University College Student Representatives of the Netherlands

---

Budget General Assembly Minutes

Chairing the GA: Mai Thai de Rijk
Minutes: Nia Alexieva

Date of General Assembly   7th of September
Location of General Assembly   Amsterdam University College
Time of General Assembly   14:00 (Doors open at 13:30)

Budget General Assembly Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approval of GA Agenda
3. Approval March 30th, 2019 Minutes
4. Final 2018-2019 Audit
5. Incoming and Outgoing IB
   a. Vote
6. Short Introduction
7. EB Goals
8. SC Goals
9. AC Goals

Break

10. Reimbursement Policy
    a. Vote
11. Budget
    a. Vote
12. Reminders and Updates
13. Open Floor (AOB's)

Budget General Assembly Minutes

Attendance of the General Assembly:

AUC 6 members attended
UCM 3 members attended (3 proxy votes)
UCR 5 members attended
EUC members attended
UCU 0 members attended
UCT 2 members attended
TUC 3 members attended
UCG 3 members attended (3 proxy votes)
LUC 4 members attended

Total of votes: 34

1. Welcome

2. Approval of the GA Agenda

Passed by acclamation

3. Approval of the Minutes of March 30th, 2019

Minutes from the 30th of March, 2019 stated that UCR representatives were not present, but Alex and Ariel were there, which is the only change that has been made.

Passed by acclamation

4. Final 2018-2019 Audit
a. IB Audit Vote

Annemijn from the previous IB: One of the tasks of the IB is a bi-annual audit: covered period of 1st of February till 31st of June 2019.

All the financial documents and accounts are correct and complete. The previous treasurer of the EB has provided sufficient explanation for inconsistencies. UCSRN is financially healthy. All transactions in bank statements need to be reflected in the financial administration of the UCSRN for official statements for future audits.

Regarding reimbursement procedures, there are several recommendations: the lack of coherence in what kind of proof is accepted for travel should be updated, as will be discussed later and hereby the name of the individual and the route that has been travelled should be printed as well, as we notice that in the past this has not always been done.

Finally, in relation to the communication between the IB and the Eb, we suggest that this year the IB takes on a more active role of advising and helping the EB. Due to the increased size of the next IB board this should be easier and the IB should be aware of what is going with the EB throughout the year and this will benefit the IB's proceedings and will support the EB in updating their statutes and the policy manual and we as IB are also incorporating this into the transition of the new IB members. That is a quick summary of the IB letter that was sent out before this GA. This rounds off the term as the outgoing IB. Thank you for the previous UCSRN board and for the promotion of the IB team which has helped with the increase of the IB members this year. That is the audit for last year. Anybody want to vote on it?

Passed by acclamation

b. Closing the Financial Books of 2018-2019

Something else that needs to be done is closing the books of the previous year. The previous year, our treasurer was Justin, who is not able to be here today, unfortunately. With closing these books, all financial responsibility and accountability of Justin has been removed, therefore it will be passed on to our new treasurer Felipe. With the audit being set, we would like to close the books. Would anybody like to vote on this?

Passed by acclamation

5. Incoming and Outcoming IB
a. Vote

Mai Thai: I want to take some time to thank the outgoing IB for all the amazing work they did last year, especially for the time and energy that was put in when the previous EB needed a lot of help. I would like to invite the new members of the incoming IB: Ronit, Casper, Farah and Juan to introduce themselves. Kamiel is not here as of now, so voting in the new IB means that only the present members will be voted in and then I will ask you whether you would like to vote this person in or not because Amber, the previous chair of the IB, has made a review and has conducted interviews with Kamiel and has deemed him a suitable candidate. But for now, let's meet the incoming IB.

Casper: Student at UCU, third year. In the auditing team (chair) of UCU for the past two years.

Ronit: UCU third year. Has not been in the auditing team though.

Juan: First year student of AUC. Really excited to be a part of the IB and has a good set of skills and motivation.

Farah: LUC; first year and looks forward to learning more new things from the IB this year.

Vote on the implementation of the new IB.

Passed by acclamation

Mai Thai: Would the GA like to vote in Kamiel, even though he is not currently present?

Bart (AUC): Has Kamiel gone through an application process that was supervised by the outgoing IB?

Mai Thai: Amber has completed the interviews with him and there are minutes that can be seen from their meetings together.

Passed by acclamation.

Welcome to the new IB.

6. Short Introduction of the New Board

Mai Thai: UCU student, third year. Chair of the UCSRN and previous secretary and chair of the Social Committee (SC), so this is the second year with the UCSRN.

Nia: UCU student, second semester. Secretary of the UCSRN, so typing minutes and all the other fun stuff. Very excited to be here and a part of the new board and can't wait to meet everybody.

Felipe: AUC student, second year. Treasurer of the UCSRN, Some financial experience. Was the treasurer of the Dormfest at AUC, which is not just a party, but a serious festival (be there this year).

Preksha: Second year student at AUC. Chair of the Academic Committee, taking over Bart. Very excited to meet everybody and for everything coming up.

Mitchell: University College Twente, third year. Chair of the Social Committee. Will be in Prague, the first semester, but I have the amazing social committee that will help with coordinating and organizing events.

Jeroen: Third year AUC students. External position in UCSRN.

7. EB Goals

Mai Thai: We have been trying to improve the internal structure of the UCSRN. There have been complications faced in the past year that we want to tackle head on. The first example is the statutes, which we would want to upgrade and update. The current statutes state that the contribution fee is by the association, which is 1000 euros. We want to be inclusive for the smaller UCs, therefore change the fee to be per member. This way new UCs such as Friesland and Venlo can also be part of the organization. Furthermore, this contains policies, such as sending in proxy sheets as well. Furthermore, we would like to aim for better internal communication between the IB, EB, SC, AC and the student bodies themselves. Mistake already was how late the documents were sent out before this GA, but we will be doing our best to not do this again.

Next point is Increasing events and promotion. Although we have the annual events such as Spotlight and the Tournament, there are often times that the budget is spent on the same events and we would like to broaden this and encourage smaller UCs to partake and use this budget. What we mean by 'promotion' is that we want the AC and SC to actively help promote this and make sure that all students apply and not limit participation to AUC and UCU.

Maintain and increase partnerships and sponsorships. Last year we became partners with ISO. Our main goal is that companies and master universities can recognize the UC and

Liberal Arts and Sciences study and the potential that students have.

Expanding the UC and committee databases. Last year, Bart created an incredible database with a lot of information on all the different UCs, academic and social life there. There is also a committee database on the UCSRN website, but it will be updated.

Professionalization - we all have suits and we want to represent the UC students in the best way possible. When visiting professional partners and standing together as a board, the way we are now, we want to create a lasting and professional impression as representatives of the UC students.

8. SC Goals

Mitchell: Main purpose is to keep the integration and communication between all UC students. The SC compiled a list of what the committee wants to achieve throughout the year. First of all, to update the database and have it on the website. The current one is a bit outdated and we want to improve that and make communication between them better.

Better travel reimbursement system: when that is better, the smaller UCs will be able to become more involved and will have more access to the travel costs.

Wanting to stimulate organization of events in smaller UCs.

A buddy system that the SC representatives are discussing currently. Buddying up with another UC that you are not normally very interactive with and then organizing things on a smaller scale.

Get the students from the UCs to get involved in the UCSRN. Even during Introduction week we can already start with introducing UCSRN before the tournament actually starts.

Improve communication between all the boards. Make some kind of group chat for all the study association boards and have better communication and connections.

LUC, UCU, EUC and AUC will organize a football competition this year, but if a success we can make it bigger and have other UCs involved,

UCSRN can involve companies and external people to promote events.

Using the Committee database to organize something between the different UCs.

9. AC Goals

Preksha: Use the platform to exchange best practices. Sharing strengths and weaknesses with each other. Help UCs improve - issues and topics that need expertise.

Expand the UC database extensively - continue Bart's work.

Increase involvement of UCs that are further away. Based too much on Central Netherlands and the further UCs need to be more involved. Promote Master's week where all students

who are interested can come join.

Providing support in terms of funding and sponsorship.

Break

10. Reimbursement Policy

Felipe: There are a few central locations that most inter UC events happen (UCU, AUC, LUC)

Distances are calculated by a straight line distance and the projections are all based on averages. There are two averages to consider:

Rates in terms of actual costs are arbitrary, but for now we are deciding how we are going to do it. There are three options, there will be voting twice, depending on which one is good for events and which one is good for GAs. Full reimbursement for the EB. Reimbursement deadlines are still the same.

Option 1.a and 1.b
1.a Is a simple graph with all the distances, there will be more added.
1.b Is more specific.

Cons
Central UCs tend to get very little reimbursement

Pros
Far away UCs will have more incentive to come. This will be more fair than the set reimbursements.

Option 2
Based on NS group ticket rates. They can vary depending on the amount of people.
Cons
The system would give people less incentive to go the GAs, however is used properly can be quite cheaper, especially if more people go together (we want more people at GAs)
Pros
Will be fully reimbursed, if six people get it and travel with it.

Option 3
Fixed percentages. For GAs it will be 50% reimbursement, whereas for events it will be 25%. (refer to the slide)

Boris (AUC): Is this to make the process more convenient, or more fair?

Felipe: To make it more fair, because there also wasn't enough spending in this sector last year.

Boris (AUC): Do travel costs by public transport increase exponentially and how does that work?

Felipe: There is a limit for a round trip. From there there is not that much of a noticeable difference.

Marik (ex-AUC): We had three problems last year: how much do UCs actually get paid? What is valid proof that they got paid? How do you calculate how much every person spends?
While stated as a pro that the distance makes it more fair, if you look at the distance between Rotterdam and Middelburg, it looks like they're both the same distance away from AUC, but the way that you have to travel with the train system is much more complicated than it looks on the map. Maybe look up averages (for tickets) for going somewhere and you can use that as a basis for how much everybody gets. Furthermore, if you decide that eventually you will refund 50 percent of people's tickets (UCU-AUC → 5 euros) whilst people that are going much further will still have to pay 20 euros which is four times more than the other UCs will have to pay.

Iwon (TUC): How have people been reimbursed the previous years?

Felipe: There was a deadline that up to four weeks after travelling, you would have to submit proof of payment. There is a reimbursement form at UCSRN website and no matter where you have travelled from, it's a fixed price - for events: 3,5 euros and for GA - 7,5.

Jet (AUC): What about looking at the average ticket prices and see how much can be reimbursed from the average ticket price to make that a maximum… so, for example five euro for reimbursement for AUC-UCU and then if you add everything together.. I lost my train of thought, but bust a system with which you can fix the problem that Marik raised/

Natasha (UCT): What about looking at reimbursement policies of other organizations with different locations?

Mai Thai: We have done that, but other companies have a lot more money than we do; What they do is a *per kilometer* rate, where they tax about 20 cents per kilometer, but then this will mean that the majority of the budget of the UCSRN will go for travelling and we would rather spend that money on something else.

Jael (AUC): Start with an estimate of the budget that you plan on reimbursing from. Calculate it so that when people travel, they all pay the same amount. It doesn't matter where you're coming/going, but that you're always just paying the same price and then the rest of the price gets reimbursed.

Mai Thai: Although that would be the ideal world where we could do that, but let's say we're travelling from the south of the Netherlands to the north, which is let's say 60 euros, travelling from AUC to UCU will never amount to that number, so the minimum that people would pay for that is around 20 euros, including buses and such, if everybody would have to pay the same price, then AUC, UCU, LUC, etc have to pay 20 euros all the time and only Masstirch and Roosevelt and such would have to be reimbursed with a substantial number, so although that is ideal a minimum number would not be able to suit our budget.

Boris (AUC): The idea is good, but the goal is that the further UCs need to get compensated. If there is a set amount of money that can be used to get people together, then it should go to the people that need to pay the most. Also, if you're paying 60 euros for tickets from Groningen to Masstricht, then you're not looking into the other options that there are such as day tickets, or that if you pay above a certain amount for a ticket, that you just pay the fixed amount per ticket and that a part of that gets reimbursed, so that creates a set policy for large distance travel.

Mai Thai: That is what we want with option 2. No matter where you go or what you do, the group ticket would be the same for everybody. Take the group ticket, irregardless of the type of event it is and it will be fully reimbursed both ways, we encourage groups and members from all UCs to use this form of payment, however, let's say you have an odd number, there are individuals that can not go in the group, those members that are far away will not use the ticket as a day ticket, which will then be reimbursed the same amount, but they pay the same as other UC's and that can be a way of fixing how much everybody pays, encourage people to fund other options, instead of paying the full amount with your OV card, etc.

Felipe: Maxing out the budget for this is not a problem, because we only used half the budget from last time. These ideas that we are now considering, we will bring back for the next GA and we will sit and discuss, but something that is worth considering is that we can't reimburse after a certain point, so keep that in mind for the next discussion we will be having at the next GA.

Renzo (UCT): You talk a lot about 50-60 euros for travel; there is this offer where you can get for a day or two a sandwich and something to drink with it for 19 euros. So I'm coming from Twente and saved around 30 euros on it's own. So instead of looking for what we can cut, we should.

The question about the group tickets though.. For example, from Twente we are now two people and we tried to be able to come with more, but I'm pretty sure that we won't be able to reach the four people threshold, so would you guys then advise to coordinate with other UCs so that we could make it work, or?

Felipe: I actually do not know much about that part. But even if you don't reach the threshold we will still reimburse you for the amount, just not the entire one that you are paying, but this is probably the weakest option.

Mitchell (EB): Option two would be nice for GAs because those events are just on one day and if you have a day ticket for the tournament for example, that would not be useful, since they need to get it twice, since they won't be coming back in one day.

Natasha (ex-UCT): What happens if you do have a distinct policy for GA and event travel? Because for example at a GA, the delegates are there to be representative of UCs, not particularly doing the same purpose as going to an event to enjoy themselves, and they already payed a membership fee, so maybe we need to reimburse more for the GA travel based on distances, taking individual UCs into account and have a less rigid rule for event.

Felipe: or this year, we want to make travel to a GA the main priority, since that is the most event that needs to be attended for the work of the UCSRN.

Mai Thai: At a GA you can have 12 members attending (assuming 6 per board); opportunity of 12 people to attend and we want the most people coming and with this rule, this will encourage more people to come and thus, the more that come, the cheaper the price and the more representation at the GA.

Mitchell: You have to take into account that there is a certain amount of budget for all the travel reimbursements.

Eva (UCG): Why are the distances as a straight line on the map? Because for example, for Amsterdam to Groningen, it's said that it's 150 kilometers, but if you go by train, it's more like 200.

Felipe: Initially, I tried to find distances by train, but those weren't available. This is the simplest way to keep it organized and be consistent with what I was doing. This also includes other travel options, such as car travel.

Eva (UCG): Yeah, but if you go from Groningen to Amsterdam, there is...water, so it's not really possible to travel 150km, so you should also take that into account.

Mai Thai: But that doesn't doesn't change the reimbursement style though. If the number may be incorrect, but you still like this idea as a policy that we could implement, we agree on the fact that we will sit down and find accurate measurements, instead of the numbers that we have today and make sure we find a more accurate route, but then take this policy as an option and fix the numbers.

Marik (ex-AUC): We can't really count for all the different types of travel; maybe it's good to assume that everybody takes the train and has the most efficient train route. Take that distance that is most efficient and set between the different UCs and make a flat rate. But I would start with taking not map distances, but efficient train distances to make estimates. I think that would be a great start.

Felipe: That was my initial aim to do it this way, but then this is when I came up with this map option, since I couldn't find the distances.

Nia: But you do know that on 9292, when you enter a starting point and destination, at the bottom of the app it tells you the total amount that it would cost to travel from point A to B and that is always a fixed rate, since it shows you the most efficient, fast and cheap option. So just do it from the station that the UC is going to be leaving from to the other station in the other city. E.g from Utrecht Centraal to Amstel, it will be a fixed amount and then we can just always take that price.

Mai Thai: Although that would make a lot of sense, and that is also very fair when we're trying to see the average approximately.. I forgot, I think it might be Renzo that was mentioning cutting costs and finding the cheapest option, potentially. I know that you're going to find us being very stuck on option B but that is the cheapest option out there. It is a bit of a hassle because that means that there needs to be a group of people that need to go to this place that you need to find. And everybody in a UC can communicate in their own UC that they will be going to a certain place, even the Student and Academic councils can promote this, and you can get other people to travel with you. Then for those who choose to travel by OV, they can get a smaller amount by travelling with, let's see, studentkorting, you

can get reimbursed for the full amount if it's less than the price for a group ticket. We could do a base policy that we could come up with because there are events that are going to be coming up this semester and it would be nice to have some kind of policy implemented, or something that we could change next GA and start working on this to have the ball rolling a little bit. Personally, I would like to leave today knowing that everybody gets a more fair pay than 7,50.

Lily (EUC): Could there not be two options, where people can choose the one that is most convenient? Could you not have two systems, so for example option 2, but also a flat rate number, so you can encourage people to do the first one, but if that's not possible get reimbursed a flat number.

Mai Thai: But then that would be the day ticket option, where if you can't find a partner you get a day ticket, which is essentially a flat rate that would be the same for everybody. WE should also be held responsible and accountable, so as unfortunate as it might be that last minute I want to come as well, maybe there should be a flat rate system, this won't encourage people to be looking for a cheaper option, since people would know they can rely on the flat rate and then that would cost us more money.

Rufus (UCM): Problem with option 2, as a far away college is that you are thinking about monetary reimbursement only, but for us it takes a long time to travel here, so it's not going to be popular to get this amount of people to come, we barely managed to get three people to come here today, since it takes up too much time. I don't think it's the monetary reimbursement that is the issue here, but it's the time, so I don't think you will be able to encourage more people to come this way.

Felipe: This is something we haven't considered yet, but that's the flexibility of the other options as well.

Joel (UCR): Yes, we are also quite far away and last year for the UCSRN tournament we tried renting a bus, but that fell through last moment, so we had to take the train. Would you consider reimbursing the amount of money for taking a bus, since that also really cuts time for travelling, which means that more students would be willing to come for events.

Felipe: I think with special cases like this, it's always up for consideration, so with specific things we would consider it and work around with what we got.

Mai Thai: Any remarks, questions, ideas, comments, etc?

Eva (UCG): For the GA the problem with the group ticket is that half the board gets free travel, so we can never travel with six people on a ticket because most people just travel for free, so that just doesn't work.

Mai Thai: This might sound a little stupid, so bare with me. If the students with free OV pay that amount for the group ticket, it will end up costing less for the whole board, if only one or two members pay the full travel price and then have to get reimbursed, while the others travel for free.

Renzo (UCT): People might fall back into another option, but I think it is also important to trust that the people that are here will try to make sure that they choose the cheapest option.

(Marik ex-AUC): I think we should better bring up a solution for next GA otherwise this will take a lot of time. I would suggest that the base system is 1b or 1a and change the physical kilometers to travel kilometers and consider increasing the rate of reimbursement per kilometer, specifically for further away UCs.

Manuel (UCM):
Second Marik
It is important to understand that we need to keep the cost low, but to gain credibility and more people, we need to go for option either 1a or 1b.

Mai Thai: I am going to take a solid second and think how we're going to respond to this, but what I am going to say is that I am very adamant about the second option and what helps with the group ticket is that you can basically travel for free to go somewhere. To me as a student, I'd rather have somebody tell me that I can travel for free, but just need to be put in a group with my student association. But that aside, we have here Option 1.a and Option 1.b. For the time being, the option I would like to, at least think that option 1b is a bit more due to the straight difference, so what I would like to vote on is that we keep the style of option 1.a, but we change the numbers on the table, so that we can make the travel time/route more fair. We will keep this reimbursement style the same, so that there are no new estimations and calculations made. This would be the most fair decision that we can make for the time being, until the next time when we can make a focus group and have a discussion about which option is the most fair for everybody. So if everyone is alright with that can you give me a little nod for that?

Nods in agreement

To clarify, what we are voting on: we are voting for the time being: from today to the day before the next general assembly, where we will vote upon the new reimbursement system, we will follow option 1a, however we will change the table of the distances here in accordance to travel distance rather than straight line distance between UCs.

Manuel (UCM): Will the distance to amount paid ratio remain the same?

Mai Thai: I will need to speak to the treasurer.

Proceeds to speak to the Treasurer.

(Later) So, instead of these amounts indicated (on the slide), we would like to double the amounts paid for today till the next GA. The ratio will remain the same, but the travel distances will be adjusted accordingly.

Boris (AUC): I would like to raise a motion to set the reimbursement deadline from this GA to after the next GA. Instead of coming up with a temporary patch for the problem now, that we first decide on a good system instead of despair and then we can treat everyone under the crude system, instead of one GA under one and then next GA deciding on a system that is hopefully better.

Natasha (UCT): *Seconds the motion.* If we double these amounts how would that impact amount the part of the budget spent on travelling?

Mai Thai: It's only a temporary solution, so the impact would be quite low.

(representative from LUC left)
(Jet from AUC has left)

Manuel (UCM): I would just like to present my view on the situation. I understand that with the budget you don't want to be spending that much on the UCs that are far, but like we already spent the expenses to come today and I feel like we should at least get some amount reimbursed and also this will happen at the next GA. I just hope you understand where we come from.

Boris (AUC): The point is not to not give reimbursement, just that it falls under the new system that will be decided at next GA. You do get reimbursed, but under the new and improved system. But just extend the deadline for reimbursement, so you do get reimbursed, but under the new system, instead of the bad previous one.

Natasha (UCT): If you do this system now and then stop it before the next GA, the benefit will not be seen at the next GA, where we can see whether there will be more students coming because of the decision made. So if we do it for this and the next GA, we could see the benefits for the next GA.

Mai Thai: I'd like to round off everything that has been, however a motion has been made, so it has to be voted on. If the reimbursement is extended to the next GA, any events in between, will have an issue with reimbursements. Students would not know how much money they will get and it may be ambiguous for them.

Inaudible name and UC: There is a system now though, right?

Mai Thai: The current system now is that you get 7,50 irregardless of how far you travel if you come for a GA and 3,50 if you travel for an event, again regardless of where you come from.

Same inaudible name and UC: So then there is a system set in place for today technically, so then it should be fine, right?

Manuel (UCM): That might be fine for you, but not when we get 7,50 for today's travel, from 26 in total: that's not enough. And that's not a lot. And I'm not even part of the academic council. This is all one way by the way.

Bram (EUC): There is already a system in place and it is better to make a better one for the coming time, but there is an option for the coming time.

Renzo (UCT): So are we now voting on temporarily using the system. Is the next GA part of that temporary solution or is that going to be according to the new solution.

Mai Thai: We will now first vote on the motion and depending on whether the motion passes or not, we will then vote on consideration of the document that was presented before.

Motion is to move today's reimbursement to the next GA when a new reimbursement policy has been set in place and for the events in between will also be reimbursed according to the

second GA policy implemented.

Felipe: Just for clarification, the reimbursement deadline is still the same, so you still have four weeks from today to apply for reimbursement for this GA, only where you will receive it after the new reimbursement is decided on at the next GA.

Mai Thai: Just to recap, you still have four weeks from now to request reimbursement for today's GA, but as Felipe said, it will be reimbursed later, after we decide on a new system at the next GA. You still do need to do this through the site.

IB: Please keep your hand up high and if you have a proxy raise both hands.

Yvonne (TUC): I have a quick question, you mentioned that 7,50 is reimbursed for the round trip and does it also apply for the options right now. So if we are beyond 20km and pay probably a shitton of money, will we get 11 euros as reimbursement only.

Mai Thai: Distances would be made according to the new travel route distances that we will find out. The distances would be changed and the ratio would be made more fair and the amount itself would be doubled, but right now we are voting on the motion. However, we are voting on the motion now, please no more questions.

IB: Wishing to vote in favor of the motion, please raise hand high up:
Wishing to vote against, raise hands up high.
Wishing to abstain, raise high.

IB: We're missing two votes. One person has left, has anybody left since the beginning of the GA. (*inaudible talk in the audience*) Okay, then please mention it to us if more people leave. In that case though:

15 votes in favor, 18 votes against and 3 abstains, the motion has not passed.

Mitchell: The group tickets starts with four people, however if you're two or three people you can still buy the group ticket, but just buy an extra one even if everybody is not there. And buying the tickets is still cheaper than reimbursing individually.

(new AUC member comes in instead of Jet)

Mai Thai: Let's take a break for a few minutes. Go eat, have something to drink and we will come back in ten.

-   BREAK -

Mai Thai: Welcome back to the GA. After some discussion and talking to Felipe, similarly to

option 1a we did a newer and improved version because 1a and 1b are very similar; 1b was more in accordance to what we would have; Felipe and I have made a new table, quick maths, and these are the new options that are presented. (referring to the slide)You may vote for, against or abstain. If the vote does not pass on this option, as a temporary option for the next GA, the 7,50 reimbursement will remain. This option, option 1b will be the temporary reimbursement option from today until the next GA and at the next GA there will be a round table of discussion and there will be a defined concrete policy from then onwards, but right now when we are voting, we are voting on this as a temporary option. If this does not pass we will remain with the 7,50 policy.

Alex (AUC): The leftmost-column are the monetary values that people are receiving temporarily for travelling to AUC?

Renzo (UCT): This is excluding the next GA's reimbursement?

Mai Thai: Correct, at the next GA we will have a discussion where we can sit down and discuss and gave a free talk and see how we feel and after that discussion we will immediately vote on a new travel reimbursement system after that discussion and on that day the travel expenses will be reimbursed according to this.

Boris (AUC): What did UCR do for their cost?

Eva (UCR): The rest of the board has free OV tickets, so I had to pay 26 bucks single way.

Boris (AUC): Masstricht also paid that price?

(UCM): We also paid 26.

Boris (AUC): so even though both UCs paid the same price, but based on distance and according to that table, you get reimbursed differently by five euros? Isn't that a bit strange?

Ruben (UCR): That's because it's based on a straight line.

Boris (AUC): Why use a straight line when we are treating UCs that have the same expenses differently. You are paying the same price, even though you are travelling for more money. Why support this system when it treats UCs unfairly?

Jeroen (EB): Since this is a temporary solution and is not very realistic, it is easiest to implement currently until the next GA;

Bart (AUC): Do we need a temporary solution between now and the next GA?

Mai Thai: The EB is giving the option and if the vote is not agreed upon, we stick to the 7,50.

Bart (AUC): So, if I understand this correctly, the vote is whether or not we want a temporary travel reimbursement option or not?

Eva (UCR): For the temporary fix, is the distance still going to be calculated in a straight line? It was mentioned that it was going to be adjusted?

Mai Thai: Felipe is a kind man and he will adjust these numbers in accordance with travel

distance.

Felipe: To be fair, as most of you have already said, these numbers aren't fair, so we will adjust for travel distance, they won't be exactly the same, we need time to figure out something that will.

Ruben (UCM): I do not understand the difference between option 1a and 1b.

Mai Thai: We are not voting on option 1a, but on 1b. The difference is that 1a is in range, whilst for 1b is not a range, but the exact distance of that straight line, but the numbers will be adjusted based on travel difference, so not a straight line.

Boris (AUC): But the travel distance is not what determines the price, because they are paying the same amount, but they are getting differently reimbursed; How are we voting for some kind of system like this right now that treats UCs unfairly?

Ruben (UCR): From UCR to AUC; right now we are getting the amount we get for a straight line?

Boris (AUC): You pay 50 euros for the ticket, regardless of difference. UCM has a different distance, but they paid the same price, but they are getting five euros more reimbursed. That is what is wrong.

Mai Thai: Thank you so much Boris, before anyone asks any questions. Can I get a number of hands of people who travelled today by train and had to pay? And can I see a number that travelled today and travelled for free? And people that travelled by car? Seeing that the majority lands on the people that went by train, since that's the highest cost of all, what we're going to do is that for those who travelled today to the GA with proof of payment, a one way ticket, we will reimburse 50 percent of that and that will be it.

Merel (EUC): So he has a normal OV, so he doesn't have a receipt that he has paid. How will he get reimbursed?

Nia: Even if it's not personal, you can put in the number of the OV and it tells you where you checked in, where you checked out, time and date and price. And you can request a receipt that is a pdf from the NS website, even if it's anonymous?

Mauritz (AUC): So now you are introducing 50 percent reimbursal?? And a temporary solution?

Mai Thai: This is just for today, strictly for this GA, 50 percent will be reimbursed: what you paid right now, 50 percent will be reimbursed. So can we now vote on this?

Renzo (UCT): Can we still vote on another option?

Mai Thai: No, you can only vote on this option. If you don't agree, you can abstain or vote against it.

Mai Thai: For clarity, you have the chance to vote for, against or abstain of being reimbursed 50 percent of the whole travel for today's GA and everything in between and the next GA will stick to the old one and then at the next GA onwards that will be discussed from

then on.

Manuel (UCM): so basically, we discussed nothing, since we came in here and there were three options?

Mai Thai: We will take what we talked about, all will be in minutes and in a discussion group we will make a new policy
The conclusion that we came to today is that all these options do not accommodate everybody, there are always going to be issues and therefore with the options that we have presented today, we have realized that they are not adequate to become a permanent system. What was discussed will be written in the minutes, the EB will take that into consideration, propose new ideas and talk about them in a focus group and a discussion session where we will unanimously or as much as possible have a new policy that we will vote on in that GA. No more questions.

Let's vote.

Joel (UCR): I would like to raise motion to vote for 1b, so that that also covers the events that will happen until the next GA as well.

Mai Thai: We will vote on the 50% and we will vote on the motion after this. We will vote on the 50% travel reimbursement today and if the vote has not been passed, we will vote on the motion. Let's start on the 50% solution and vote.

IB: *With 32 in favor, one against and two abstains, the vote has passed.*

Mai Thai: Thank you very much for voting, we will now move on to the next topic. The vote has passed, so the motion will not go through. Any other travel policy will be discussed at a focus point and will be voted on in the next GA. Would you like to raise a motion otherwise?

Manuel (UCM): Well Eva raised a motion and I would like to second her to vote for option 1b for the next GAs.

Renzo (UCT): I want to make a motion to use option 1b temporarily, till the next GA for events and other travel reimbursements, excluding this GA; to use option 1b adjusted to the travel distances actually made, instead of the direct line, for the time until the next GA and for events.

The motion is about using a combination option: option 1 based on the travel distances actually made following 1b temporarily is for the next GA and events and other travel costs, excluding the current GA;

Mai Thai: 1b as stated in text, not considering the numbers in the table?

Julien (AUC): Can you define events?

Mai Thai: Any inter-UC event that is funded by the UCSRN. We are going to vote on the motion and to remind, the motion is that excluding today's GA, the temporary option for travel policy will be option 1b with numbers adjusted for the travel distances, with the reimbursements stating 0.051 per kilometer and the table will be readjusted according to new distances, multiplied by that number and that is excluding today up till the next GA.

a. Vote

IB: *With 27 in favor, 0 against and 7 abstains, the motion has passed.*

11. Budget

Mai Thai: Next up, Felipe will present the budget.

Laughter.

Felipe: Here we go. Contribution fees: the same contribution fee as the past few years now.

Last year's budget and the current year's budget. Current year's budget is in red.

Website has been increased so that we now have more editing power. Domain costs are 60 euros and 70 euros more for editing not in html. This is for accessibility purposes, so that we can edit and not be fluent in html.

Bank costs come down a little bit.

Promotion wise, the budget has gone up because one of the goals is to get people to know more about UCSRN, especially through facebook and instagram promotion.

External costs: Will be invited to a lot of COBOs and partner COBOs so there are external costs especially for the presents and travel fees. Has gone up quite a bit, since this was not considered last year.

Representation: This has gone up quite a lot because the main cost for this is the board suits. Medals, and business cards especially for representation with professional business partners.

GA costs: This has been adjusted slightly. There are more people in the beginning and in the end, which is why it has been raised for the first and last one and lowered for the ones in the middle. Discussion session was merged with GA on March 30th

EB transportation has been raised. We also want to increase our image within UCs, and we don't want the `` tournament reaction".

IB and EB training has gone down.

Bonding is pretty standard, except that we will have a transition trip, which is pretty common with the other student associations and it helps with cooperation in meetings and such.

Event fund has four major changes:

Spotlight was not as expensive as what we thought. Last year only half was spent, so we increased the budget a little bit to promote additional spending on that event. Academic and

Social events stay the same and have been pretty successful over the past few years, but we do consider increasing it a bit.

Event travel has gone a bit down. We spent half of what was budgeted last year, but we want to change that.

UCSRN's Lustrum is happening, so we are planning something at UCU which will be a COBO, so we needed to budget that in as well and it will be for everybody.

Self-Initiatives fund is for events of a smaller scale: things that still bring the UCs together, but don't necessarily fall into Social or Academic categories and don't attract as many people as Tournament and Spotlight do.

Tournament costs have gone down because last year it went over budget and LUC motioned for an increase in the budget and we passed it.

Remaining total funds is how much we will have left in the bank account if we manage to spend all of this. Right now we want to cut into our savings. To give you an idea, right now we have around 5000 euro saved and we want to cut into that.

Questions?

Marik (AUC): What are the five GAs you have planned? This is number 1?

Mai Thai: We had our first GA as the election. In the previous year we had the first one as the election, the second was LUC in November, then March 2nd and then an emergency GA on the 30th and the 5th is an election one; 4 GAs that we will 100% have, but included five because of now, there is always a case of an emergency one being called.

Ruben (UCR): At RASA we see clothing and suits and transition costs as personal expenses. What would be the motivation to allow this from our budgets?

Felipe: For the suits, it's because of professionalism, since we have important people to meet and partners to make and it does a lot if we all show up in the same suit. For the board trip, that's a fair point, but Mai Thai can go ahead.

Mai Thai: I have been on UCSRN for the second year, but not in any kind of way negatively, already our board did a transition meeting in person and having been forced to sit down and be together in person, has exponentially been an improvement on how we communicate. Last year, I wish I were able to connect with the board members in person. There were areas that made us lack motivation, trust and respect. That shouldn't be the case either and I know going somewhere is a personal trip, but this gives us the opportunity to get close to one another and that allows us to give purpose to what we're doing with the board members.

Ruben (UCR): Why should everybody pay for their trip if we paid for it ourselves?

Marik (AUC): I see the value and the reason to have this paid for and we have the transition cost covered mostly by the association as well because you will need impeccable skills and meeting to have money for this is an extra threshold to enter this body and it would be a shame for somebody that does not have this money to not be able to join the EB.

Boris (AUC): Is the past EB also going to be there? Since it has been listed as a Transition Trip?

Mai Thai: We already met in real life for a day and had a transition in person with the previous board, so I hope to speak on their behalf, but we would like this trip to be for the six of us, so that we have something that we can share between the six of us.

Boris (AUC): Then it should not be listed as a transition trip, but more as a bonding one. Transition implies the sharing of knowledge, but for a shared experience with your board I give a strong recommendation for the next board.

Ruud (UCR): There are no UCSRN indications on the suit, so is it maybe an idea to have those, since right now there is no marking.

Jeroen: We are looking into getting board ties, which will be professionally appropriate and not make the suit less professional. For the ties we will be paying for ourselves, but at least the suits are covered.

Kaja (UCG): The suits are very personal, but it might be an idea to take the ties and accessories from the budget and the suits from personal money because there is more personal value in the suits than in the ties.

Mai Thai: I completely agree, but I do want to make it clear that the suits are not fully reimbursed. We have agreed that we will partially pay for this ourselves, since there is personal gain for us. The reason why we don't want a huge UCSRN logo is that it's great to have a suit for a year, but it would be nice to use it for a longer time after that as well and to reinstate what Marik said, in the future, if someone needs a suit they would have to pay on their own cost. Preksha went to Thailand this summer and bought them for really cheap, which we were really lucky with. We had the opportunity to pay for this partially ourselves and want to make sure that next year, this will not limit people from applying because of financial reasons.

Julien (AUC): Partially reimbursed, what does that mean: 20%, 80%?

Mai Thai: I will look for the number.

Julien (AUC): And I was also thinking for the UCSRN ties: they are good and you can buy them once and give them to the next board members and they show a lot of professionalism.

Boris (AUC): What we have as a policy for AUCSA board ties is that they are funded from the AUCSA budget and they are kept for the next boards. However if you want to buy one and keep it, you can pay the price to the organization as merchandise. Maybe that could be an idea.

Renzo (UCT): I would personally like to see the suits as a separate category in the budget. I think this would give a better idea of how much went to the suits. Who knows where those 200 euros by which you raised the budget went to.

Sybren (LUC): What exactly are you going to do during this boding trip that would cost 300 euros? There are a lot of things that I could think of for bonding that don't cost 300 euro.

Mai Thai: the idea that we had for the trip was that we would go somewhere in remote Holland and isolate ourselves and only have each other for a weekend. Obviously, we could go and have many cheap activities together, but through experience and through other associations in UCU that have done this exactly, they all say that there is nothing like being trapped in a house with somebody for a whole weekend.

Renzo (UCT): With my board, it's a whole different level of bonding with each other if you go to a remote location, and gives an added benefit to collaboration within the board. In addition, everybody that is doing this board is doing this in their free time, they chose to do this and actually don't get anything back for this, so I would be okay with giving them this as a thank you.

Mai Thai: Thank you so much on behalf of the whole board.

Preksha: Now for the suits: the actual cost for the suits was 585 euros for suits, which is the coats and pants: 50 euros per person get reimbursed and 47, 50 would be paid from our own money, excluding ties, shirts, shoes, etc.

Boris (AUC): Congratulations on the Lustrum. But can I ask: you are jumping from 0 euros to 700 euros for the Lustrum. You can throw a big ass party with that, but *why* so much?

Felipe: Our location will be the UCSA bar and we need to rent that out, as well as provide free drinks and free food.

Mai Thai: The event itself is for a COBO, tab for free beer and free drinks and it's for the first time in five years. This is to show appreciation for our previous partners, AB, IB, etc and all the hard work put into the UCSRN. This is a number that is not frequently spent from the UCSRN budget, although it is up to the next board, so that's why it seems like a lot.

Julien (AUC): This might be a stupid question, but why do you have to pay for renting out the UCSA Bar?

Nia: The UCSRN is not a part of the UCSA and every private event that is held in the bar that is not under the UCSA needs to be paid for.

Eva (LUC): Is there not a cheaper place than UCU bar?

Boris (AUC): Can we not change the location then? If the UCU bar is more expensive?

Felipe: We have looked into it, but there really isn't any place that would cost less in terms of renting, but also in terms of how cheap the alcohol is. Furthermore, UCSRN is registered in Utrecht at UCU, so it would be the ideal location for it.

Boris (AUC): I mean, if the UCSRN were registered in the Bahamas, would the COBO be in the Bahamas? I think that there would be options outside of Utrecht that would be cheaper, such as another UC providing a location for free.

Mai Thai: The renting out costs are not the biggest cost. The biggest one is that alcohol. Because the UCSA bar makes no profit with what they sell, their alcohol cost is the cheapest which means that it's the cheapest option.

Boris (AUC): But free is cheaper.

Mai Thai: But alcohol would not be free.

Boris (AUC): But the total would be cheaper if you add the location for free.

Mai Thai: Then alcohol cost would go up.

Renzo (UCT): To answer the question, the amount they pay for the beer, without profit, is going to be a way cheaper option than in any other bar. Another thing to point out is that it's a Lustrum activity, this will also be inviting the previous boards, it makes sense to put in more money. Taking into account all the independent boards and the partners and all of that, and this is a thank you to the previous members as well.

Natasha (UCT): Highly doubt that you can bring price below 700 euros, even if you do move the location because there are always many other factors in this.

a. Vote

Mai Thai: Before the IB comes up, I would like to see whether we can vote on this by acclamation.

Renzo (UCT): Can we decide what exactly we are voting on? During the discussion there were a few remarks as well.

Felipe: We are voting on passing the entire budget.

Renzo (UCT): I would like to raise a motion to split up the reimbursement for the board suits and representation/professionalism costs.

Raised motion passed by acclamation.

Felipe: Now we are voting on the budget *with* the change that representation and reimbursement will be. Would you like to vote on the newly revised budget?

Passed by acclamation

12. Reminders and Updates

Jeroen: To give an update on the external: *So, w*e were already partners with ISO and we had met with them at one of their partner meetings. They have asked us to be a part of Coalitie Y and will present a manifesto to the Dutch prime minister on the 16th of September. We are part of the backing associations of this manifesto. I am not completely sure whether we can share the document itself, publicly yet, but since we represent you I can explain the details of the manifest. I don't know if I have time now, but you can talk to me during the borrel. We are going to be present when presenting the manifesto to the prime minister itself, so that is also something to note.

The LSVB is the other really big national student organization and we have had meetings

and are emailing on becoming partners with them in the near future.

And then we have STIP which is more of a diversity platform and will have a meeting with them soon as well.

Boris (AUC): So the EB signed a political manifesto on behalf of the UCSRN?

Mai Thai: It is not a political manifesto, it is a manifesto that had ten points that all students strive for. It states things such as "we want more student housing, we want more environmentally friendly facilities, etc"; we are not backing any political party, we are backing the Coalition itself.

Boris: Is not the coalition then not a political party itself, as in they strive for change through politics?

Mai Thai: It strives for change through politics, but we are not supporting any particular political party. It is not a political vote, but more so saying that these are needs to students that we want to be presented.

Boris: But this was not presented at the GA?

Mai Thai: When you vote in an external, you trust your faith in him to make decisions on your behalf.

Jeroen: The issue was that it is confidential, so we could not share the manifesto in its entirety. In that regard, we couldn't bring this up to a GA, so I had to make the decision on your behalf.

Boris (AUC): I trust you to act on my behalf, but since this is confidential, I cannot know what you are doing, so you are not actually representing me. And it is already undersigned by the UCSRN?

Jeroen: Yes, it has been. It will be public after the presentation to the prime minister.

Julien (AUC): We still need a level of transparency, even though I understand your issue of confidentiality. We don't know what this is and we have no say in what you are deciding on.

Jeroen: I understand, and I wish I could present this to you, but this is not how it works. I cannot share something that is confidential.

Boris (AUC): But then can I not raise a motion that I don't agree with the UCSRN representing me on decisions made that are not brought forward to the GA even if they are not able to be disclosed to the GA.

Jeroen: But then that just goes directly against my position and that's a grand statement to make.

Boris (AUC): I think we have the right to know what it is.

Mai Thai: The manifesto itself is a piece of paper with ten points that summarizes the needs and wants of all students. It is a by student for student coalition that we would like to present.

Ten of these points we have discussed and believe that they are within our best interest. Jeroen, do you want to explain what these points are?

Jeroen: Yes of course, not verbatim, but they are tackling the loan system, work on the pressure to perform in an academic environment, housing and more liveable climate for students in the future. That kind of stuff.

Natasha (UCT): Where did you get input for this kind of discussion? And the second question I have is whether you are representing all students or LAS students.

Jeroen: We have decided on behalf of the LAS students, but this is a collaboration between all students in the Netherlands.

Natasha (UCT): was this discussed with boards anywhere? And what was the input for discussing these points and signing this? Did it come from meetings, were there focus groups, were there questionnaires and meeting with people and discussing with boards.

Jeroen: For this manifesto, we were not a part of the initiation. It was presented to us in its final form and whether we wanted to support this. We did not have a say in what the points were, so we did not have input. Does this answer the question?

Natasha (UCT): Yes it does answer the question, but this does go back to the fact that there needs to be some sort of indication that this sort of thing is going on and it would've been appreciated, since you are making a decision on behalf of the UCSRN.

Jeroen: I understand, but since it's confidential, it is hard to be open about this. I would like to make more of an update on what we are working on.

Mai Thai: After in depth discussion with the EB, we believe that this is the first step to get a UC college recognized by the government and the political side: we do need the tweede kamers for this. We are still viewed as lesser than other universities and when asked to sign on this, we were legally under confidentiality, so we would get in trouble on this. Taking everything into consideration, about where we want the UCSRN to go, we realized there is no harm, since we are not supporting any political party and there is no political campaign. We are only pushing the UCSRN into a brighter future where we are taken into consideration. We did take a long time to consider whether we should sign this document

Marik (AUC): I don't think Boris is arguing the validity of your actions, but more over the fact that it was not polled with all the members of the UCSRN. So I would suggest that if something like this would come your path, you can maybe inform all your members, saying that you are unable to disclose everything, but that you are making a decision that you want to push for changes together with all other student unions on topics such as x, y and z, would you like us to continue with this. At least people have an opportunity to know what we are doing.

Mai Thai: We will do our very best to share as much information as possible. We will communicate as much information as we are allowed to and will try to get as much feedback. If possible, I need to do the last slides of this GA since I think we would all like to get this over with and go grab a beer.

Reminded: Deadlines of sending in reimbursement applications: do apply for the

reimbursement form on time: 4 weeks is quite some time from the purchase date. The reason I specifically mention this is that we have had an issue with AUC where there was a bus reimbursement for the tournament and the reimbursement was sent in late and there was no indication that we would receive this later and there was a discussion on whether we can or cannot be reimbursed. There was a very fine line; However with the EB and IB, we have decided to reimburse anyway and we understand that we are all students and that these things come tight. From this year, we are going to be very strict on this, with the deadline. If there is any problem, just keep the communication going and please send in emails in advance. If anything, send a reason for why you cannot send in the form so that we can take that into consideration.

Marik (AUC): Is reimbursement based on date of purchase or the day of action?

Mai Thai: The day you pay and have money taken from your card. UC engagement and encouragement; loosely termed, but what we want to say is that UCSRN works as a team and we want promotion and information to be sent out to be included in newsletters, etc. This is an amazing networking opportunity and we want that to be something that you motivate your students for. With that said, we want to encourage students to apply for the fund so that we can encourage students to work together and with different UCs since that is all we are here for.

With that said, I would like to mention two deadlines: the Spotlight deadline has been moved to 23rd of September, in case any other UC wants to send in a proposal as well, since LUC has expressed interest so far. 7th of October is the deadline for UCSRN Tournament application.

With that thank you so much for coming and with that I would like to close off the GA. Thank you!

General Assembly Closed