

UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.



Faculty Council BMS
Dr. H. v.d. Kolk

FACULTY OF BEHAVIOURAL, MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FROM
H. Boer

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ONS KENMERK
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ENCLOSURE:

SUBJECT
OLC elections

Dear Henk,

In her letter of 27th of November 2017, the FR raises a number of issues related to the OLC elections, as presented in the proposed Faculty regulations. Below, the issues will be discussed. The issues mentioned in the letter have been discussed in the Faculty Board and below an explanation will be given of the opinion of the Faculty Board/Dean on these issues.

First, it should be mentioned that the comments of the FR in particular focus on three elements from Article 8 of the proposed Faculty regulations (for the sake clarity, these articles are mentioned here again):

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- a) The establishment of an OLC (Article 8.1: *The Faculty Management Board establishes a Programme Committee for every initial programme or group of programmes with an equal balance between students and staff.*)
 - b) The appointment of student members (Article 8.3: *Student members are to be appointed by the Dean on the nomination of a student member by the student association of the relevant programme (or cluster of programmes). The students should preferably study in different years of the programme.*)
 - c) The appointment of staff members (Article 8.4 : *Staff members are to be appointed by the Dean on the nomination of a staff member by the current staff members and the chair of the programme committee. Staff members should preferably be appointed from different departments of the programme.*)

In her first remark, the FR concludes *'that the suggested procedure in the faculty regulations (point b) and c) above) to make the dean/the board the only actor making the final decisions*

about the composition of the OLC, is not in line with the recent changes in the law.

This issue has been discussed in the Faculty Board. In this discussion, the Faculty Board made a distinction between the appointment of members of the Programme Committee and the procedure to be used in the recruitment of members of the Programme Committee. The Faculty Board/Dean is responsible for the appointment of members of the Programme Committee. Related to this, the Faculty Board/Dean ensures a composition of the Programme Committee as required by the law (50% staff, 50% students), next to sending appointment letters and establishing a procedure to ensure financial compensation for the student members.

With regard to the procedure to be used in the recruitment of members of the Programme Committee, the Faculty Board/Dean should be able to judge correctness and fairness of the procedure that was used in the recruitment of a particular, proposed candidate. This means *in concreto* that a nomination proposal of a candidate should contain a) an argumentation of the reasons why the proposed candidate was nominated and which qualifications of the candidate were in particular relevant for the nomination, and 2) a short description of the procedure that was used in the recruitment of the candidate. Based on the provided information, the Faculty Board/Dean can form an opinion on the adequateness of the procedure and pose additional questions, if necessary. According to the Faculty Board, the procedure mentioned above provides sufficient guarantees to ensure a proper nomination process.

The proposed articles 8.3 and 8.4 of the Faculty Regulations should be read by the FR as a proposal for a procedure for the nomination and appointment of respectively student members and staff members. In the proposed procedure, the dean of Faculty management does not play a role in the nomination of possible candidates, nor in the recruitment. For the student members, the role/task of nominating candidates is given to the student association that is related to the programme. The proposed student nominee is then appointed to the OLC by the dean /management board. For the staff members, the role for nominating candidates is given to the current staff members in the OLC in a discussion with the chair of the OLC. If the staff members and the chair agree upon a particular candidate, the nominee is appointed by the dean after nomination. The dean does not play a role in the nomination or recruitment of staff candidates for the OLC. With this additional explanation, we hope that we have sufficiently clarified the role of student associations, the staff, the chair of the OLC and the dean in the nomination process.

In your letter, you state that any regulation outlining the appointment of OLC members should contain a number of elements. Below, the elements you have mentioned will be shortly discussed with a proposal of the Faculty Board to solve the issues that were raised.

- **Eligibility.** The law poses no restriction on eligibility. The Management Board proposes that students from the programme and staff contributing to the programme are eligible as members of the OLC. With regard to students, it seems reasonable that this requirement is a *sine qua non*. With regard to staff members, a less stringent policy is possible, if the staff members and the chair of the OLC agree on the nomination of an external member, for good reasons.

- **Responsibility for recruitment.** In line with the current practice, the Management Board proposes that the student segment (and in a broader perspective the Studievereniging), in cooperation with the chair, is responsible for the nomination of student candidates. The staff in the OLC, in cooperation with the chair, are responsible for the nomination of staff members.
- **Selection criteria.** Given the responsibility of the student section and the responsibility of the staff section, no explicit selection criteria need to be formulated. From the student perspective, students usually stress a more or less equal contribution to the OLC of students from different study years. For staff members usually a good spread among the departments contributing to the programme seems to be desirable. In all cases, the students and the staff need to know the program (or part of it) and be able to give an opinion on the issues that are relevant for the OLC. Since this seems to be obvious, it does not seem necessary to state strict requirements on the level of knowledge of the programme. To conclude, The faculty board proposes that no general, explicit selection criteria are mentioned.
- **Decision on membership.** Usually, a good discussion of the qualities of the candidate within a section leads to the nomination of a particular candidate. The decision on the membership of a particular individual is taken either by the student section (in discussion with the chair) or by the staff section (in discussion with the chair). It should be mentioned, that in many cases it may be difficult to find candidates, both in the student and in the staff section, so generally there is no real selection issue. To conclude, the students (in cooperation with the chair) decide on the student nominees and the staff (in cooperation with the chair) decide on the staff nominees.
- **Duration.** The Faculty Board proposes for students a one year term, starting September 1st. For staff members, a 2 year term is proposed, which can be prolonged for another 2 years. These terms are in accordance with the current practice.

We hope that with this information the questions related to the recruitment of members of the OLC, as raised in the letter of the FR of November, 27th (OLC elections), have been sufficiently addressed.

Kind regards,


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Dean BMS