Minutes 110th meeting Faculty Council FSW, 25 January 2016

Present

Faculty Council
Dr Jacko van Ast (JvA), chairman
Dr Gera Noordzij (GN)
Dr Huib Tabbers (HT)
Dr Maartje Luijk (ML)
Suzanne Overbeeke (SO)
Christiaan Tieman (CT)
Evelien Schrijver (ES)
Valmir Xhemaili (VX)
Else Kappenberg (EK)
Adriana Vries (AV)
Sharona Boonman (SB)
Trude Michels (TM)

Faculty Board
Prof. dr. V.J.J.M. Bekkers (VB); vice-Dean
Dr Mariette de Jong (MdJ)
Mark Adriaans MSc (MA)
Jessica Dekkers-de Leeuw MSc (JD)

Elmer Smaling (Erasmus Magazine)

Absent with notice: Prof. Henk van der Molen and Maxime de Winter

1. Opening
The Chairman opens the meeting at 3.00 p.m. and welcomes everybody. Unfortunately, dean Prof. Henk van der Molen is ill and is replaced by Prof. Victor Bekkers.

2. Approval agenda
Approved without changes.

3. Approval minutes meeting 109th dated 23 November 2015
The minutes are approved with thanks to Puck Schiffers. Referring to the Faculty regulations, the FC’s remarks about the final version have not yet been received. MdJ explains that the Faculty Board is still waiting for a formal reaction from the FC. JvA says the FC was waiting for the final versions, so there may be a misunderstanding here and he promises to send a reaction a.s.a.p.

4. Announcements
The vice-dean announces that with regard to the 22 points list of projects for implementation, the reorganisation plan is an indication of what is going to be done. One possibility for informing the FC is publish the state of the art after which the FC tells the Faculty Board what it would most like to be informed about.

HT remarks that the list does not include a special project for the secretariats. MdJ says that this will be part of the Flow project (LEAN) and that the secretariats have just started in a new set-up with the appointed business coordinators.
The vice-dean announces there are several new excellent initiative research projects. In due course, the requested overview will be provided.

The vice-dean is glad that the FC has agreed to the student loan plans, so now the next step can be taken to welcome additional staff.

Chairman announces the new student member: Sharona Boonman. She replaces Enes Yigit, who recently left the study programme.

5. Decisions meeting of Management Faculty Board (FMO)
There are no comments.

6. Communication
ES has concerns about the information for students about the merger of the Public Administration and Sociology studies. It is not clear why or what the benefit of this merger would be.

EK refers to the minutes of DPAS of 31 August 2015. She remarks that it is not clear what has happened to the broad bachelor. Is there a Dutch bachelor and/or an international bachelor and are they related to each other?

The vice-dean says that the international bachelor starts in September and it is good to know that some of the subjects in the Dutch bachelor Public Administration-Sociology are in English and some are in Dutch. During the next introduction for students, extra attention will be paid to providing students with information.

7. Faculty regulations
Chairman says that he will skip this point now for reasons mentioned under “announcements”. The vice-dean asks when a response to art. 27 from the FC can be expected. Next week? JvA agrees. EK looks forward to the final version.

8. Cum laude regulations EUC
GN mentioned that there is missing the ‘A-level’ in the letter of 13-1-2016. Why is there a difference between FSW and EUC in averages for cum laude? Why is the average not in line with all EUR faculties/other Dutch universities? It is not clear, while EUC has two majors. JvA advises looking at it again while comparing other regulations and placing it on the agenda for next time.

9. Name change
The vice-dean remarks that the idea behind the new name Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences is that other parts of EUR also have ‘School’ in their name. This reflects the importance of internationalisation. JvA asks about the abbreviation of the new name. MdJ says that abbreviations are only for internal use. The vice-dean says that an abbreviation can be discussed at a later stage.

MdJ adds that EUR is a strong brand and this can optimise the name of Erasmus.

10. Transition OSEA
The Chairman says that one of the reorganisation agreements according to FC was the transition of the OSEA. This was recently discussed with the dean. He suggests not discussing it in detail now, but to wait until next time when the dean is back. HT says that he is not happy with the procedure. In the dean’s letter (December 2015), there is an implementation, but he misses a plan as an outcome of the procedure leading a.o. to the move now. The move of the OSEA in December already feels like ‘dealt with’. MdJ says that the project description OSEA is the plan. The vice-dean comments that the people involved in OSEA also participate in information flows to students and staff. The LEAN project is very important for everyone. HT wants a blueprint of the plan to discuss in the FC. MdJ says that the project
portfolio for OSEA is how we are going to work this year. The vice-dean adds that the next step in the coming months is to elaborate the new OSEA. HT has concerns about the transition of OSEA. JvA mentions the distribution of people within OSEA over more rooms and the objections from people that are not heard. The vice-dean says that we are doing this to improve things for students and staff. It is important to develop a structure that is better than before. We moved at the end of December and everybody is still trying to find their way around. If there are problems, we will look into them, but it has only been three weeks. JvA says that some parts of the group are not happy with the way it is organised now. The discussion will be continued when the dean is back.

11. Valorisation
VB gives a short introduction to the valorisation memo. Recent years have seen an increasing focus on valorisation. It has been explicitly referred to in funding calls and is an important criterion in research assessments. Because of these developments, the faculty has made valorisation a priority and will work towards developing a clear research profile and facilitating and encouraging valorisation. HT appreciates the interviews that were conducted among the academic and support staff in order to gather their views on the topic. With regard to the possible research themes presented in Appendix B, HT wonders whether there is a risk of smaller research topics being left out. He also questions the viability of certain themes. What happens if key researchers leave? VB explains that the umbrella themes will be kept very broad in order to ensure that most research fields within the faculty are covered and that continuity of these themes can be guaranteed. JD emphasises that the possible research themes presented in Appendix B are still tentative and that the final profile themes will be chosen in close collaboration with the departments. The chairman concludes that the FC is happy with the attention given for this important subject.

12. Other Business
-VX mentions that earlier mentioned the grammar and spelling mistakes referring to the quality of exams will be discussed with the involved teaching staff.

-AV wants to know how to promote the FC and how to nominate in relation to the elections. She feels it would be better for continuation in the Council’s work if students also had a seat for two years, like the staff. MA suggests the possibility for re-election, but says it is common in all faculty Councils students to have a seat for one year. You can make a proposal. MdJ remarks that the planning for the elections will be done soon.

-SO says that since the introduction of ‘bloktijden’ or block times two weeks ago, the people at OSEA and the secretariats now have to work strictly during certain times. Since it was announced the day before the rule was implemented, suddenly some staff are having large problems for example with their children’s school times and traffic jams. She wonders why such a hierarchical and rigid procedure has been selected. Another point is why wasn’t the same message communicated to the Webteam staff and Study advisors, other OBP and the WP?

-HT wants information about how to finance the set up of a business case in the research masters as part of the reorganisation plan. MdJ promises to inform about it, when the dean has taken an intended decision regarding a concrete plan for a new research master.

-HT also wants to know when the next newsletter from finances is expected? BL says that this will be issued next month February/March.
-JvA comments that applying strict regulations can harm flexibility. He stresses that the employees of the “onderwijsbureau” always did everything to enhance quality. Abrupt implementation of rigid regulations can easily affect loyalty.

13. Closure
The chairman thanks everyone for attending and closes the meeting at 4.40 p.m.