

Faculty Council Report

May 2021

This report will provide an overview 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.

PASS & Study Thermometer Tool

The new outline for PASS year 1 is beginning to take shape. The program will no longer be mandatory, but will consist of many components which can help students who struggle in their first year. The content of courses will differ per BSc. program, and will be selected by the Academic Directors and Education Coordinators. There will be less obligations, so the program will be more directed towards helping the students that participate. A new part of the PASS program will be the Study Thermometer. This is a recurring survey (which takes only 10 minutes to fill in) amongst first-year students to monitor how they are performing and feeling. Besides, this tool provides an insight into study related aspects which can have an influence on successfully following a study program. Students who struggle can find specific help via this Thermometer.

Thesis supervisor response time

As mentioned in previous Faculty Council reports, ECCO has written a proposal to the Faculty Council concerning the time it sometimes takes students to get a reply from their thesis supervisor. It is a common problem that the communication between supervisor and student is suboptimal. This can be due to both the supervisor and the student, but the students suffer more when this happens. Student Party ECCO proposed a form of regulation that would make sure that the supervisor has to respond to a message of the student within 5 working days. This can be the desired feedback or answers to the question, or simply a short email communicating when you can expect a full response. The aim is to empower students, such that they know when to expect a response and that they can act accordingly if this answer is delayed. It will give the student the justification to send a reminder after 5 working days, without them being viewed as pushy or needy.

TiSEM has been busy implementing a new thesis program: Thesis Dossier. Our proposal will be incorporated into this new system, which will be fully functional by September 2022. Up until then, the syllabus of the thesis process will emphasize that students are justified to remind their supervisor. This will be an improvement to the thesis process for all TiSEM students.



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Tilburg University Learning Analytics

Student Party ECCO is very satisfied with the progress made in the Learning Analytics project. During the FC, a presentation was provided on the current status of this project. Using the Learning Analytics, the University will be able to find out much more precisely how the students are performing. This will lead to more understanding of what kind of effects changes in the curriculum or the way courses are offered can have. Very good news!

Update on “Uniformization of Course Syllabi”

A first draft has been promised to the faculty council by the next cycle. The final touches are being applied to the design, the content has already been finished. We are looking forward to seeing what the template will look like, and how our initiative will be implemented in practice!

Do you want more information?

Of course, the summary above is very brief and only covers the points that are directly relevant to students. Do you want to know more? Don't hesitate to reach out to us via social media or email: info@studentpartyecco.nl!

If you want more information on the Faculty Council meetings, you can take a look at Sharepoint. Here, all documents (e.g. the agendas, minutes, budget sheets, and other supporting documents) are uploaded. Every student has the right to view these documents.

