University College Student Representatives of the Netherlands

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Fourth General Assembly Minutes

Chairing the GA: Stephen McCarthy
Minutes: Mai Thai de Rijk, Nia Alexieva

Date of General Assembly   30th of March, 2019
Location of General Assembly   Amsterdam University College
Time of General Assembly   13:00 (Doors open at 12:30)

Fourth General Assembly Agenda

1. Approval of GA Agenda
2. Approval of the Minutes of March 3rd, 2019
3. IB Audit
   a. Vote
4. Bank Change Recommendations
5. Proposed Policy Manual Changes based on Focus Group
   a. Vote
6. Open Floor

Fourth General Assembly Minutes

Attendance of the General Assembly:

AUC members attended 6
UCM members attended 0
UCR was not present 2
EUC member attended 1
UCU member attended 3
UCT members attended 3
TUC members attended
UCG was not present 0
LUC members attended 0 (1 proxy vote by Jonathan UCM)

Total of 25 votes

Introduction

Stephen: Welcome everyone back from the focus session. This is our Agenda for today's GA. As you can see, it's rather short, so hopefully this will reflect how long this GA will take and therefore did not schedule a break.. It's been available since the wednesday after the GA. It took some time to get it all figured out, thank you Mai Thai.

1. Approval of the GA Agenda

Stephen: Approval of the minutes. I would like to pass this vote by acclamation, unless anyone wants to vote against, don't raise your hand. If that's alright? Embarrassing, can you remind how vote by acclamation works?

Natasha (IB): Ask whether we can vote, and so forth.

Stephen: Shall we vote, if anyone raises their hand, then it shall pass. Otherwise, we'd discuss.

Passed by acclamation.

2. Approval of the Minutes of March 2nd, 2019

Stephen: Approval of the Minutes from GA March the 2nd, shall we vote on this?

Passed by acclamation.

3. Proposed Policy Manual Changes based on Focus Group
a. Definitions of Subclauses 12 and 13

Stephen: We will now jump right into the proposed policy manual changes. These were all covered in the focus group discussion we had right before the GA. *(referring to the text on the left hand side on the presentation available on the UCSRN Website.)* What is written on the right is the final way we worded after discussing it. We will go through slide by slide, each policy. Currently we have the proposed changes definitions of the subclauses of 12 and 13.

Stephen: Would we like to vote on the proposed changes to subclause 12.1? Not change, an addition.

Passed by acclamation.

Stephen: Would we like to vote on proposed changes to subclause 12.2?

Passed by acclamation.

Stephen: Would we like to vote on subclause 13?

Passed by acclamation.

Stephen: So all the definition changes have passed.

b. Executive Board Structure Changes

Stephen : Now for proposed changes on the structure of the EB. Mostly the chairs of the Social committee and the Academic Committee to becoming ex officio chairs, meaning they don't have to be representatives of the committees themselves and they have no voting power within their committee meetings, they just structure meetings, plan them and relay information between the EB and respective committees. Do we want to discuss this vote?

Max Sanders (UCU): What is the advantage of that?

Stephen: Multiple, one being that by opening it to more applicants, there is a greater chance of the position being filled. We have run into situations where none of the representatives felt like they had enough time to dedicate to chairing the board and because the positions are limited to the representatives, we had to step in as either interim chairs, such as Mai Thai or myself, for the SoCo when Juliette had to leave, or eventually come to an agreement, where Bart stepped in for the AC during October. Ideally, this would happen during the elections, much much earlier. It also gives more manpower for the EB because they have somebody on the board who does not have that many responsibilities and by creating this, they will have a lot more time to dedicate to the EB.

Jonas (AUC): By changing the SoCo chair to chair of the Social Committee, then it is made clear that they are outside of it.

Stephen: Yes. Well, they still chair the meetings and communicate via the SoCo to the EB or the IB depending on which position they are. They are not one of the representatives themselves and they don't vote on the issues at hand. Otherwise, one of the UCs would have two votes.

Do we want to vote on this proposal? This is 1.2 and 1.2.3 and 1.2.4?

Passed by acclamation.

c. Proposed Implementation of the Language Requirement for the External Position

Stephen: The treasurer position is no longer having the proposal, as was discussed in the Focus Group. Now it's only the external. It's just to require that they speak Dutch at full professional proficiency or higher, which is basically native level. They have a lot of talks with parliament and other representatives that may prefer conversing in Dutch and a lot of Dutch documentation which makes the job easier. Do we want to discuss this proposal?

Passed by acclamation

d. General Assembly Proxying: Changing phrasing for Clause 5.9

Stephen: Do we want to vote on this (*referring to slide*)

Passed by acclamation.

We literally just finished the GA, now we have open floor.

4. Open Floor

Stephen: Does anybody have anything to bring to the open floor?

Noah (AUC): My motion is to ask UCSRN for a relocation of 750 euros to Springboard, which is AUC's career event. Today I want to talk about the career event I will be organizing together with 18 other students from AUC. This is an event organized by the student Entrepreneurship Community and the AUCSA Acquisition Team. Springboard takes place in

AUC on the 1st of May and the event will be tailored for students who are eager to discover their talents and how their interests can be put to use. For the very first time we want to broaden Springboard scope and represent the true spirit of University Colleges by reaching out to the main Social Science interests and also Humanities and Science interests. This year we are aiming to reach out to approximately 90% of majors in University Colleges in the Netherlands. Our program allows for different organizations to interact with attending students in many different formats. We have different activities, company presentations, company cases, individual meetings. We also have a career fair during which students can interact with different representatives of companies. We already have applied for a UCSRN contribution of 500 euros, however we have discovered that in order to effectively get all UC students interested or let them know about this event, we will need more money for advertising and we have also included a workshop that focuses on how international students can work in the Dutch labor market. This is my request for the UCSRN to increase the contribution of the original application funding application from 500 euros to 750 euros.

Jonas (EUC): What is the date and what time is it from?

Noah (AUC): 1st of May from 11am till 5pm.

Jonas (EUC): And the first of May is a Wednesday, right?

Noah (AUC): Yes, that is correct.

Bart: This was discussed in the SC and AC, so it will be fair for the SC and AC chair to represent their position. The AC did not yet discuss this in their meeting, but they will do so next week. That way, all the representatives would have had ample time to look over the proposal that we have received and come up with a devised reasoning for what amount of money we want to allocate to this event. That will be decided next week, on the Saturday,.

Mai Thai: Regarding the Social Committee, we discussed this yesterday and although there are four members here, this is a condition say as to what the SC has to say about this proposition. But it was a majority vote for no because the date is May 1st which is on a Wednesday, which means that the majority of University College students will have class. The only person that did say yes was LUC because they do not have class on Wednesdays. But the rest of the UC students do have class and will therefore, not be able to attend the event and would then not really live up to the objectives and goals of the UCSRN, whereas we want all UCs to be able to inclusively attend these events and if none of them could be able to attend, there is no purpose to invest.

Jean-Losch (AUC): We chose a wednesday because this is the best day for most UC students. Companies are not available to come for a career event on a weekend and we would also not want to host the fair on a weekend. Of all the days of the week, Wednesday would be the day that the most people are free.

Pippa (UCU): I had a different question. So you say you want an extra 250 euros for spreading the words to other UCs, but why would that cost 250.

Noah (AUC): So, I mentioned two things. First, we would need to be able to advertise to all the different UCs, which would mean Facebook promotion and also the printing of flyers and banners. Alsom, there is a workshop that we have founded fairly recently that focuses on how international students can gain access to the Dutch Labor Market, which is often a

difficult point that needs to be addressed. Most job fairs like this focus on Dutch students and since UCs have a very international character we think it is important that these students also have a way through which they can work in Dutch society.

Jonathan (LUC): I like the proposition and I am okay with the Wednesday and the extra 250 euros. Just wondering about the tickets that you will be selling, I did not see the original price?

Noah (AUC): Three euros.

Jonathan (LUC): That's a..price.

Shanah (UCT): How many people do you expect to attend from all UCs because hearing that many students have class, I just wonder what are your expectations.

Noah (AUC): Well, since this is the first time that we are organizing something like this for all UC students, we don't have the scope we wanted it to be. Right now we have the goal for there to be 25% of external UC students at the event.

Jasper (AUC): So right now we are trying to attract 200 to 250 students, that would then mean that we want around 50 students to come from other UCs. And I think that that is fairly reasonable given that for example LUC has the Wednesday off and other university college, like Utrecht are relatively close to AUC. Also, just to add, because I play in the football team of AUC, we play a lot against other UCs, so I have spoken to the heads, we have a network and I have asked them about whether they would be interested and I have heard and received feedback that is very promising.

Lark (AUC): Regarding the topic of the Wednesday, I mean, there is never going to be a day that would suit all UCs. I think that the decision to do it on this day, throughout the whole day, so that the people that have morning class can still attend during the afternoon and the other way around and I just don't think that there would be a better day. Also, that kind of goes against the point that the SC made earlier, which is that in the last GA we discussed that we were also in favor of having budget spent on events that weren't necessarily for all UCs, all the time. If I remember correctly, we also said that something that can create a connection between two or more UCs is already a solid ground.

Max (UCU): So, there seems to be a contradiction within the proposal. There is the having it on the Wednesday, which is one central issue and there is also the 250 euro issue. Now, knowing that it will be on a Wednesday, you really now understand that you are really only reaching one other UC, so you can't really expect or have a point in promoting this to other UCs. You are right, Utrecht is close, but we do have classes, so we still won't be able to attend. Essentially, you would need to reach out to only one UC, so you would definitely not need that amount of money for promotion.

Alexander (UCR): First of all, to sort of, factually add to the discussion, most of UCR does not have class on Wednesday. So, I do see the opportunity also for us, further away colleges to attend. Therefore, to show we are objective. Furthermore, I have a point of inquiry, I don't know to whom, whether somebody could tell me as what the state of the budget is right now. Is this feasible in budgetary ways?

Mai Thai: For SoCo we have around 500 euros from the SC money from the event funds.

We also have around 300-400 euros left from the Spotlight budget, which UCU hosted, therefore making it between 700-800 euros from the SoCo itself that are left. Don't quote me on this, but around 600-800 euros.

Bart: And the Academic Committee also has around 400 euros.

Noah (AUC): So, somebody mentioned the day problem. I very much agree, there will never be a perfect day for every university college. We need to be pragmatic, so if there is even one more UC that would be able to join, we would love it.

Jonas (AUC): Just to be clear, are you asking for funds of the SoCo or the AC? Which one are you asking money from, or both.

Noah (AUC): I think from my original funding application, it was a funding proposal, I am not sure as to which one of the two we referred to. But now that I heard that Bart said that they have 400 euro left in their budget, I would assume it would be spread across the two bodies.

Mai Thai: To answer that, on behalf of Justin: the event fund usually goes through the EB, and then we review it and then we generally speak between Bart and I, whether we think that it is more academic or social and then with that decision, that proposal is brought to the AC or SC, discussing whether it's appropriate or whether we want to invest in that or not, which is what is currently happening. So, it is not that they request from the SC or the AC directly, but that it goes through the EB and we discuss which platform it falls better under and from there the SC and the AC decide.

Jasper (AUC): But also, if we look at what we are trying to achieve with this event, I think we are also satisfying both groups. We have workshops at the company fair, which is rather on the more academic side, but then we also have a networking borrel, catering, things like that, where you can also exchange with other students who have the same problems and the same questions and that will fall under the social side, so I think we could combine those.

Jonas (AUC): I think one good thing to mention is that although the EB votes on it, the EB is a representative body of the GA, the GA has the highest power. So if there is a really strong consensus at this GA, I think the only logical thing to do is to follow what the GA decides.

Noah (AUC): Something that I would like to note too, is that the event is in a month and we really need to know how much money we have right now, to know how much our target audience would be.

Ariel (UCR): Well, normally, I would have had to urge all of the AC representatives that are involved in this matter, and I don't know if all of them are here, although we should probably discuss that if it is urgent.

Zoe (AUC): I think you said that because we are all here at the GA that we should vote on it, but also if the SC already voted on it, would they have to vote again?

Mai Thai: It's a conditional *No* though.

Ariel (UCR): Why would you ask the SC again, if you would immediately overrule it as a GA?

Jasmijn (AUC): I didn't manage to make it myself to the meeting. We have sometimes a problem within the Social Committee that we don't have a set time for the meetings, so it is difficult for everybody to make it. Yesterday was kind of an example for this because only four people were able to make it for the meeting. So if three of those people decided No and one of the Yes, then I still don't think that it is really a representative vote for everyone's opinion because clearly we are talking about something else, here.

Mai Thai: I definitely agree to that, but that's why I said it was conditional. I wanted to discuss this with the rest of the board at another meeting, or through chat, to see everybody's opinion, so that we could then form an official response. So that is why I said conditional no, but it is subject to change.

Alexander (UCR): Well, given that we are here, with all the respect that I give to the SC and AC, we are the body that has the priority in this organization, and as such I move that we allocate 250 euros to this event. This is a motion.

Mai Thai: I hope everybody can realize that 750 euros is a lot of money and to impulsively decide on the spot, without having every single person read a review and really look through their proposal, it is a very impulsive decision to make to say "Let's transfer 750 euros."

Jean-Losch (AUC): One of the reasons we are here today is because we sent in a proposal before the last board meeting because we really wanted an estimate of how the fund will be relocated and then the board decided that there was a bit more information needed to make a decision. I worked immediately on the additional information and sent it. Unfortunately, the board meets once a week, or once every two weeks, I donT know. So then, you are meeting on the 7th of April, if I am not mistaken, and then we decided that we can get an earlier estimate, since all of you are here, at the GA.

Stephen: Since the document was provided previously, it is the obligation of the GA to read the documents beforehand. We can hopefully expect that you are educated on the matter. Also, do be aware of the amount we allocate.

Stephen: The AC will have their meeting in one week, where they will decide amongst themselves. They are your elected representatives and you have trusted them with assigning budgets for your events. We could discuss this now or we could also leave it to the AC in one week.

Pippa (UCU): Did we vote on that?

Max (UCU): But the idea is that if there is something that we want to bring to a vote, it can be brought to a vote, right? If anybody raises a motion..

Alexander (UCR): I raised a motion.

Stephen: The motion on the table right now is to have the GA, as we currently are, vote on allocating budget to the proposed event... increasing the budget from 500 euros to 750 euros.

Pippa (UCU): But that is two different things: either the GA is going to vote on it, or we can vote on how much it is going to be.

Stephen: Okay first of all, we can vote on whether we want the GA to vote on it. If we vote yes, then we will vote on the 750 euros. IS that okay with the IB?

IB: There was already a motion seconded earlier on whether there should be an increase in the amount budgeted. So there is already a motion on the table, seconded.

Mai Thai: So there is a motion to vote, a motion to increase it to 750 euros, but also a motion if we are actually going to transfer it. So the actual proposal is for 500 euros, and then there is a proposal for 750 euros and then the last point is to transfer 750 euros for the event.

Jean-Losch (AUC): You need a motion to vote on whether we should vote and for the moment there is a motion that is automatically being voted upon, so I raise the motion to raise it from 500 euros to 750, without implications on whether we are allocating it. And that there have been received seconds for this motion.

Stephen: Okay, this is getting a bit too much for me to be able to wrap my head around, so I am going to refer to the IB on which vote to address.

IB: Motion to raise the proposed amount from 500 euros to 750 euros without any implications.

Jasmijn (AUC): So what if we take Alexanders motion, then we vote first on whether 750 euros should be allocated, as in officially, also ready to be spent on this event. If we have a majority of ?Nos? Which I hope there is not, but if we have, then we can proceed from that and then potentially propose that 500 euros should be allocated. If then people say no, we can go further from that.

Stephen: Okay, so moving down from the proposed highest amount, to lower, until we're done? Is this seconded?

Alexander (UCR): This is an amendment, so I accept it.

Livian (UCU): A quick question, so are we now disregarding the AC and SC decision?

Jasmijn (AUC): The GA has the highest authority of all.

Stephen: I do agree that it is circumventing the whole purpose of the AC and SC, but that is what is being voted on.

Pippa (UCU): Can we not vote on whether we want to do that? Because I feel like the vote was referring to the money part, not the circumventing of the AC and SC decision part.

Alexander (UCR): Yes, but we don't need to vote on whether we are circumventing or not.

Jasmijn (AUC): I personally don't think that we should be discussing now whether we are going to vote or not because once a motion is raised and it is seconded, you have to vote on it anyway or accept by acclamation.

Stephen: First, we will be voting on 750 euros and if there is a majority of *"'No''*, 500 euros

and if then there is a majority of *"'No"* Then I don't know the next step.

Bart: I just wanted to make definitely sure that we are acting according to the policy rules and manual right now and that cutting off the AC and SC is allowed and appropriately called for in this instance.

Alexander (UCR): Dutch civil code can confirm that in an association…

Jasmijn (AUC): No, the GA doesnt go higher than the policy manual.

Zoe (UCU): Policy manual is still above the GA, so if there is something in the policy manual that it is going against, then we can't do this. We cannot just change the policy manual.

Bart: I have the answer for you. Article 12.1: "The general assembly shall have all powers not assigned to the board by law, the policy manual or the statutes". There is no mention of any of the committees there, so I think we have the power then.

Ariel (UCR): But also 10.3.1 says that 'The EB respects the GA has the most important decision-making body."

Jasmijn (AUC): I think you should also see this rather as just a budget motion, than just a social event that goes through the SC because legally at any GA, a member can propose a certain change of the budget, whether or not this is something that would normally go through the SC or the AC. So I think that it is not tied to any of the two committees under EB.

IB: I would also, for the record like to point out that whilst there is a required quorum for the GAs, there is no such quorum prescribed in the policy manual for meetings of the AC and SC. So if there are only four representatives out of nine present, then that might not reflect the true opinions of the UCSRN in general.

Stephen:

Zoe (UCU): Sorry, I just have one more question and if we are going to vote on it. So, referring back to the question that Pip asked, you want about 250 euro for promotion to other UCs, but in my estimation that cannot be more than 35 euros for printing out promotion materials.

Noah (AUC): But there is also a workshop with a company called Together Aborad, which provides information for the international students on the Dutch labor market and CV checks, LinkedIn, so on, so I think that will also be nice for students.

Zoe (UCU): So if you don't get these extra 250 euros, the event still goes through, you just won't have this extra workshop?

Noah (AUC): Yes, and in addition, we won't be able to promote UCSRN in the way we would've liked to all the UCs. We made a bigger estimation than 30 euros because we also wanted to make individual visits to these UCs and to hang up promotional materials.

Mai Thai: But you can send it to the SoCo and I can send it to all the boards to print and hang up around the university. That is what it is for.

Ariel (UCR): So you mentioned Facebook promotions, how much is that? Is it paid? If you just do the promotion through emailing through the SoCo, this would greatly cut down the costs.

Stephen: Alright, let's vote. The motion is to allocate 750 euros from the UCSRN budget for the Springboard. So if the motion passes, they will be allowed to spend 750 euros. Do we want to vote on this?

IB: *By 13 votes against, 9 votes in favor and 1 abstain, the motion does not pass to allocate 750 euros to the Springboard budget.*

The motion does not pass.

Stephen: Now lets vote on allocating 500 euros to the Springboard.

IB: *The motion to allocate 500 euros is passed*.

Zoe (UCU): For the future, I don't mind too much about the conclusion of this vote, but in the future I do think it is important to vote if we want the Ga to have an opinion on this. I abstained because I didn't want us to have an opinion on this, but either way it was voted for or against, the SC and AC still had nothing to say on it, which I do think they should have and should have had more time to discuss and vote on this.

Victoria: Just to respond, I think that the fact that only four people showed up to last week's meeting shows that there is not enough involvement, so more people should show up if we want to give them power over the GA.

Zoe (UCU): I agree with that and that still should be a vote if we want to do that.

Marik (AUC): I do really agree that we should have all done better and prepare for this. However, the whole physical manifestation of an executive board is to represent the Ga and ideally every single decision would be made in the GA, so that is also why the UCSRN EB exists, to make things more practical.

Stephen: Does anybody have anything else to bring to the open floor?

Alright, I officially close this GA. Thank you for attending.

GA is officially closed.