



1. Welcome

Joris van Schie (Chair): Welcome to The Hague and thank you for coming here today. We apologize for the current state of affairs; this was originally not our plan. However due to the College Board of Leiden and security at the LUC building not allowing us into the LUC building, we will be improvising a little. The Agenda therefore looks a little different.

We will first have the formal part of the General Assembly, including the open floor. Then we walk to LUC, and have a break in one of the Common Rooms. Afterwards there will be an informal section in which breakout sessions will be held (the discussion and inter-board sessions).

2. Approval of the Minutes

Joris van Schie (Chair): Since there are no questions, we can hereby approve of the minutes by acclamation.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Joris van Schie (Chair): Are there any questions/comments regarding the Agenda?

Faye Boveland (UCR): We will be going over the Policy Manual still, or will that be done on a later occasion?

Joris van Schie (Chair): No Faye. During our visits to our members, we received input from all of you that you wanted more inter-board sessions, which we have incorporated into the agenda today. We would like to get input from you, the delegates, while writing policy. With that input we will come up with a proposal for next General Assembly.

Lance Bosch (AUC): Can we start with the General Assembly now?

Joris van Schie (Chair): Indeed, let's start.

4. Current status of the UCSRN

Joris van Schie (Chair): There has been an effort to improve awareness of the UCSRN among its members. In order to change that, we have done several things. First is the UCSRN video, which will be published on the Facebook page soon. This explains the structure of the UCSRN. In the past months the page did get about 400 new likes, improving the reach of the UCSRN further. Facebook has been a great tool for doing so – the UCSRN has also began using paid ads. Finally, there is the website in which members can read articles and see updates about the Network.

One of the goals of the mission is lobbying. So far, we have contacted Sjoerd Sjoerdsma who works with the Dutch government. The interview has been cancelled twice, but happened a week ago. Sjoerdsma is a member of parliament and UCU alumnus. This will be published soon. It goes through what can be accomplished by being a UC student, as well as explaining the vision of Sjoerdsma's party on UCs et cetera.



There was also a UC Dean's Network meeting in Twente. One agenda point was on the Master's transition. The alumni survey will incorporate the points the UCSRN raised during this meeting. The idea is that if concerns are raised with data supporting them (gathered via the survey), lobbying will be easier in the future. Another topic was the Master's fair, though Bas will talk about that as well. The UC Dean's Network might also be able to help us financially.

The Dean's Network has decided that the Liberal Arts and Sciences Programme in Tilburg will become a UC, and also that the UC Tilburg will become part of the Dean's Network. The UCSRN Executive Board will contact Tilburg for more information.

The Keuzegids UC ranking made several methodological errors in their analysis. When this was pointed out, they changed their results. Now UCM is first, and LUC is now tied for second. If any member sees anything else of relevance mentioned of the University Colleges in the media, contact the UCSRN so that we can possibly react to it.

The Executive Board visited several University Colleges to get to know them a bit more. There should be a UCSRN survey so that they can collect more data on what students actually want, which is also helpful for lobbying. This survey is not to be confused with the one by the UC Dean's Network for alumni.

A Facebook post will be sent out asking students to submit events that they want promoted or funded.

Rozemarijn Anne-Lize (EUC): Last year there was a document for all committees. Is it updated?

Joris van Schie (Chair): The Social Committee update will discuss that later.

5. Academic Committee Update

Bas Kellerhuis (Academic Committee Chair): We are currently two members down. The UCG member has left us for now, but will be getting a new one soon. The LUC representative should be joining us next Wednesday.

First for the Conference, we planned a date and topic. It will be on the 11th of February. The topic is Unity and Diversity. We have not decided a location yet, and are currently finding interesting speakers.

For the Journal, we intend to publish it this year. The committee consists of only a few students. Please make sure to have a journal committee representative available for this. We like to use a separate committee for this, so it doesn't take too much time away from the AC.

At the UCDN meeting, we came with two proposals. One about the Master's transition, for which in their Alumni survey the UCSRN can give input. The UCDN seemed to have forgotten that however. But we will be working with the UCM dean (who is in charge of Survey) on this further. This concerns the transition from UCs to Master programmes.



We also proposed the Master's fair. It is planned for October of next year. For this we have requested the UCDN network connections and financial contribution. They are willing to help, but there was a bit of discussion on how much they should help. They are currently in the process of deciding.

Are there any questions?

6. Social Committee Update

Aleksandra Blazeusz (Social Committee Chair): Last week we had our first event, on which we worked a lot and intensively with EUCSA. This had its ups and downs on the way, but many Students got to enjoy it in the end.

The Tournament team is set. We are currently discussing the possible categories, potentially what to add: Mario-kart etc.

For the third event we have two proposals: a UCU summer festival, and a Pool Party at UCT.

Cris van Eijk (LUC): Considering the date of the third event, will it still be possible for the people that are graduating to attend, since they are no longer members of the Association then?

Aleksandra Blazeusz (Social Committee Chair): The date should be in June, so that shouldn't be a problem for those graduating in July/August. But we will take it into account.

Also concerning the Committee database, we are adjusting it. Faye Bovelanders is looking into it, is altering the order, and is updating new email addresses of committees. It should be published soon.

Are there any questions?

Lance Bosch (AUC): What was the intended attendance vs actual attendance of the Spotlight?

Aleksandra Blazeusz (Social Committee Chair): We intended for an attendance of 350, in the end we sold 231 tickets.

Lance Bosch (AUC): There were difficulties selling tickets because instructions for promotion were given only the week of the event. Could this have contributed to the lower-than-planned attendance?

Aleksandra Blazeusz (Social Committee Chair): There was some uncertainty about the event location from the UCs, and that definitely affected ticket sales. Today we did an evaluation and looked at what could be improved.

Andy O Daab (AUC): Will this evaluation be available somewhere?

Lance Bosch (AUC): Yes, and will there be some way to give feedback as well?

Aleksandra Blazeusz (Social Committee Chair): We will share the evaluation with you. We will be working on it until Christmas, so you can contact us before then.



Joris van Schie (Chair): You can also contact your SC representative, and give input via them.

7. Financial Update

Jonathan Seib (Treasurer): Every 8 weeks we give you an update. Until now we have only spend money on representation and the first General Assembly. Are there any questions on this financial update?

About the Spotlight, we decided to lower the ticket prices. We had lower ticket sales but also cut costs and in the end made 11 euros of profit.

We are currently also working to gain subsidies from the Ministry of Education. There are two types of subsidies, institutional which are long-term, with which you try to achieve statutory goals (such as representation), and project fees (think of the diversity project). For the latter one we need some input from you. The UCSRN can get access to such institutions / subsidies easily, while UCs not. If there are common issues, please communicate these to us. As far as institutional subsidies are concerned: these should be used to cover the core costs (like representation), could be around an amount of 3.000 to 5.000 euros, which could be received from 2018 onwards. We aim to have this done by March or April of 2017.

Andy O Daab (AUC): Concerning the Bank account change. The UCSRN changed from Triodos to ING. I am concerned what the reason for that was? And without consulting the IB for a fiscal inventory.

Jonathan Seib (Treasurer): Before we transferred the money between the two bank accounts, we received an excerpt from Triodos stating all transactions and the final amount on the account. This is done automatically to account for transactions. From ING we receive these transcripts digitally, which cannot be altered by the Treasurer.

As for the reasons of the bank switch, this was explained in our email. 1) Triodos does not have an English bank environment, whilst according to our statutes all communication should be in English. This would also provide a limitation for future (international) Treasurers. Therefore, we considered other options, while taking into account the sustainability policy of those banks. We then found that the ING ranked very high in this regard (1st in a ranking of June 2015). Both for protecting label rights as well as corporate social responsibility.

Andy O Daab (AUC): Also concerning the audit letter of the IB presented at the first General Assembly, I could not find it on the website. This concerned the letter of recommendation that was presented by Jan-Willem.

Jan-Willem Bruggeman (Independent Body Chair): I believe it was incorporated in the Minutes of General Assembly.

Joris van Schie (Chair): We will make sure to also publish the letter on the website separately.

Aram Zegerius (Advisory Body): I would like to raise my concern that the bank switch was not discussed at the General Assembly. In my opinion it was not necessary to do it immediately, without General Assembly consultation. I am also concerned about the sustainability of ING,



which in my opinion does not outweigh the issue of language. Also the AB was not asked for advice on this bank switch directly.

Joris van Schie (Chair): The Executive Board emailed the Advisory Board asking for advice on the matter. We wanted to know how the UCSRN decided on this bank in the first place, why did they decide to bank at Triodos. The sustainability argument was indeed stated, and as such taken into account. As is stated in our statutes, all of our communication has to be in English, and unfortunately Triodos offers its banking in Dutch only. Luckily we have 4 Dutch board members, including the Treasurer, this year. However, for reasons of efficiency of future boards it was deemed undesirable to continue at Triodos.

For this we contacted the AB, to elaborate on how decision was made (thoughts then). However, they couldn't provide us with the Minutes of the General Assembly at it was mentioned, therefore we don't know how it went exactly.

Deciding to have a bank account at Triodos was not a General Assembly decision, but only mentioned as a suggestion. The Executive Board thus decided to switch banks, and we subsequently contacted the associations and councils about this decision. In case Triodos decides to offer its services in English in the future, we can reconsider that switch.

Aram Zegerius (Advisory Body): I understand that English communication is important, but I do feel sustainability is at the core of the University Colleges. Also in the final email, it simply stated that the UCSRN was switching banks. The Advisory Board is there for a reason and I feel we have not been heard about this issue, especially since we disagree with it.

Joris van Schie (Chair): We did contact you about it, and took your advice into consideration. However, at the end of the day, the Advisory Body only has an advisory voice, not a decisive one. For this reason, the Executive Board is allowed to make decisions that might not be in line with that advice.

Sophie van Dijk (UCU): The email stated that the Executive Board decided to switch banks, but you did not consult the Associations before the decision was made. It was at that moment not changed yet.

Joris van Schie (Chair): The email did ask for input and/or questions. However indeed, in the future we can try to rephrase those emails, making it more obvious that input (including disagreements) can be given.

Jorn Krijgsman (UCU): I just wanted to ask if the Board was aware about the ING and the North Dakota pipeline, where ING is an investor in projects?

Joris van Schie (Chair): I personally don't know the exact details of that story. As a Board we looked into the sustainability ranking of the different banks, we can send you those reports if desired.

Aram Zegerius (Advisory Body): As a remark, I feel that the Board now does away quite quickly with the concerns just raised. I feel it should have been decided at the General Assembly. It was not the correct handling of the situation.



Joris van Schie (Chair): Indeed, we now realize this is very important to you, unfortunately we felt it needed to be done for the sake of English service. If this was raised or known to us beforehand, we would have made it a separate Agenda point. For next time, please do contact us about these concerns, so we can incorporate it into the Agenda!

Andy O Daab (AUC): I would like to make a motion for a retrospective audit, about when you decided to switch. Money could get lost in that switch. So besides the audit made every 6 months, you should ask for an audit before changing banks. Then the IB can state that no money was lost in that transaction.

Jonathan Seib (Treasurer): Ultimately any illegitimate transactions will be found in those biannual audits. However, I will send the statements of both Triodos and ING to the IB after the General Assembly, so they can account for the transaction. I will CC you too, Andy.

Louis Parker (UCU): Are there any additional projections made, for example how much you will budget towards specific events. It would have been nice to know how much money was set for the Spotlight.

Jonathan Seib (Treasurer): These specifics are on the website in the Budget.

Louis Parker (UCU): But in the general budget these are not specified for events / committees specifically?

Lance Bosch (AUC): You can find that when scrolling down in the Budget proposal document which is also on the website.

Louis Parker (UCU): Okay, good. Thank you.

8. Open Floor

Aram Zegerius (Advisory Body): I would like to state that we were really happy about how you dealt with Keuzegids. However, we feel that there is mostly a social purpose of this General Assembly. As the AB we feel that the General Assembly, as a constitutional tool, should not be used for this. Perhaps we could have rather discussed the fees that University College members pay, or incorporated other different topics (switch bank account, Advisory Body structure).

Joris van Schie (Chair): As the Executive Board, we highly value input from our members. Therefore, we feel that hosting General Assemblies is important, as to give our members the opportunity to do that. Furthermore, we also included contribution fees and inter-board sessions, in small workgroups, to get more participation and more productive and informed discussions. In case you feel there is an issue to be added to the agenda, please respond to our invitation so we can include it!

Thijs Ringelberg (UCU): For next General Assembly it would be nice if the Board could outline the regulations at a General Assembly, which deadlines we should adhere to. And similarly if more information on procedures could be given.

Joris van Schie (Chair): Thank you for suggestion, we will take this into consideration.



Cris van Eijk (LUC): Also as a recommendation, the Board could share the schedule of a General Assembly beforehand with the hosting Association.

Hannah Vreeburg (Secretary): We thought the email was clear, but we will make sure that it will be even more clear in the future.

Faye Bovelander (UCR): As a comment to the Advisory Body, I feel you could have commented this to the Executive Board before the General Assembly. Your task is to inform and advise the Board, but not scrutinise them at the General Assembly.

Aram Zegerius (Advisory Body): We thought it prudent to do this.

Thijs Ringelberg (UCU): Did you send your concerns to the Executive Board beforehand?

Aram Zegerius (Advisory Body): No.

Thijs Ringelberg (UCU): To get back to what the Advisory Body said, I was surprised that the inter-board sessions were planned to be during the General Assembly, as that is informal. Does it fit in the General Assembly agenda or should it be done separately?

Joris van Schie (Chair): The UCSRN is quite a young organization. There are obviously rules for the General Assembly, but we feel that there should be room for sessions like the Inter-board sessions and the evaluation.

Jonathan Seib (Treasurer): I just shared the documents for the audit on our website.

Lance Bosch (AUC): I just wanted to clarify – you did visit many Members, as I saw online. I just wanted to know if you had a timeline for that, or did you choose certain Members to visit first? We didn't receive an email, so I'm wondering why you didn't send a mass email to schedule us in.

Joris van Schie (Chair): We didn't contact AUC yet. This week we contacted UCM for a visit. You have to imagine that at the beginning of the academic year it was easier to visit UCs than in December, so these visits are tied to our schedules too. We are now looking into visiting UCG and UCM in January, and AUC will happen after. There was no strict rule regarding order of UCs etc.

Follow-up Lance Bosch (AUC): As a recommendation, if you go to UCs to get specific concerns, it's better to do this beforehand via Doodle. That way we don't have a meeting right before the tournament.

Jorn Krijgsman (UCU) – I've heard some questions about a policy. What is your policy for whether people in the Executive Board and Committees have to pay for events?

Joris van Schie (Chair): There is no formal policy for that.



Aleksandra Blazeusz (Social Committee Chair): The initial policy was that if we managed to sell the amount of tickets we wanted to sell, Board and Committee members would not have to pay. Since we did not, they did have to pay.

Joris van Schie (Chair): This is not the formal policy, but the policy for this event. This is nowhere incorporated in the policy manual or statutes.

Thijs Ringelberg (UCU): Is it an idea to implement such a policy in the Statutes/Policy Manual? At UCU, if a Board actively collaborates they don't pay. If they do not, they do pay. It might be an idea to implement that into the rules.

Joris van Schie (Chair): Good point, let's take that into account.

Thijs Ringelberg (UCU): Maybe this can be part of the Agenda for the next General Assembly?

Lance Bosch (AUC): I still had some more questions regarding the Spotlight. If we have concerns about the late start of ticket sales et cetera, ultimately who's responsibility is that? The Executive Board or the Social Committee?

Jonathan Seib (Treasurer): Legally?

Lance Bosch (AUC): Essentially if the event flops, who do I talk to?

Aleksandra Blazeusz (Social Committee Chair): It's the Social Committee and Hosting UC. The Social Committee has the responsibility to make the event successful.

Joris van Schie (Chair): The Executive Board is ultimately responsible for the UCSRN legally, including its events, but the Social Committee is responsible for its own events.

Lance Bosch (AUC): Do you have check-up sessions? For us, we have checks as committees have events. If the two events are the Spotlight and the Tournament, maybe we should have some oversight prior to it.

Joris van Schie (Chair): We have Executive Board meetings weekly, and in these we discuss these things.

Aleksandra Blazeusz (Social Committee Chair): In the end, the Executive Board does give advice on issues I bring up.

Joris van Schie (Chair): Are there any other questions?

Bob Steenmeijer (UCT): I had a question about sponsoring, as that is part of the budget. According to the Policy Manual, committees are responsible for their own sponsors, but the Treasurer also helps?

Jonathan Seib (Treasurer): I'm working together with them for that.

Follow-up Bob Steenmeijer (UCT): Does it make sense to have one entity in charge of all sponsoring?



Jonathan Seib (Treasurer): That's what Radu (Academic Committee), Rob (Social Committee) and I are. To keep a group small is a more effective way of getting things done. If you have ideas, please contact us. Collaboration is important!

Louis Parker (UCU): I will leave my point for the next General Assembly, never mind.

Joris van Schie (Chair): Now we will be walking back to LUC, where we will be having a short break and afterwards we will split into 3 groups to discuss the UCSRN contribution fee and the Inter-board sessions.

9. Re-evaluation of the UCSRN fee

The Minutes of these discussions can be found on the document database of the associations and councils.

10. Inter-board sessions

The Minutes of these sessions can also be found on the document database of the associations and councils.

11. Closing

Joris van Schie (Chair): A borrel after the General Assembly is hosted at a bar in The Hague.