University College Student Representatives of the Netherlands

Agenda General Assembly at 12:30 March 19, 2017
University College Utrecht

1. Welcome

Joris van Schie (Chair) welcomes everyone to the General Assembly.

2. Approval of minutes

Joris van Schie (Chair): Does anyone have any questions about the minutes? Considering there are no questions, the minutes are hereby approved.

3. Approval of the agenda

Joris van Schie (Chair): Does anyone have any questions about the agenda? Considering there are no questions concerning the agenda, the agenda is hereby approved.

4. Policy manual changes

Joris van Schie (Chair): Then moving on to the Policy Manual changes, these five changes have been proposed:
   a. The contribution fee for next year has been set at €1.200 (4.2.5).
   b. The exemption procedure has been amended (4.2.4).
   c. The travel cost reimbursement policy has been formalized (4.4).
   d. The role of the committees in organizing events has been adapted (3.2).
   e. In Article 5.10, a reference is included to Article 12.10 of the Statutes in the context of proxy votes; this should be Article 12.11.

These changes are proposed based on the results of the discussions held at the UCSRN weekend, where the members discussed and decided on changing the contribution fee and how. The current travel cost reimbursement policy was also discussed, leading to change c. Let's start!

   a. So please take care to read the first change, as we will vote on the changes chronologically. Does anyone have any questions regarding this first Policy Manual change? No, then is there anyone against this change? Then we will move to voting. This change is unanimously passed and will be included in the updated Policy Manual.

   b. Now as for the second change, I will give you some time to read through it. Does anyone have any questions? No then we will proceed to voting on the exemption procedure. This change is also unanimously passed and will be included in the updated Policy Manual.

   c. Does anyone have any questions regarding the 3rd change? No, then will proceed to voting like before. With 2 abstains and 28 in favour, this change has also passed.

   d. Joris van Schie (Chair): Does anyone have any questions regarding this Policy Manual change?

Rob Verbeek (UCT): Will the General Assembly still approve of the event proposals / budget set for events?

Joris van Schie (Chair): Yes, since the budget has to be voted upon at the first General Assembly

of the year, these proposals will have to be approved by the General Assembly.

Marieke van der Maden (UCM): So will the Social Committee not be organizing any events?

Joris van Schie (Chair): The Social Committee is free to decide to organize events, however this Policy Manual clause provides a clear task division between the team or UC arranging the practicalities of the event, much like the Tournament Team at AUC currently, and promotion by the Social Committee. In past events, this was not always clear, so that is why we decided to include it in the Policy Manual.

Marieke van der Maden (UCM): So then if UCs do not submit an event proposal, no events will take place?

Aleksandra Blazeusz (SC Chair): We already used this structure this year. At the start of the year, UCs could submit an event proposal and based on those we decided which events would take place and where. So I don't think we should have a problem with them.

Marieke van der Maden (UCM): Then I think it is really important that the representatives in the committees are actually in the boards / councils at the respective UCs.

Jonathan Seib (Treasurer): Already at the UCSRN weekend, we stressed the importance of this to the Members, but indeed, the committee representatives should have a seat in their respective UCs' association or council.

Joris van Schie (Chair): Are there any other questions still? If not, then we will proceed to voting. This change is also unanimously passed and will be included in the updated Policy Manual.

> e. Joris van Schie (Chair): As mentioned before, this is simply a mistake in the referencing, noticed by Thijs Ringelberg from UCU, which we aim to rectify. Are there any questions regarding this change? No, then we will move to voting.

Joris van Schie (Chair): This change is also unanimously passed and will be included in the updated Policy Manual.

5. Current status of the UCSRN

Joris van Schie (Chair): Then we can move on to an update about the current status of the UCSRN. A while ago the Board visited University College Tilburg, which was before called Liberal Arts & Sciences Tilburg. Since their name-change, they have also become a part of the UC Deans Network (UCDN). During our visit, we asked if Extra Muros, the study association of UC Tilburg, would like to become a member of the UCSRN. To support this choice, we have invited them to visit the Tournament with a delegation to see what the UCSRN is about and who our members are. In the future, they might become a new member of the UCSRN, which would put the total at 9 members.

As the concept of University College is on the rise, with the announcement of a University College Haarlem being introduced and plans of a college in Friesland, the UCSRN as an organization

might also grow even more in the near future.

Moving on, the focus these past months was on lobbying. The Board managed to visit several organizations, like ISO, VSNU and LSVB. The ISO and LVSB are the largest student associations in the Netherlands, receiving substantive subsidies. The members of the LSVB are the student unions in the Netherlands, and for ISO these are the participation councils (medezeggenschapsraden). For both the ISO and the LSVB, the UCSRN aims to become a partner organization, increasing our reach and using their resources to achieve our goals.

Then the VSNU (Vereniging Samenwerking Nederlandse Universiteiten): they are the alliance of all the universities in the Netherlands. This organization has direct access to political and national parties in the Hague. During our meeting with them, we discussed among other things the Master's transition and attracting more international students to the Netherlands. We will remain in close contact with them and when receiving the results of the UC Deans Alumni Survey, the VSNU and other lobbying partners will become important again.

The UCSRN Board is also meeting the founder of ECOLAS, the European association for Liberal Arts & Sciences, who is also the founder of UCR and UCU. We will discuss how the UCSRN can become involved with ECOLAS and get into contact with other LAS programs across Europe.

Furthermore, the elections for the new Executive Board will come up shortly, as we are in need of a new Board to take over from us. The Board is currently working on the elections and the transition procedure of the new Board.

Lastly, we have also been working on a long term vision so that the UCSRN can apply for subsidies from the Dutch government in the future. The UCSRN will be applying for long term subsidies, which are given based on your long-term vision and goals as an organization that has a recurring and representative function in the Netherlands. The other kind of subsidy is project-based, so that would be supplied based on a single event. In order to apply for the long term subsidy, we are in need of a long term vision for the UCSRN, explaining what the UCSRN stands for and aims to achieve in the (near) future. For this, we have organized the long term vision discussions to take place after the GA, since we need input from all the Members to create the long term vision. We hope to come up with concrete action points, reflecting all Members of the UCSRN, not solely the EB. The height of such a subsidy is relatively uncertain, but in any case it will be beneficial to the UCSRN.

Are there any questions regarding this?

Marieke van der Maden (UCM): For the long-term vision discussions and other updates, are there any documents etc. that we could read up on?

Joris van Schie (Chair): No, not really. But if we become a partner of the ISO or LSVB, we will have to sign a contract, which will then be send around to the Members as well, outlining what the UCSRN and partner stand for and what things we could cooperate on.

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Marieke van der Maden (UCM): But right now, there are no documents we can read up on?

Joris van Schie (Chair): No, we don't have any official minutes of those meetings or anything like that.

6. Academic Committee update

Joris van Schie (Chair): Then we will now move on to the Academic Committee update and I will give the floor to Bas Kellerhuis.

Bas Kellerhuis (AC Chair): Thank you Joris. I will start with the unfortunate news, as you may have seen in the email, the conference that was supposed to take place on the 11th of February, had to be cancelled. This was due to the fact that we couldn't find a proper and affordable venue that would fit both 300 attendees and our budget. Therefore, we had to postpone it. Therefore, we have decided to instead hold the Conference in Rotterdam, at EUC, where it was hosted last year. Instead of 300 people, the Conference will then be open to 150 people, and it will take place on Saturday the 15th of April. As was also done for the Social events taking place this year, the AC will also make a document outlining what went wrong, how this could be prevented and what the best approach is to organizing such an event. Then we will make sure that in this Board year, such a situation won't happen again, and also in the following years to come.

The Journal is currently being worked on, for which the theme will be 'Broadly Educated: what defines your University College?'. On our website (https://journal.ucsrn.nl) we have also opened the submissions button. Additionally, we have reached out to the Deans and associations / councils to submit something for their UC.

For the Master's transition we have to thank AUC and the UCSA for forwarding an email about the University of Utrecht Master's event. We have successfully set up a University College specific event there, answering UC related questions like curriculum requirements, combination possibilities with honours programs etc. Currently we have also uploaded the information from that event on our website, and are reaching out to other Dutch universities to gain similar events elsewhere.

Then in terms of the Survey, the UC Deans Network (UCDN) is setting up an Alumni survey, which they have postponed till after the Summer break. The questions suggested by the UCSRN have however been incorporated, so we hope to gain some new insights into the status and complexity of the Master transition for UC students soon.

The Master's fair is still scheduled for the end of September / beginning of October of next academic year. We have started reaching out to the Dutch Universities, mainly focusing on those that receive a lot of applications from UC students. And we will also start reaching out to International Universities.

Are there any questions?

7. Social Committee update

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Aleksandra Blazeusz (SC Chair): Thank you Bas. So for the Social Committee update, the UCSRN Tournament is coming up quite soon. The Tournament Team and the Social Committee have been working quite hard, and we are very excited to welcome all of you in Amsterdam on the 22nd of April.

And for the 2nd event, we are very excited to present the UCSRN District Fest, themed Hunger Games. It will take place on the 3rd of June at UCU. During the day there will hunger games themed games for 80 participants (8 from each UC), and then in the evening there will be a festival with music and performances for around 600 people (300 from UCU and 300 from other UCs).

8. Audit IB

Joris van Schie (Chair): Now we will listen to the Financial Audit performed by the Independent Body.

Anouk Ide (Independent Body member): A more detailed letter regarding the Financial Audit performed by the Independent Body was sent to everyone via email, so if you want a more detailed overview we would like to refer you to that.

Generally speaking, the Independent Body was very happy with the financial status. We would however sometimes prefer a bit more understandable use of language / overviews as not everyone has an extensive background in finances. Other than that, we were satisfied and extend a positive advice.

Joris van Schie (Chair): Are there any questions regarding the Audit?

Daniël van Hemert (UCR): We would like to stress the importance of training for the Independent Body if there does exist such a lack of knowledge, since we believe it is very important that the finances of such an organization are audited with expertise. Even though we understand not everyone studies tax law, it would be highly preferred if the Independent Body has some expertise in this department.

Joris van Schie (Chair): Firstly, I would like to state that that is a great idea, let's make a UCSRN IB training, also inviting the auditing teams from all the UCs.

Then if there are no further questions, we will move to voting on the Financial Audit. With 1 against and 27 in favour, the Audit has been approved.

Joris van Schie (Chair): Now we will have a short break, after which we will split up into groups for the Long Term vision discussion sessions.

Short break

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9. Long term vision discussion

[these discussions were held in a private setting – the outcomes of the discussion are translated into the long-term vision document]

10. Open floor

Joris van Schie (Chair): I see that there are no points for the open floor.

11. Closing

Joris van Schie (Chair): I therefore close the General Assembly.