

Faculty Council Report

October 2020

This report will provide a glimpse of what has been discussed in the TiSEM Faculty Council, which takes place 6 times in an academic year. Below, you find some information on the topics that are most relevant for students.

Corona update

We received the official update for the upcoming exam period (October). The exams are going to be hybrid, meaning they will take place both on campus and online. The preferred way of testing is on campus and this will be the default for most exams. However, due to the capacity restrictions, some exams (for example for courses with many students) will be by default online. The course coordinator has the information regarding your exam of a specific course. So, if you have any questions, make sure to contact the course coordinators. You can find answers to frequently asked questions about Corona and also specifically about exams via [this link](#).

Many online exams will make use of the proctoring software Proctorio. You can find more information on Proctorio in this video: go.uvt.nl/recording.

Important for you to know as a student: you can opt-out of the default setting of your exam. This implies that if you have an on campus exam, but you can not go to the university, you can request an online exam. Also, when the exam is online, but you are not able to do this, you can request to take the exam on campus. For both situations, several conditions have to be met. You can request the “opt-out” and view the conditions via [this link](#).

Also, this week it was decided that the education in the second semester will be in the same form as the current semester. Almost all lectures will be online, exceptions are made mostly for first year bachelor -and master students. Again, TiSEM will have two days on which on campus education can be organized.

Education Committees

We raised our concerns about the Education Committee for the new bachelor EBI, as there are no students recruited thus far. We think it is very important to find students as soon as possible, to ensure the quality of this new Bachelor program. The Management Team will get back to us with a plan on how to fill this committee.

Are you an EBI student? Let us know if you want more information about the Education Committee!



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Quality of (Zoom) lectures

Student Party ECCO added the point of the quality of the (Zoom) lectures to the agenda of this Faculty Council. We raised our concern regarding the quality of online Zoom lectures and whether lecturers have the opportunity to find help if needed. The MT informed us on all the existing facilities for teachers both at a faculty and at a university wide level. We were very impressed with the facilities and with the fact that already many lecturers use these facilities. Among other things, several webinars took place and also will take place the next semester. These webinars are based on how to teach (big groups) using Zoom. Also, best practices are shared amongst teachers via “messages of the Dean”, which is a very direct and powerful line between the Dean of TiSEM and the teaching staff.

As the planning for the upcoming semester is being made now, lecturers are contacted on whether they have any more needs in order to teach their course. These needs could be, for example, more information/help for lecturers themselves, but it can also relate to the need for certain equipment. In this way, these issues will hopefully be tackled sooner than that has been done for this first semester. Also, we raised the point that there are misunderstandings between lecturers about the rules on recording and posting video lectures. There is no clear guideline on the rules regarding privacy for both the lecturer and the students in terms of visual and audio. The Management Team was not aware of these misunderstandings and will make sure to tackle these problems.

Budget 2020-2024 / MARAP 2020

Every year, the budget for the upcoming years and also the Management Report (realization of the past year) are presented and discussed in the council. Questions were raised, amongst others on the feasibility of hiring enough new staff and the negative deviations from last year's budget. The Management Team was pleased to announce that last year was a very good year in terms of new hires. All of TiSEM's departments were able to reach their goal of hiring new, quality staff members. For the upcoming year, Corona might create some difficulties, but it also creates opportunities. The negative deviations from the budget were results from choices that were intentionally made on specific topics. Therefore the negative deviations should not be seen as worrisome.

Overall, the Management Team stated that they are positive towards last year's budget realization and are confident in the long term financial stability of the faculty. In the end, both these documents received positive advice from the Faculty Council.



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Quality Agreements

In 2015, the Dutch government cancelled the study grant and replaced this with a social lending system. The budget which was made free by cutting this grant was promised to be made available for structural investments, which were to benefit the quality of education. To make sure that this agreement is kept, the faculty councils are given the right of consent on the allocation of tuition fee resources of TiSEM.

During this Faculty Council, we gave our consent to shifting some of the money within these agreements towards the new "I Will" campaign. 1000 IBA, EBI and EBE Bachelor students are currently participating in a pilot of this new campaign, which has started as of September 1. The campaign aims to motivate students and to decrease dropout rates for first year students.

As ECCO, we questioned the costs of the campaign and whether it will be worth the investment, as well as how this can be evaluated at the end. The Management Team indicated that if the campaign enables us to retain more students, it will be worth the investment. This is because every student that drops out actually costs the faculty a lot of money. Compared to those costs, the costs of implementing the campaign are relatively low. Hence, we believe the investment is worth the try and we gave positive consent on the proposed shift.

Do you want more information?

You can always reach out to us via social media or via our email: info@studentpartyecco.nl. If you want more information on the Faculty Council meetings, you can take a look in [the Sharepoint](#). This is the place where all documents, such as the agenda, minutes, budget sheets and other supporting documents are uploaded. Every student has the right to view these documents.

