

FGOV AGENDA

Datum	22-05-2025
Tijd	14.30 – 15.50
Locatie	Hoofdgebouw, 1 E-24 en Teams
Voorzitters	Ivo van Stokkum en Brothin Choudhury
Leden	<p>ODC: Ivo van Stokkum (vz), Anton Feenstra, Pieter Vroon, Nathalie van der Putten, Yves Bollen, Paul Jennings, Ad van Dommelen, Christian Bick, Trynke Hoekstra, Priyanka Rao-Ruiz, Meike van den Beuken, Elwin Janssen, Martin van Velzen.</p> <p>FSR: Brothin Choudhury (vz), Jasmine Chen, Annelie Mars, Erika Kulic, Sree Balaji, Alexandru Mititelu, Cassandra Budai, Debdutta Guha Roy.</p> <p>FB: Aletta Kraneveld, Pieter van Beukering, Iwan de Esch, Johan Gemser, Mareanne Karssen, Esther van den Hengel, Maaïke Verbree, Danielle Cohen.</p> <p>Toehoorders: Anne Linnartz, Brecht Reintsema, Melissa Bakker</p> <p>Notulist: Xavier van den Kastele, ambtelijk secretaris FSR</p>

1. Agenda and announcements

1.1 Opening and adopting agenda

Attachment Agenda

1.2 Announcements

The FSR has now officially have announced their successors, they were invited, but due to exam week multiple of them are not here today.

Anas joins the meeting (the chair of the USR).

2. Strategie

2.1 Update bijsturingsmaatregelen

Mondelinge update FB

The FB explains there is reorganisation plan, the board of the university has a lot of conversations with all the parties involved, all related to the future of of Earth sciences.

The other departments are working hard on the budget for 2026, the “Kadernota” has not been reviewed yet. The FGOV can expect to receive it. They are still waiting on budgetnumbers (begrotingnummers).

The FB also started the process of the year plan and the FGOV can expect this in a month.

2.2 Open gesprek over protesten/aandacht uit de wereld en de media aandacht voor Aardwetenschappen en de petitie.

Open discussion about protests/attention from around the world and media attention about Earth Sciences and the petition.

<https://www.change.org/p/red-aardwetenschappen-aan-de-vu>

The FB reflects on the media attention and letters following the protests, acknowledging they are hearing the concerns from students and the faculty. They understand their worries and concerns and try to reply to everything. They take every letter even though it consumes a lot of time. They underline the fact that the education and research regarding earth sciences is not going stop completely.

The FB acknowledges that it is understandably distressing for staff to hear they might lose their jobs. They emphasize that they do not take this message lightly but must consider the interests of the entire faculty. This also relates to the decision to discontinue the Bachelor's in Earth Sciences and a track within the Master's. To put this in perspective, the affected programs represent only 2% of the total student population. They note that public reaction includes misinformation and conspiracy theories, which they cannot fully address or correct. The FB and CvB will also engage with sector partners like Bob Hogendoorn, underscoring their responsibility to the entire VU.

The ODC thinks that for the Netherlands it's important this study exists, that's why it gained so much support from the outside world. The whole world of Earth sciences in the Netherlands is very delicate and will be disrupted with these measures.

The FB explains that they met with multiple stakeholders before the meeting with Bob Hogendoorn like TNO and explained there are serious consequences but couldn't share any details with the envisioned plan. There was understanding from their side of the dilemma the faculty faces.

The ODC raises concerns about they didn't hear anything about the financial session and the FSR was not there. There were two sessions, one about the alternative scenario and one was more a detailed session. There are slides that can be shared with the FGOV. Furthermore, the ODC wonders

if the tone of the attention is something the FB has anticipated on?

The dean explains she hasn't faced this size of measures before but expected it. As a board they talked about how to respond, by answering every question. Probably the answers they give are not satisfactory. The level of threats of the last reorganisations has not been reached but it's something they are also prepared for. The FB is managing slowly and is very busy, it takes time and personal. A lot of assistance is being asked of the whole department, which unfortunately could be spend differently.

The ODC thinks it's risky to make so much hours and advices against it additionally, they mention that opposed to the last reorganisation it should never become personal and these things should be emphasized.

2.3 Werkbelevingsonderzoek

Attachments

Resultaten Onderzoek en aanpak opvolging.

The FB explains that the faculty is not very different from the VU as a whole, it's shared with departments such that they can see it more in detail. Each department is assigned the study them and think of worrisome signs, how to anticipate on them and really taking time to do something with the results.

The ODC refers to the last Work Experience Survey (werkbelevingsonderzoek), how there were certain spots in the faculty visible for the FB which were more vulnerable. Are there now any signs of those types of pockets again?

The FB emphasises that the teams and departments where this was the case, improved. They only received the reports of the department yesterday but need more time to analyse this. However, for now they don't see anything popping out, this will be shared if this is the case.

It's decided within the FGOV there will be a reflection moment once all the results are available.

3. Onderwijs / Education

3.1 Update Onderwijs / Education

Mondelinge update FB

The FB describes the OEREN are to be formalised and send for approval for the 11th of June. Informal meetings will be in the second half of June. The OEREN of bachelor Earth sciences and master have a different timeline just like pharmaceutical sciences.

In general, in the last months there has been a lot of discussion on the thesis and internships, how to enforce uniformity. Monitoring improved due to the new technology, they have met with the bachelor and master in different groups especially in the health department.

Requesting their desires, some told the FB they can organise it themselves. The health domain desired more direction from the board, like allocating thesis's. There were pilots with groups supervised thesis's, which was well received in the bachelor and something they like to investigate further for upscaling.

In the OPO, there were talks about programs without a thesis, following the dynamics of the world. It's an example of a radically different way in reorganising a program not simply removing the thesis.

Notes of Pieter:

According to the referentie raming / prognoses by the Ministry of Education, several national trends are impacting university enrollments:

- Fewer young people in the Netherlands
- A smaller share of VWO students entering university
- Decline in international student numbers
- Fewer students from applied sciences transferring to university
- Decrease in students continuing from Bachelor to Master
- Slight improvement in graduation rates vs. drop-outs

Faculty and VU Trends

At VU, the Bachelor intake (~5,200 students) is down 7%, with the Beta domain seeing a sharper decline of 12%.

The Master intake (~6,500 students) is up 3% overall, but Beta is down 3%.

Domain-specific Trends:

- NSM: Bachelors -3%, Masters +11%
- HLS: Bachelors -13%, Masters +4%
- EEE: Bachelors -8%, Masters -15%
- IS: Bachelors -23%, Masters -9%

Beta Total Overview:

- Bachelor: -12% (NL -10%, International -16%)
- Master: -3% (NL -3%, International -4%)
- Pre-master: +18% (NL +16%, International +21%)

The ODC states that the integrated Zoom setup in Canvas functions very well for hybrid education. They express concern that VU has announced it will no longer pay for Zoom and questions whether this has been discussed in the OPO. The ODC emphasizes that a tested and working alternative must be in place in time to ensure continuity of hybrid teaching.

The FB acknowledges that the current alternative lacks breakout room functionality. They agree with the concerns raised by the ODC and will bring the issue to the OPO. The FB adds that it would be helpful to receive an email from the ODC listing the advantages of Zoom to support further discussion.

3.2 Earth sciences education

In the last FGOV it was mentioned and in the last information sessions with the students there will be tailored plans for students to graduate

The FB elaborates on how there were meetings to explain everything, regarding tailored plans for students to graduate. The week after there was a survey to inventories their needs and ambitions regarding thesis ideas and lab requirements.

For the Bachelor it's more generic, they will have meetings with individual students and discuss the answers, after that there should be a clear picture to fill the gaps.

Opleidings directeuren coordinatoren and old opleidingen coordinator.

All programs in the faculty have received assignments to reduce small courses, we exempted the earth

sciences due to the situation they are in. They are the bachelor record holder of small electives, together with them they try to implement the program more efficiently, in collaboration with the OLC who will take the lead on this.

3.3 Naamswijziging B Biomedical Sciences naar B Biomedische Wetenschappen (incl. voertaalwijziging naar Nederlands)

For information.

This has been announced at the last meeting. This is again a topic, as the information is now complete.

The ODC raised a question about the date should 26th, repair program mainly due to internship issue, the program was evaluated and I thought a week ago was the deadline but there is a different date in the document.

The FB can look into it. So there was a lot of discussion with the department, if the moment was appropriate. We thought the switch of fixxus was a good moment. At the same time it was just by hour chair in national negotiation listening to the minister the VU is taking regime.

The ODC there were worries in the department there are not enough dutch speaking teachers.

The FB weighed the pros and cons and felt this was feasible.

The ODC think it's a big operation and some disciplines it's an English only staff, so it's challenging

The FB explains not all courses have to be in dutch, one third is legally to be in English. So the first two years need to be in dutch and leaves very little room. The FB needs consent of the FGOV for this. They need to discuss this and will get back to it. It will be in a later moment. Het instemmings recht verloopt via de opleiding.

The ODC raised a question regarding the program change date, specifically whether it should be the 26th. The change relates mainly to the repair program, particularly due to internship issues. The program had already been evaluated, and the ODC understood the deadline to have passed a week ago, yet a different date appears in the official document.

The FB responds that they will investigate this. They note there was considerable discussion with the department about the timing, and it was considered appropriate to implement the change alongside the switch to fixxus. Simultaneously, during national negotiations, the VU expressed to the minister that it is taking initiative.

The ODC expressed their concerns within the department regarding a shortage of Dutch-speaking lecturers. And points out that the operation is significant, and in some disciplines, the staff is English-speaking only, which presents challenges.

The FB replies that they weighed the pros and cons and concluded the change was feasible. They further clarify that not all courses need to be in Dutch. Legally, one-third of the courses may be in English. However, this means that the first two years must largely be taught in Dutch, leaving little flexibility. The FB notes that consent from the FGOV is required and that this discussion will be continued at a later stage. The formal right of consent (instemmingsrecht) runs through the program level.

4. Bedrijfsvoering / Business operations

4.1 Housing (only when there are updates)

Mondelinge update FB

No update, the VO building is almost finished, and they are working on the renovation of the WN-building. FCO is working on a campus wide plan to see how they can reorganise everything more efficiently.

5. Onderzoek / Research

5.1

6. Valorisatie / Valorization

6.1

7. Notulen / Minutes

7.1 Draft minutes FGOV 17 april

Attachment Concept notulen

Ter goedkeuring

Ivo is not charring the meeting and Trinke is taking over.

3.2 There still needs to be send a letter.

7.2 Notulen/Minutes FB

You will find the recent FB Minutes via this link:

The ODC raises questions about:

Besluitenlijst point 62 and 78, herbenoeming OLC: Is he charring two commitees?

Dirk Essing

This needs to be reassessed.

<https://surfdrive.surf.nl/files/index.php/s/yLB6x7YCye6Ebsd>

7.3 Notulen/Minutes AHO

You will find the recent AHO minutes via this link:

No remarks.

<https://surfdrive.surf.nl/files/index.php/s/becbilT7Ytck2Nu>

8. Overig / rondvraag

8.1 Postlijst

The ODC raises concerns that there is no visibility on correspondence, noting that the FGOV has the right to access such information. They feel there is a lack of transparency.

The FB responds that there is no longer a formal system of "incoming post". The FB explains that it must select what is relevant and manageable to share.

The ODC proposes adding this as a point to the next meeting agenda. The discussion is not only about access, but also about awareness of what kind of information is relevant. The FGOV depends on the FB's judgment, but by placing the topic on the agenda, it encourages renewed reflection on the duty to inform the FGOV.

The FB acknowledges this and states that they are already aware of this responsibility. However, not everything can be shared in real time or in detail. This is typically addressed in agenda meetings, where the awareness it is emphasized awareness.