Yellow highlight: agreed actions
Green highlight: agreed rules

MINUTES USR & COLLEGE VAN BESTUUR (CvB)

Date: Monday 21 September 2026
Time: 13.30 – 15.00 h
Location: Salutem 1
Expected: Jeroen Geurts (CvB), Veerle Roeyen (BS CvB)
Jusry Ehun (Chair USR), Stephanie Hennekens (Vicechair USR), Esraa Aboelkasem, Francisco Reis Garcia Gomes, Josephine Hart, Lauren Buyn, Mirta Vucetic, Omar Elhabiby, Oumnia Nounouh, Necati Özel, Diederik Prakke (AS-ai USR)
Absent: Anouar Aghaddar

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1. Opening and check in

Jusry opens the meeting at 13:33 with a welcome and a round of names.

With a new USR and a new Official Secretary, the agenda was not yet prepared as desired. It is proposed and agreed that the main purpose of this OV is to get to know each other and establish pleasant and effective working relationships. This is more important than the agenda.

Later in the meeting the USR-members presented what, during elections, they committed to work on if elected:

- Omar: (un-)ethical international ties (e.g. Israel), more transparency, cheaper canteen, social safety
- Esraa: cheaper canteen, (un-)ethical international ties, facilitating neurodiversity and prayer
- Oumnia: accessibility to challenged students
- Francisco: community feeling; belonging to VU, 3rd, and 4th money stream
- Stephanie: recognition of the role of associations
- Jusry: readiness for the job market (e.g., career fairs)
- Joséphine: visibility USR; election turn-out
- Mirta: USR visibility; election turn-out, USR relation to associations
- Lauren: Social Safety, actual use of support/complaint procedure (roadmap?)
- Necati: cheaper canteen, support systems for private struggles of (first-year) students (app? mentoring?

2. Announcements

2.1. CvB

- No announcements

2.2. USR

- Working on USR annual plan
- Working on USR annual budget

- Working on house rules for within the USR

3. Approval previous minutes and checking action list
Not applicable.

4. Establishment of the agenda

5. CvB-USR collaboration and expectations
Participants express hopes and expectations:

- Openness
- Timely submission of documents (by both USR and CvB). As a rule: at least a week before a meeting
- USR and CvB keep each other updated (even if with a message that such-and-so is still working on a topic)
- People speak up
- Participants stay engaged
- Share questions, suggestions and worries proactively, so that USR and CvB do not surprise each other by deliberately withholding sensitive topics or views until at a meeting
- Making efforts to distinguish facts from rumours (accepting that rumours tend to travel faster than they can be debunked)
- Critical friend and a USR that is not divided (this point is brought forward by the CvB, to contradict the view that management would tactically aim to divide)
- Friction may be uncomfortable, but is to be embraced
- Healthy trust
- Everything can be discussed, with the only note that the CvB hopes that matters on which they are required to request advice or consent are not delayed due to other topics
- Commitment to genuinely listen to USR views and initiatives (brought forward by CvB)

6. Participation calendar (Veerle)
An Excel sheet with expected dossiers for the coming half year will be share shortly. This will include dossiers for OR, USR and GV (=OR and USR jointly).

Upcoming for the USR:

- ICT regulation: Whether the USR stands by its earlier consent, after minor additions (improvements) based on OR input. Unless the USR demands it, this will not be a full formal request for consent
- VU house rules, which will start with 'TO, Technisch Overleg' - meetings with those who work on the revision (for information)
- Election regulation (right of consent)
- Participation enhancement – how to use Ministerial funds to strengthen decentral co-determination (OC's, ODC's, FSR's). The OR is currently in discussions with the organization on this matter; the USR is currently not involved.
- Upcoming for GV:
- Changes in Honours programme (right of consent)
- Evaluation Code of Conduct for information (and consultation, as always)

- Approval of headlines of the Annual Plan (2027- Consent on headlines, advice on whole)

7. Consultation/information matters

7.1. SRVU no longer facilitated at StudentD0K

During the discussion of this topic, it is noticed that Ad Valvas has published an article on this issue (not yet read by the participants). The concern of the USR is the succession of lessening support to the SRVU: currently no accreditation, while a year earlier SRVU lost its legal office.

With regards to SRVU the CvB explains that accreditation, which was not renewed for SRVU (which the SRVU now appeals against), is not linked to use of StudentD0K, but to financing, as the VU is not permitted to finance non-accredited associations. The appeal may come to the CvB, for this reason the CvB cannot reflect on this matter. The CvB states that the non-accreditation is not related to the expressed political views of the union regarding Israel. The CvB also shared that, if the non-accreditation holds after the appeal, the VU will discuss how SRVU can meet accreditation requirements again, as a student engagement, including a union, is important to the VU.

The meeting broadens to StudentD0K, rather than only SRVU. The USR brings forward:

- Over the summer a lock was added to the outer entrance of StudentD0K,
- while the hours that a receptionist is present have been reduced, and
- the StudentD0K rules were revised,
- whereas the explicit agreement (as also the CvB recalls) was to involve the USR in such cases

Implication of the lock is that the associations Anatolia and Femme do not have free access to the space anymore. Students now must make reservations, so that spontaneous student gathering is hampered. This further deviates from the original '*by students, for students*'. In view of irregularities and related safety concerns, SOZ will resume responsibility for day-to-day governance of D0K, but not that the use of the space could be restricted.

The USR recently received an email from SOZ about the rules and is thus in contact. In preparing for the USR CoBo, COMS (the Communications Commission of the USR) will shortly meet with SOZ. At this meeting the USR will also mention the above issues (possibly requesting a meeting).

8. Matters for formal advice

None at the moment.

9. Matters for consent

9.1. Studentenstatuut 2027-2028

As informed by the CvB, the USR is aware that a revised draft Studentenstatuut may be expected by December. As an example of proactivity, the USR hopes to review (and reconfirm and possibly supplement) the recommendations from the previous USR on this topic.

10. Any other business/questions

- Through the Presidium the USR heard that 4 out of 7 FSR's have (quite like earlier years) no access to their offices. While Jeroen Geurts will informally talk about this, he recommends to advice the FSR to address these issues with their Board and else FCO. Else the USR may overburden itself. Similarly in VU management, central is not supposed to handle decentral issues. Rather than getting systematically entangled, the intention is to let each unit solve its own issues and only get involved if that fails.
- Tamara (rather than Diederik, as Astrid's ad interim replacement) will handle financials for the USR
- The USR works on a general budget similar to last year's, except for translation costs which were under-budgeted [after the meeting it is clarified that translation costs for GV issues come from OR budget, so there is no concern]. The training budget used very low unit costs, so the new budget may be higher than last year's. The Board Secretary reacts that the budget is shared with Institutional Affairs before it is established by the CvB.
- The listening sessions on the social safety are completed. A list of advice is draft and will be shared for feedback with the participants of the sessions. Final advice are expected by October.
- The Green Offices reported to a USR-member that, related to safety/Arbo issues, it failed finding a solution with FCO to organise cooking events. CvB recommends promoting that parties solve the issue at their level. Either accept a no as a no or try to understand and relate to the other party. CvB will check about the applicable (Arbo) regulations. In general, CvB can help find the right person to talk to for any issue, but should not interfere, and recommends the USR the same approach.

11. Evaluation and closing 15.09 h

Participants express appreciation for the meeting, chiefly as a stepping in developing good relations. Hope and expectation are not to dive too often and too deep into issues that should be addressed at lower levels, so that the focus and critical dialogue is chiefly strategic.
