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Documented questions round regarding the Kick-In

Dear Executive Board,

The University Council discussed with you about the Faculty Kick-In during the OOS meeting of 04/10. Nevertheless, questions within the council remain unanswered. First, we will present our remarks and concerns regarding towards the Bachelor Kick-In of 2019, then we will elaborate on our perspective on the further development of the introduction phase of the Bachelor students.

The Kick-In has been evaluated recently and is undergoing a rigorous transitioning process after the undesirable outcome of the evaluation. What is most striking to the University Council is that the Bachelor Kick-In is perceived as an event that is not designed for all students and an event that is not welcoming to international students. We are happy with the adequate response and actions of the Kick-In Committee concerning the general part of the Bachelor Kick-In. The Faculty Kick-In was also part of the executed evaluation. The outcome of the evaluation was comparable to the general Bachelor Kick-In. Steps must be undertaken to ensure a welcoming and useful introduction period for all incoming students in 2019.

Responsibility for the Faculty Kick-In seems to be diffuse, affecting the time it takes to change this event. The organization of the Faculty Kick-In is significantly different than the organization of the general Kick-In. The executive board is, ultimately, responsible for the Faculty Kick-In. This responsibility is then put on the faculties, who made the programme directors responsible, who, on their turn, assigned the project to the Study Associations. While executing this event there was little to no communication concerning the organization of the event. The council is not aware of any exceptions on this responsibility division.

It was indicated during our meeting that there is unclarity surrounding the purpose and goals of the Faculty Kick-In, However, in 2015, goals have been set for the Faculty Kick-In, according to "Notitie doorontwikkeling Kick-In" (20190226-PIA-item 4b notitie doorontw. KickIn).

"Doelstellingen zoals in 2015 geformuleerd, zijn:

Doel: de nieuwe studenten

Studie	hebben een positieve attitude tegenover de studie;
	hebben accurate verwachtingen t.a.v. studielast;
	hebben kennis van werkwijze binnen het Twents Onderwijs Model.

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Student-ondersteuning	kennen de weg naar de studieadviseur, studentendecaan, studentpsycholoog en coördinator diversiteit bij Student Affairs Coaching & Counseling;
1	kennen de weg naar extra ondersteuning voor
1	studenten met bijzondere omstandigheden.

To the best of our knowledge these goals, formulated as such, are not met.

The specific aspects addressed above were not touched upon earlier, which generates concern within Council. From this the following questions arise:

- How will the Executive Board ensure that the responsibility for restructuring the introduction period becomes clear, as a prerequisite for executing the restructuring of the Faculty Kick-In?
- How will the Executive Board ensure that the goals of the Faculty Kick-In are met?

Then, regarding the further development of the introduction period of students. The faculty Kick-In has set up clear goals to contribute to introducing the new student to the whereabouts of a student on the University of Twente, including information on the student support services offered by the university.

However, programs generally disregard this informing part of the Kick-In and present the information on the whereabouts of students in Twente during the first day of the lectures, since all students are present at that time, which is not the case during the Kick-In. This renders the goal of information provision in the Kick-In superfluous.

Besides this, it was mentioned that introducing a new student to the educational environment and settling down of the student takes approximately three months into the educational program. The Kick-In takes about 10 days and is considered the 'Introductory period' of the university. There is a significant difference between the yearly Kick-In and the three-month period mentioned earlier, the Kick-In mainly focusses on the social aspect of university life and the city of Enschede and this period of settling down is concerning the student in the academic environment. Therefore, both having their (potential) added value. Nevertheless, the question arises whether the University of Twente should get an expert team together to reconsider our approach to introducing students to all aspects of student life in Enschede.

 Does the Executive Board intend to re-design the introductory period, not limited to the Kick-In, to ensure a welcome, to both international and national, that is in line with the values of the university, and if so, how does the Executive Board want to realise this?

Sincerely,

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On behalf of the University Council

dr.ir H. Wormeester.

President