lockdown. In the meantime, some things have already been organized, but still the FC would like to have more opportunities for students to study, especially computer rooms. At the moment, the university has 650 places available. Hopefully after Eastern more is possible. To be continued.

6. Strategic Plan (SP) FSS

The FC compliments that it is a good strategic plan which addresses the issues raised by the FC last year. Furthermore, it is good that the new dean has been part of the process and that some Covid-19 related issues have been taken up. The comments of the FC are discussed in the meeting with suggestions for changes noted/changed in the text by Woltjer.

The FC gives a positive opinion with the following comments (the plan will be adapted by Woltjer accordingly):

General comment: SP is about the future. However, in the present there are some issues that need to be addressed before one could aim for improvement. Is there enough attention/awareness of this?

Woltjer: the SP is for 5 year. Some things are hard to predict, so it is difficult to be very concrete. This plan contains the first steps away from the current Covid-19 situation. The board aims to consolidate and stabilize while maintaining quality. The SP is not written as a detailed action plan.

Comment about growth - aim of 250 students:

This should not be read as an aim of the faculty to have 250 students. It is intended to note the preparations needed for 250 students. Suggestion: change into 220-250. Furthermore, in the SP

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is mentioned flexible spaces. These are for more flexibility in teaching and different teaching methods. This purpose will be added.

Comment about mission/vision: only spatial is mentioned, but the faculty is also about people, about behavioural and human aspects.

Woltjer: the overall text contains not a lot of content from each department. Only general terms are possible. With that in mind, it is an inclusive text.

Comment about Education, 'making future place makers': this is too narrow. Woltjer will change this and include analytical and geography aspects.

Comment about online learning and physical education on campus: digital skills, computational skills, spatial thinking should be separate items. Regression analysis is mostly done in bachelor. Suggestion: it should be good to have a separate point about methods, competences and skills as these are a unique selling point of our faculty. It could be stressed more. Woltjer will add this to the last point, educational excellence.

Comment about Research (page 7, first paragraph) - enhancing wellbeing and sustainability development goals: This is a weird combination. However, as this is a strategic point it will stay.

Comment about publication strategy. How should this be internalized? Should URSI have a specific role? Suggestion: add 'and implement'.

The idea of PhD proposals is a great way for getting research proposals together. The Faculty has 15 research topic areas. However, the research accreditation committee advised to be a bit more selective in research topic areas.

The number of PhD students is a finance based number (not related to faculty staff).

Compliments for the board that different career paths have been included.

7. Progress Report Health, Safety and Sustainability

Two members of the FC were involved in making the report. One comment: perhaps it could be clearer that this report is about staff, as there are not many indicators on students. However, it should be noted that the report is made because of employment related responsibilities. One comment of the FC on the previous report about safety signing on Zernike (in Dutch) has been solved.

The FC gives a positive opinion.

8. University elections

For the student section there are eight applicants, of which two are conditional.

For the staff section there are also eight potential candidates.

9. Other business

In the updated chart of the Quality Agreements it is mentioned that the elective Digital Skills was planned for this year, but was postponed due to Covid-19. Students are very interested and would like to know when it is planned. However, due to the pressure on education it's not likely that it will be given in September.

The next meeting is Tuesday 20 April 2021.