



minutes

Meeting Faculty Council (FC)

Date and time

23 January 2024, 13:30-15:00

Reference

final

Eliza van der Ploeg-Bout

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Present

FC: Dimitris Ballas (chair), Annet Kempenaar, Zeqiang Pan, Diana Velea, Timothy Laukens, Jovan van den Berk, Paulo Cigarro, Saskia Enuma, Gunnar Mallon, Roselinde van der Wiel

FB: Johan Woltjer, Nienke Bastiaans, Arjan van den Assem,

Others: Ibn Battuta

Landleven 1

9747 AD Groningen

The Netherlands

Absent with notice

Gwenda van der Vaart, Diana Velea, Julia van Wijk

Minutes taken by

Eliza van der Ploeg

Last minutes (12 December 2023) approved

Yes, with addition.

1. Actions

Number	Who?	What?	Dead-line?	See point
20231031-3	Pro Geo	Make a proposal/memo about improving digital skills (so students have the required level for a course) for the FC so a better discussion and brainstorm is possible.	Ongoing	
20231031-4	Ballas	Reaction from HR about employee satisfaction survey?	Waiting for response.	
20240123-1	Van der Ploeg	Contact Central Electoral Committee about University Elections 2024 student section: Pro Geo has not received any information(/email).		3e
20240123-2	Mallon	Take up with GS Director: there is no monitoring system (like a TVM) for teaching time of PhD's.		3f

2. Finished actions:

20231212-1: Bastiaans has checked whether reassurance message has been sent/posted on Brightspace for students, which was done indeed.

20231212-2: Bastiaans/Van der Ploeg have looked into the reimbursement for PC members which has indeed increased from €37,- to €39,- per meeting.

3. For information/received documents

a. Update PC's:

Best Teaching Practice Award (BTPA): PC members have voted on the nominees. However, PCs were confused how to judge the nominees as they didn't know the courses. Pro Geo would like to know what the vision behind this procedure was.

Van den Assem explains that the organization of the first BTPA did not work as voters had difficulty recognizing best practices and the voting was planned halfway the year. Therefore, this year the procedure had been changed. A list of really best practices had been composed by the student assessor, the Director of Education and Van den Assem. Sadly, also this year there were problems. So, the student assessor will contact Pro Geo for improving the procedure. Also, any suggestions for improvement are welcome.

For FSS, the BTPA is a showcase to the rest of the University.

b. Update Faculty Board:

- The HGP-programme is part of the university accreditation in June/July.
- A new teaching-oriented programme/track is in process.

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- Continuing University discussions on internationalization.
 - New research projects at the faculty will start with new positions in the upcoming period.
 - A new form for the R&D interviews has been developed with more focus on merit and a personal development plan.
 - Starter and incentive grants (Starters en stimuleringsbeurzen): A national discussion about these grants is going on. The Minister has reversed his plans. There is a lot of political debate. To be continued.
- c. Cost cutting and work pressure document: see bullet above. After revision with comments from the FC the document will be sent to the rest of the staff.
- d. Report Administrative Meeting autumn FSS: no comments.
- e. University Elections 2024 student section: Pro Geo has not received this email. [action Van der Ploeg to check].
- f. Concept minutes 12 December 2023:
Textual: Extra text will be sent by Ballas about 'student villages'. The idea has been discussed in the board and will be further elaborated. To be continued.
With this change the minutes are approved of.
Following the minutes:
There is no monitoring system (like a TVM) for teaching time of PhD's. This should be taken up with the GS Director (example: Mallon with IAR). [action Mallon]
4. **Draft-proposal for the 'Designing Spatial Transformations' track**
For information shared with the FC. It is clear that there is a labor market for these graduated students.
The proposal has already been discussed in the PC and there has been a survey among students with many interested responses.
Expectation: 25-40 students.
5. **Input from Pro Geo & Bursary PhD**
Pro Geo: Pro Geo had a meeting with Terry van Dijk to prepare for carrying out their action point. It is possible for students to do a design project. Also, a yearly Design Challenge and two bachelor projects are towards design. Pro Geo is still being involved in this and is also busy with organizing a design panel to get new ideas. To be continued.
6. **Input from staff**
Request Study Advice involvement when changing programmes:
Following changes in the HGP programme, Study Advice has requested to be more and in an earlier stage being involved to bring in expertise when programmes will be changed. There have been implemented some changes in the bachelor programme concerning IAR and MAR. Study Advice has raised concerns that not enough has been done to counter study delay of students when they do not pass MAR (which is necessary to continue with IAR). Van den Assem and the Director of Education are aware of this. Study Advice wants to make sure that when programmes change, Study Advice will be involved because they have a good overview of what the consequences for students will be. This is also applicable for the international office.
Van den Assem and the Director of Education agree.
7. **Any other subject**
No other subjects were raised.
8. **Closure and date next meeting**
The next meeting is 5 March 2024. The chair closes the meeting at 14:13 hrs.