



# minutes

## Meeting Faculty Council (FC)

Date and time

26 January 2021, 13:30-15:00

Reference

final

Eliza van der Ploeg-Bout

T +31 (0)50 36 33898

e.s.van.der.ploeg-bout@rug.nl

Present

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

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

Others: Jelmer de Rijke (Ibn Battuta)

Absent

Claudia Yamu

Landleven 1

9747 AD Groningen

The Netherlands

Minutes taken by

Eliza van der Ploeg-Bout

Last minutes (3 November 2020) approved

Yes, without changes

## 1. Actions

Number	Who?	What?	When?	See point
20210126-1		On agenda 9-3: Strategic Plan		4.5
20210126-2	Board	Check formal role of FC about Strategic Plan.	9-3	4.5
20210126-3	Board/All	Board sends Update Quality Agreements to FC for opinion (by email), deadline 14-2.	asap	4.6
20210126-4	Board	Send format of DoE about plagiarism/fraud to FC.		5
20210126-5	Haartsen	Take up laptop requirements with DoE (-> mandatory) + GIS in 2B.		5
20210126-6	Board	Check with DoE decision about restricting electives during academic year and how many students have been affected. On agenda 9-3.	9-3	6

## 2. Finished actions:

**20201103-1:** Rutigliano has contacted Huizinga and the DoE about video tutorial and support button in Nestor for students.

**20201103-2:** Weitkamp has answered the letter of the FC of the Faculty of Arts.

## 3. Decisions/Advice

Number	Subject	See point
20210126-a	Opinion – Update Quality Agreements for Executive Board: the FC gives its opinion about the update provided by the Board before 14-2 by email.	4.6
20210126-b	Advice - Electives: the FC advises the board to use other solutions for relieving/balance workload pressure than restricting access to (elective) courses. Furthermore, imposing such restrictions during the course of an academic year should not be done.	6.

## 4. For information

**4.1 Update Housing:** No news. To be continued.

**4.2 Update Research visitation:** The faculty has received the final report. Compliments for the Faculty. The overall conclusion was very good, although there are also some

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recommendations. It is now up to the board to reflect on these recommendations. Thereafter, they will be discussed with the staff and will be seen how these recommendations could be implemented.

- 4.3 Update Zero tolerance policy:** Ongoing. In spring, two training workshops have been organized for all FSS staff: "Cultural Awareness" and "Active Bystander". Due to Covid-19, the workshops are online instead of in-person.
- 4.4 Update Councils meeting:** Weitkamp comments that the Councils meeting mainly discussed AFAS. Aim is evaluating the process and improving future processes for purchasing software and improving the implementation.
- 4.5. Strategic Plan:** The report is in development. Next meeting it is on the agenda for discussion. The board checks the formal role of the FC.
- 4.6 Added to the agenda – Update Quality Agreements:** On 22-9 the Faculty Council already discussed the Quality Agreements. The Executive Board would like to receive an update about 2020. For this, also an opinion of the Faculty Council has been asked. Due to the very short notice (deadline 14-2), this will be done by email. The board sends the update.
- 4.7 Lustrum of Ibn Battuta** has been postponed from May 2021 to 25/8 – 5/9.

## 5. Corona update

### *Online education*

Nothing urgent has reached the FC in recent times. The FC would like to know whether the Faculty is planning to organize more in-person/on campus due to the test street (for example, another faculty organizes exams on campus). The Faculty Board has decided to do all exams online as FSS has many international students who might not be able to come to Groningen. Furthermore, in recent times some exams were hybrid and that turned out to be much more time consuming and work for lecturers. The Faculty Board hopes to do more activities on campus in period 2A or 2B.

### *BSA*

The FC has taken notice of the lowering of required study points to 35. Although this might be a relief at the moment, in the second year it could lead to a delay. The FC would like to know the opinion of the FB. Hids informs the FC that a delay is not necessarily a consequence as in the whole university and also in our Faculty students gained more credits and had better achievements than previous year.

### *Extension of (PhD) appointments*

All applicants got extension. Some PhD students come into a different phase of their PhD trajectory now. The FB communicates that one should continue as is possible. Around the summer, an evaluation about possible delays will be done and necessary extensions will be dealt with case by case.

### *Plagiarism*

There has been some communications on plagiarism. The FC would like to know the current status and opinion of the board on this. It turns out that many cases in FSS are not really fraud but more a copy/paste issue without referencing. Some students thought copy/paste was not fraud because it was not mentioned in the manual. This is due to bachelor students not having a course in academic ethics yet.

The DoE has instructed lecturers to inform students about the importance of correct references. Also, a format is developed so all students get clear instructions before an exam about possible fraud. The FC would like to receive the format (action Board).

The consequences till so far are that some students did not get a mark and have to do a resit.

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Suggestion of FC: communication about this is very important. Ideally, one would make sure that students do not want to commit plagiarism in the first place. Perhaps this could be achieved by building trust throughout a course.

### *Participation Online teaching*

Suggestion: sharing screens. Sharing screens stimulates to real participation. If possible, the FC advises to have some rule in place all comply with that if you are in a meeting you share your screen. That way, everyone has to be involved.

### *Laptop requirements for new students*

Last year the FC advised to install mandatory laptop requirements for students. However, the requirements has been communicated to students only as a strong recommendation. Now some students are not able to do some online courses (f.e. GIS) due to laptops not having the right specifications. The FC would like to know who is responsible for solving this problem (student, lecturer, Faculty)? Furthermore, the FC strongly advises the board to look into implementing mandatory laptop requirements for next year.

For example, about 20% (50 students) have indicated they wanted to make use of on-campus facilities for GIS in 2B.

Action: Haartsen takes up this issue with the DoE.

## 6. Electives

The FC has received a letter about the restriction of elective courses during this academic year due to increased inflow of students and the resulting extra work pressure. The FC has been asked to give their strategic position when it comes to restricting access to courses as a means to balance workload and educational outcomes for students of all programmes.

In addition, the FC is asked about its position regarding imposing such restrictions during the course of this academic year (weighing again the extraordinary circumstances and connected workload and the interest of the entire student population).

The FC has discussed the above mentioned and advises the board to look into other solutions to relieve the work pressure. Restricting access to electives during the course of an academic year should not be done. The FC would like to know the opinion of the board about this. The board agrees with the FC and checks the decision with the DoE and see how many students have been affected by this. For further discussion next meeting.

## 7. Facilitating exchanges FSS students spring 2022

The FC discussed the proposal for an alternative plan for outbound student exchanges in 2021/2022. The FC is of the opinion that as long as it is feasible for lecturers, than it is a good initiative. The proposal has already been discussed with all coordinators. At the moment, it is not completely clear how much extra work it will be for staff and how many students will take advantage of this. In April, the DoE knows more.

## 8. Other business

No other comments.

The next meeting is Tuesday 9 March 2021.