

33RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Amsterdam, May 14th, 2019

Present: see book of attendance (request with AUCSA).

Proxies: Pjotr Tjallema, Yvonne Plate, Jonas van der Ham, Anna Spiering, Laila Spee, Tim Castellon Arjona, Emma Rammeloo, Masha Ogienko, Chiara Loriaux, Julia de Gooijer, Ruyaam Khan, Zsa Zsa van Raalte, Bernard Kapelle, Daan de Bruijn, Joris Tuit, Bluma Brecher, Coralie Boon, Lisa Philippo, Claudia Albero, Joyce den Hertog, Merel Laauwen, Laura van der Wal, Femke Arnoldy, Rosa Heuveling van Beek, Annemijn Ooms, Frederiek Tijssens, Antoine Bourcieu, Stefanie Saddey, Felix Kuijken, Danique Davis, Nick van der Woude, Rosa Stienstra, Amber te Winkel, Justin Smael, Loes van Keulen, Seska Trip, Adriana Catherine Hermans, Gesa Carolin Müller, Muriel van der Jagt, Fleur Korzilius, Ireen van Dolderen, Floor Verhoogt, Tim Arbeid, Freke Leene, Marije Snippert, Dania Rodill, Christine van der Horst

Abbreviations:

AOB = Any other business

GA = General Assembly

Q = Question

A = Answer

Agenda of the Afternoon:

I. Opening of the 33rd General Assembly

Marik Westerhof, President of the AUCSA 2018-2019, opens the 33rd General Assembly, welcomes everyone and thanks everyone for being here. He wishes the candidates running for the AUCSA Board 2019-2020 good luck.

II. Sequential ordering of the agenda

Marik presents the agenda.

Q1: Berend Jansen, a member of the Elections Commission 2018-2019, proposes to incorporate agenda point "Elections Commission" under agenda point "Proposed Board". It is currently separate, between agenda point "Honorary Members" and "Personal Statements".

Motion 1: move the agenda point "Elections Commission" under "Proposed Board".

Motion 1 is unanimously passed as no one wants to vote.

As no one wants to vote on the agenda, it is unanimously approved.

III. General Information

Marik explains the rules of a General Assembly. Additionally, he asks everyone to be respectful of the candidates and anyone else that may ask questions or speak aloud for any other reason.

IV. Advisory Council (old and new)

Marik explains what the Advisory Council (AC) is, and which people are part of the AC 2018-2019: Berend Jansen, Noana Smits, Louise ten Bosch and Tamara Happé. Additionally, he announces the Advisory Council 2019-2020: Jasmijn Doorgeest, Julia de Gooijer, Grace John and Siem Teusink.

As no one wants to vote on the Advisory Council 2019-2020, it is unanimously approved.

V. Audit Commission

Marik explains what the Audit Commission does.

The Audit Commission 2018-2019 is currently made up of four people, who are neither part of the AUCSA Board, nor of a committee or team. This is due to a rule as stated in the AUCSA Policy Manual, which does not allow AUCSA Board, committee or team members to be part of the Audit Commission. Marik explains that the AUCSA Board 2018-2019 would like to change this rule, and allow committee and team members to be in the Audit Commission from the year 2019-2020 onwards as to make it possible for all people interested to apply.

Q2: Berend Jansen comments that the way the proposed amendment is phrased, only includes the words “team” and “committee” but not the word “commission”. He wants to know whether commissions should also be included in this amendment.

A2: Marik answers that officially, commissions are included in the AUCSA Board’s budget and that they don’t have a separate budget sheet, therefore the word “commission” was not included in the proposed amendment to the current article in the Policy Manual.

Q3: Berend Jansen wonders whether it is wise to omit the word “commission”, since it is not guaranteed that a commission created in the future will not fall under the AUCSA Budget. Therefore he proposes that the word “commission” be added to the clause nonetheless.

Q4: Laura Gerritse comments that it indeed sounds ambiguous, but that it is not that different from what it is now. She asks what he thinks would be the best solution.

A4: Berend Jansen doesn’t have an answer now, although he thinks it would be more convenient to phrase it correctly in this moment rather than going through with ambiguous phrasing that might need to be changed later.

Q5: Jael kortekaas proposes that it be phrased as “committee, team, and commission, excluding the Audit Commission”.

A5: Willemijn de Hoop suggests that it be changed to “any other commission than Audit”

Motion 2: Article 19.2 in the AUCSA Policy Manual should change from “The Audit Commission consists of at least two members who are not in the AUCSA Board or in the board of a Committee or Team”, to “The Audit Commission consists of at least two members. Furthermore, there shall be no AUCSA Board member in the Audit Commission. In case a member of the Audit Commission is on the board of a Committee, Team or Commission, the latter excluding Audit Commission, this member is not allowed to audit the budget of this or these board(s) in question.”

Q6: Viktoria Kaffanke asks whether this change would take away from the independence of the Audit Commission.

A6: Willemijn de Hoop answers that a committee member will not be able to audit their own committee’s budget. Additionally, Audit is there to check up on the AUCSA Treasurer rather than the committee itself.

Q7: Gerold Sewcharan comments that regardless of this, he still thinks the amendment will allow for committees to influence Audit members who are also part of their committee.

A7: Willemijn de Hoop answers that this fraud is possible either way, since committee members could already communicate with Audit members in the situation as it is now.

Q8: Gerold still thinks it would be easier for fraud to occur.

A8: Laura Gerritse, part of the Audit Commission 2018-2019, comments that Audit members do not decide anything about where the money goes. Instead, it is about checking up on the AUCSA Treasurer. Additionally there are multiple people in the Audit, meaning these members are able to check up on each other as well. Therefore she is certain that it will be a secure system either way.

The motion will be voted on.

Motion 2 is passed.

VI. Honorary Members

Marik explains what honorary membership is.

Marik announces that the AUCSA Secretary has received a request in the form of a list of signatures to propose someone as an Honorary Member. The list of signatures was sent in by Charlotte Kroese, whom he consequently invites to the stage.

Charlotte steps onto the stage to propose Willemijn de Hoop as an Honorary Member. She explains that she sent in the request on behalf of herself, Marron Loods, Evi Sifaki and Welmoed van der Leij. She lists the reasons as to why they want to nominate Willemijn as an Honorary Member, specifically touching upon her accomplishments in various committees, teams and AUCSA Board.

As no one wants to vote, Willemijn de Hoop is unanimously accepted as an Honorary Member.

Willemijn thanks Charlotte, Marron, Evi, Welmoed; all members present at the GA; and all the members who signed the petition.

Afterwards, Marik gives some more information about the procedure behind proposing someone as an Honorary Member.

VII. Personal Statements and Q&A

Marik explains that candidates running for the AUCSA Board 2019-2020 each have 2 minutes to give a speech, followed by a 5-minute Q&A round for each candidate.

1. President

Nilesh Lalbahadoersing

Nilesh takes the stage and gives his speech.

Q9: Evi Sifaki sketches a hypothetical scenario in which one member of the AUCSA Board is not functioning well because of personal or other reasons. She asks what Nilesh would do to solve the problem. Additionally she wants to know whether it is possible for herself to pose this question to all candidates for President.

A9: Marik answers that indeed this is possible every time.

Q10: Evi Sifaki now asks the formerly explained question to Nilesh again.

A10: Nilesh thanks Evi for the question. He answers that a President is responsible for making sure that the board functions well. He mentions that the Advisory Council can be consulted, and says that this would be his first step. Additionally he would discuss the issue with the AUCSA Board, and make sure that everyone tries to help each other.

Q11: Charlotte Kroese asks what Nilesh would say to a committee, commission, or team that wants to move away from the AUCSA. What would you do in these kinds of situations and how would you let them know what the importance of the AUCSA is?

A11: Nilesh answers that it actually happened with AUCMUN. Said they sat down with the current board and were explained what advantages being in AUCSA has. Says that he is happy that AUCMUN stayed in AUCSA. Main point would be to let them realize that it's valuable to be in AUCSA, explain what the benefits are.

Q12: Bram Mak asks whether Nilesh has been in a leadership position before, and what he would do if two members of the Board are not getting along well?

A12: Nilesh confirms that he has leadership experience. Says he was head of logistics in AUCMUN, managing more than four people. Mentions he took the course global leadership, which taught him to lead a team. Explains he has both theoretical and practical knowledge. Regarding disagreement, says that the main problem is miscommunication. Says that people would need to sit down together, and try to understand each other. This would already solve problems 99% of the time.

Jet de Vries

Jet takes the stage and gives her speech.

Q13: Ioana asks whether Jet could please elaborate on the development of more opportunities and events that she mentioned in her speech.

A13: Jet clarifies that she wants to create events and opportunities for students, and says that AUCSA is the symbol for this and is supposed to represent the wishes of all members.

Q14: Ioana asks how Jet wants to create these events and opportunities.

A14: Jet answers that she would do this by what AUCSA is already doing now.

Q15: Evi Sifaki sketches a hypothetical scenario in which one member of the AUCSA Board is not functioning well because of personal or other reasons. She asks what Jet would do to solve the problem.

A15: Jet answers that she experienced this in SlayUC, and that you should do everything in your power to prevent someone from leaving the board. She thinks it is most important to talk to the member, find a way to make it work. She wants to make a back-up plan and action plan for these situations, to make sure the right actions are taken.

Q16: Bram Mak is wondering if Jet has had any leadership experience. Mentions that there was news about a treasurer of a tennis club in Nijmegen, who stole thousands of euros from the club. Bram wants to know what Jet would do in such a situation.

A16: Jet answers that she was secretary of SlayUC, public relations manager for AIMUN, and that she was part of the AUC Tournament Team. Says that in these positions she was trying to do what the chair should do, which is looking towards the future. Says she now really wants to learn about being chair. About the money incident in Nijmegen, she comments she would sue the treasurer.

Q17: Hanabi Ono comments that Jet is a very involved member, and she is wondering how Jet is going to present herself towards lesser involved members and make sure they get more involved.

A17: Jet says that a decreasing rate of participation is one of the most important problems now. She thinks it is important for the AUCSA Board to be more present at events, and go up to people. Overall, she thinks it will help to be more involved.

Sophia Mexi-Jones

Sophia takes the stage and gives her speech.

Q18: Noana Smits asks whether Sophia could elaborate on her comment about Introduction Week.

A18: Sophia answers that she loved it, but that it was at the same time a bit tiring and hard. She wants to make sure that Introduction Week suits everyone's needs. She understands the academic part is necessary, however she thinks that activities should be focused not only on drinking. It should facilitate all types of groups.

Q19: Niels comments that Sophia talked about the transparency of the AUCSA Board during the Elections Debate. He would like to know what Sophia would do to improve the transparency of the AUCSA when it comes to decision-making.

A19: Sophia thinks it is important that everyone knows every step of the way what is happening. Communication is key. She wants to make sure that committee boards know what's happening as well.

Q20: Nele Barsch repeats Sophia's comment about being international, and that this is something the latter wants to add to the Board and the Association. Nele is wondering how Sophia would make sure that the AUCSA becomes more international.

A20: Sophia answers that it comes down to the vibe. She believes it comes down to the language, and that it is necessary to foster the use of English to be more inclusive of all nationalities.

Q21: Bram Mak is wondering what leadership experience Sophia has already had. He also wants to know what Sophia thinks about the number of Dutch people in the current AUCSA Board, and whether she thinks the Dutch are over-represented.

A21: Sophia indeed believes there is an issue with the Dutch representation. Although she doesn't think it is necessarily bad, she does think it would be better for the AUCSA Board to be more diverse. She says she loves to be in a leadership position. Explains that she was president of the alumni network in her highschool, which gave her leadership experience. Additionally she was secretary of Solace and held the position of football coach.

Q22: Louise ten Bosch is wondering how Sophia is going to change the vibe towards a more international character. She would like to know if there are any concrete actions that could achieve such a change.

A22: Sophia answers that more efforts should be put into encouraging the international community to go to AUCSA (committee) events. She thinks it would help to target specific groups of people.

Q23: Bart Knibbe would like to react to Sophia's comment about needing to be a friendly and less authoritative AUCSA Board. He is wondering how Sophia would incorporate such an approach while at the same time it is necessary to be authoritative in situations where committees miss deadlines or do something wrong.

A23: Sophia answers that she can be strict if she needs to. She means that the AUCSA Board should be more approachable, not necessarily less authoritative.

2. Secretary

Maurits Jurgens

Maurits takes the stage and gives his speech.

Q24: Rajiv Manichand asks Maurits whether he can elaborate on his wish to make the website more interactive.

A24: Maurits says it is too much of a Wikipedia-like platform. He wants to change it into more of a forum, where people would be able to talk to each other. He thinks we should move from Facebook to the website.

Q25: Evi Sifaki comments that it is a big project, and she wonders if Maurits has any plans with regard to ways of pursuing it.

A25: Maurits answers that he is not a tech person. He recognizes that, because of the size of the project, it is not going to be done within a year. Additionally he thinks that it would not be good to pursue this either way, since it would be detrimental to everything that is already in existence for AUCSA communication. The shift should be gradual. He comments that the EUC website is a good example, since it has all information and redirects to Facebook instead of the other way around.

3. Treasurer

Julien Vandermosten

Julien takes the stage and gives his speech.

Q26: Charlotte Kroese repeats Julien's aim to publish a live version of the budget on the AUCSA website. She wonders whether Julien has taken into account that the budget is prone to mistakes, and how he imagines this to be communicated towards members and accounted for on the website.

A26: Julien answers that he intends to avoid mistakes, however he understands that mistakes occur. Therefore it is necessary to include a notification next to the budget that informs members about the possibility of mistakes. Additionally he would like Audit to check the budget for mistakes before publishing.

Q27: Laura Gerritse asks Julien to describe his vision on the cooperation between Audit and the Treasurer of the AUCSA next year, both regarding communication and Audit as a supporting role.

A27: Julien answers that everything related to finances should be communicated to Audit. He wants to meet with Audit every week to discuss the finances.

Q28: Gerold Sewcharan wants to acknowledge Julien's courage to run for Treasurer. He is wondering how Julien is going to become more efficient and improve his treasury skills throughout the year.

A28: Julien answers that he likes budgets, and that being a treasurer has been a great experience. Still, he wants to learn from people who have more experience than he does now. He says he is prepared to do the work that needs to be put into it.

Q29: Bart Knibbe wonders what Julien would do in case a committee is one week late with handing in their reimbursement request, even though the deadline was made perfectly clear.

A29: Julien wants to clear to committees about deadlines, and believes a comprehensive budget guide needs to be created. He thinks everyone can make mistakes, and that it is necessary to consider making exceptions for certain cases. However, it also needs to be made clear that it is not supposed to happen again.

4. Committee Affairs Officer

Boris Koehoorn

Boris takes the stage and gives his speech.

Q30: Louise ten Bosch is wondering why specifically Boris would be good at resolving problems with a committee board.

A30: Boris answers that a CAO needs to make sure to have all the information, which can then be used to come up with a good solution.

Q31: Louise thanks Boris for his answer and asks why he specifically would be good for this.

A31: Boris thinks he is a good communicator. Says he can extend that into making the community better.

Q32: Viktorianka Kaffanke asks whether Boris is planning on working together with the Tenants Association (TA) and DUWO, keeping in mind he has had some experience with them.

A32: Boris answers that currently the TA is in a revival phase, since they are up and running again after a year of down time. He says that the situation with all involved parties is quite difficult, as there are a lot of different opinions. However, there should be a clear communication line between TA and Student Council, to resolve potential problems.

Pieter Parlevliet

Pieter takes the stage and gives his speech.

Q33: Evi Sifaki asks whether Pieter wants to approve something specifically.

A33: Pieter answers that he says it is not necessarily one of his focus points. However, it would be a good idea to do research on the number of people attending certain events, and which people attend what events. He thinks the community should also be approachable to less bubbly people.

Q34: Gerold Sewcharan wants to know how Pieter plans to create space for the non-bubbly people.

A34: Pieter answers that we should always strive for a community that is as interconnected as possible, however this is hard because of the diversity and people who are not really interested. Therefore AUCSA needs to know who is not coming to which events, and why not.

Q35: Gerold Sewcharan wants to know how Pieter plans on doing research on the attendance at events.

A35: Pieter answers that it is helpful to interview people, which would potentially be done by a professional. He would rather avoid sending out forms. Additionally he thinks that things like Dormfest and Winter Formal are important because they attract a lot of people. Reckons it would be good to bring more career events, which would be interesting to people who are not normally involved in the community.

Q36: Beatrice Hillen wonders what Pieter would do if the research shows that a committee has a very specific audience.

A36: Pieter answers that it would be difficult to attract people who are not interested in certain events at all. Thinks that collaborations could help with this.

Alexander Sleecx

Q37: Laura Gerritse asks what Alexander would do if one of his committees suffers from underspending, and how he would make sure that committees realize the events they plan at the beginning of the year.

A37: Alexander answers that it is up to the committee's board and its CAO to come up with new idea to spend that money regardless. This can be done through collaborations with other committees, or with new projects. He thinks it is necessary for CAOs to actively go to committees to make sure that events are realized and the money is being spent.

Q38: Elizabeth Aardewijn asks how Alex would make sure that people feel included and profit from the warmth of the AUCSA, since she knows someone that did not know about the Elections GA and therefore did not feel included.

A38: Alexander answers that this issue is about getting the word out there, and making people feel that it is meaningful to be here. Says it would maybe be useful to do voting over email, or at least online. Before the GA is even here, it is necessary to bring more awareness about it.

Q39: Julien Vandermosten asks how Alexander would go about solving the problem of a lack of applications for both the AUCSA Board and committee boards.

A39: Alexander answers that it is about getting people interested in what we do, especially the first-years. Says that it should be possible for people to do what they love in a committee. Comments that the workload for the AUCSA Board is the problem for the elections, and that for committees it is hard to step into this specific work environment. Wants to publish more basic information about what a committee does, to inform current and prospective students about what committees do.

Rosa Wijnen

Q40: Charlotte Kroese asks whether Rosa can name some personal qualities that make her the perfect CAO.

A40: Rosa thinks she is an approachable person, says she would care about her committees, and mentions she would make sure she is there for them. Additionally she thinks she communicates well, which would allow her to work effectively with committees.

Q41: Carmen Koppert notes that committees sometimes stumble upon issues with the AUCSA because of special cases, and that it is a CAO's task to represent the committee in the AUCSA Board. She asks how Rosa would do this, keeping in mind she might have to disagree with the rest of the Board about these special cases.

A41: Rosa answers that she would definitely start the discussion, even if it would go against the opinions of the rest of the AUCSA Board. She wants to at least have a discussion about it.

Q42: Floris van den Ende asks how Rosa would make exchange students feel as included as the rest of the student body, keeping in mind that especially the second semester exchange students have a smaller introduction week than the first semester ones.

A42: Rosa answers that the introduction week for the exchange students can be improved. September introduction week is bigger, and it is clear that it is partly organised by AUCSA. She knows a lot of exchange students who are not really familiar with AUCSA, so she wants there to be more exposure for AUCSA in February introduction week.

Q43: Alexander Sleenckx notes that Rosa is the first to mention Uni-Life. He wonders what her opinion is on the app?

A43: Rosa thinks it is a good platform, because not everyone has Facebook. She does support the app since it is a way around forcing everyone to have Facebook, however she also thinks all information should be centralized on the website.

VIII. Proposed Board

Marik invites this year's Elections Commission (EC) onto the stage: Berend Jansen, Didi Altena and Lizzy da Rocha Bazilio.

Didi gives an elaboration on the elections process, and how the proposed board came to be. She explains that candidates not only had to send in an application letter, but also have an interview and participate in a debate. These requirements allowed the Elections Commission to have a better understanding of all candidates, and recommend them their most-suited position. Furthermore, the proposed board was chosen based on the candidates' performance in all rounds of the elections process. The EC especially took into account everyone's personality, motivation, skills, experiences, and expected ability to work together with the other individuals in the Board. Didi wants to stress that despite the low number of candidates, the candidates are all strong. The members of the EC are convinced that the quality of the AUCSA Board will not be affected by the number of candidates.

The proposed board contains the following people: for President Jet de Vries; for Secretary, Maurits Jurgens; for Treasurer, Julien Vandermosten; for CAO, Rosa Wijnen, Boris Koehoorn and Alexander Sleeckx.

IX. Vote

Marik explains the voting procedure.

X. Break and Counting of votes

While the Elections Commission counts the votes, there will be a break.

XI. Open Floor

Q44: Nele Barsch asks why there is no online voting system.

A44: Marik answers that the current voting system has been in place since the AUCSA was founded, however it would be good to open up a discussion about how it can be innovated. A major reason for the lack of innovation is that not enough research has been done.

Q45: Louise ten Bosch notes that there has been a massive sustainability trend over the past year. She asks how the AUCSA could become more sustainable.

A45: Berend Hilberts answers that the amount of paper prints for posters has already gone down, following last year's board new regulations around printing.

A45: Jasmijn Doorgeest adds that she has been thinking about this as well, and that she has been toying with the idea of setting up a sustainability commission. Its main goals would be to check up on the AUCSA Board and committees regarding sustainability, to calculate what impact the association has on the environment, and to see what changes can be made to improve this impact. Then, we could create a long-term plan to make AUCSA more sustainable.

Q46: Bram Mak wonders how we can be sure the changes we make are actually sustainable. As an example, he mentions that some biodegradable cups are not as sustainable as they could be.

A46: Jasmijn Doorgeest answers that it would be necessary to consult people who have proper understanding of such issues.

Q47: Louise ten Bosch comments that Pangea could also be involved in making the association more sustainable.

A47: Siem Teusink thinks that we should indeed ask Pangea for their input, but that we should not put all responsibility and tasks on this committee.

Q48: Seska Trip asks how the Advisory Council is selected.

A48: Marik answers the next Advisory Council (AC) is created by the current AUCSA Board, therefore it is mostly an internal process.

A48: Louise ten Bosch comments that the decision is also in dialogue with the old AC.

A48: Willemijn de Hoop additionally mentions it then still needs to be approved by the GA.

Q49: Lela Roos asks what the plans for Diversity Commission are, keeping in mind it should be overviewing and not just organising events.

A49: Grace John answers that the AUCSA Board has been working on it the past year. The Diversity Commission will have an advisory role next year, and get a differently structured board.

Q50: Michael Chidume acknowledges the issues with GA attendance and the number of people who vote. He thinks it may help if AUCSA makes videos and recordings of events like these, publish them online, and let people vote later. This way, they have more time to think.

A50: Marik answers that it is definitely an idea worth looking into. He mentions that the debate was indeed recorded and posted online.

Q51: Nele Barsch wonders why people are only allowed to vote at the General Assembly and not also at the debate, since the latter is an important part of the election process and contributes to people's decisions concerning voting for a certain candidate.

A51: Marik answers that the Policy Manual and Statutes prohibit us to do so. However, rules can be discussed and potentially changed.

Marik ends the open floor by thanking Noana Smits for her great help as host during the AUCSA Elections Debate.

Marik comments that the Board will be announced at Maslow, because AUC is closing soon. He asks everyone to leave the building and move across the street.

XII. AUCSA Board 2019-2020

At Maslow, Marik announces the newly elected Board. The AUCSA Board 2019-2020 will consist of the following six people.

President: Jet de Vries
Secretary: Maurits Jurgens
Treasurer: Julien Vandermosten

CAO: Alexander Sleeckx
CAO: Rosa Wijnen
CAO: Boris Koehoorn

XIII. Closing

Marik thanks all candidates for their participation in the elections, the Elections Commission for their hard work and dedication, and the people at the GA for their attendance. He hereby closes the GA.