



37TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Amsterdam, May 12, 2020

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

Proxies: Felipe Carvalho, Lara Ziener

Abbreviations:

AOB = Any other business

GA = General Assembly

Q = Question

A = Answer

Agenda of the Afternoon:

I. Opening of the 37th General Assembly

Jet de Vries, President of the AUCSA 2019-2020, opens the 37th GA. She welcomes and thanks everyone for coming to the GA, and wishes the candidates best of luck. She expresses her sadness for not being able to have this GA done in person.

II. Sequential ordering of the agenda

Jet presents the agenda and asks if they want to see this changed. As no one wants to vote on the agenda, it is approved by acclamation.

III. General Information

Jet explains the different bodies of the AUCSA, such as the AUCSA Board and the Election Commission and Advisory Council.

Jet then continues to explain the procedures of the GA and the functions of Zoom; the platform on which the GA is held. She explains how motions can be raised online and how voting on this will be done.

IV. Advisory Council (Old & New)



Jet introduces the Advisory Council and explains its function, after which she states the people that constitute the Advisory Council 2019-2020; Jasmijn Doorgeest, Julia de Gooijer, Grace John and Siem Teusink. She thanks them for their hard work and their commitment to the AUCSA.

After this, Jet announces the proposed Advisory Council 2020-2021; Boris Koehoorn, Maurits Jurgens, Maud van den Berge and Rosa Wijnen.

Jet asks if anyone wants to vote on the Advisory Council 2020-2021.

As no one wants to vote on the Advisory Council 2020-2021, it is approved by acclamation.

V. Nominated Honorary Members

Jet continues by introducing Honorary Membership and explains what this is.

Jet then continues by saying that there have been 2 of such nominations presented to the AUCSA Secretary, and first invites Grace John as a panelist to the assembly.

Grace nominates Jasmijn Doorgeest as an Honorary Member. By mentioning the continuous dedication Jasmijn has had for the association and all of the positions she has held within AUCSA bodies, Grace states that Jasmijn deserves to become an Honorary Member. She closes by noting that all of her effort should not go unnoticed.

Jet asks if anyone wants to vote on this nomination.

As no one wants to vote, Jasmijn Doorgeest is accepted by acclamation as an Honorary Member.

Jasmijn thanks Grace for nominating her as an Honorary Member. She continues to thank the rest of her AUCSA Board for all of their support. She compliments the current AUCSA Board for their effort during the COVID-19 pandemic and wishes the candidates the best of luck.

Jet then asks Zsazsa van Raalte to become a panelist to the assembly.

Zsazsa proposes Maurits Jurgens as an Honorary Member. Together with all of the signatories she believes that he deserves to become an Honorary Member for his involvement in the AUCSA community. She thanks Maurits for all of his effort.

Jet asks if anyone wants to vote on this nomination.

Q1: Louise ten Bosch: This is not necessarily to halt the vote. However, I do not want to discount all of the effort of the other AUCSA Board members, who also put in a tremendous amount of



effort into this. Please consider this when presenting future Honorary Members. I do not want to put this to a vote.

Q2: Bram Mak: Is it possible to make Maurits an Honorary Member next year?

A2: Jet de Vries: This is possible, however, the nomination has been made now. So people would have to vote against this and then propose him again next year.

Q3: Jet de Vries: Would anyone like to put this to a vote?

A3: Bram Mak: I think there is a threshold for people to ask for this, so I would like to put this to a vote.

This Honorary Member nomination is voted on.

The nomination is approved and Maurits Jurgens is accepted as an Honorary Member.

Maurits thanks everyone for this nomination and for their support, stating that he is honoured. He thanks the rest of his Board and says that this nomination is shared with them. He also thanks the AUCSA Board 2018-2019 for their guidance.

VI. Candidate Speeches and Q&A

Jet explains the procedure of how the candidates for the AUCSA Board 2020-2021 will give their speeches, and that each has 2 minutes for this, followed by 3 questions.

1. President

Niels Verduin

Jet invites Niels Verduin as panelist to the assembly, and they give their speech.

Q4: Bram Mak: Do you think having vision is important to be a President? If so, how much and why?

A4: Niels Verduin: Yes, I do think it is important to have vision to be the President of the AUCSA, and I think I have this. However, right now I think that there is a greater importance to rebuild the AUCSA to the position we were previously in. I expect the pandemic to continue at the beginning of next year and we need to get past that to grow onwards.

Q5: Carmen Koppert: What skills do you have that are needed for an adequate President?

A5: Niels Verduin: I am currently Chair of PlayUC, which has allowed me to develop leadership skills and that I can use for the AUCSA President. I have also been the Treasurer of the Diversity Commission and the Secretary of PlayUC in 2018-2019. This has given me insight into the other positions and with this knowledge I can support my Board members in doing their tasks.



Stijn Maathuis

Jet invites Stijn Maathuis as panelist to the assembly, and he gives his speech.

Q6: Margot Zomer: Do you have any weaknesses and how do you plan on changing these?

A6: Stijn Maathuis: One of my weaknesses is public speaking, which I am planning to overcome by practicing a lot. Another challenge is time management that I really want to improve on. It will be extra challenging as I am doing the Pre-Law track and will need to do 4 courses next semester, so this is one of my focuses to improve on.

A7: Grace John: Can you give an example of the struggles you have faced when being Chair of SlayUC and what you have learned from this?

Q7: Stijn Maathuis: Being Chair of SlayUC showed the structure of a committee board as this was the first time I was in one. Next to this I learned about the different tasks and roles of the board members, where I can help them with this but not getting into their personal spaces.

Q8: Erika Mier y Teran Yamamoto: What do you want to improve in the AUCSA and what new would you want to bring in?

A8: Stijn Maathuis: I think that the current AUCSA is doing great and I want to maintain their focus points. What I want to focus on is committee life, making sure all committees have the ability to adapt to the current situation and stay active so they engage students in the community and keep it alive, regardless of the circumstances. I want to focus on guiding them to cope with the current circumstances.

2. Secretary

Kayna Duport

Jet invites Kayna Duport as panelist to the assembly, and she gives her speech.

Q9: Jasmijn Doorgeest: Can you elaborate what you want to improve concerning online platforms in the website and Uni-Life?

A9: Kayna Duport I want to add a synchronise button for the website. I want to make it indicate what event comes up next. Uni-Life is a helpful app that sends notifications and it is easier to find events on it as unlike facebook it has less cluttered events.

Q10: Anouk Dumoulin: How are you planning on introducing the committees and showing the AUCSA life to all first years in the event that the COVID-19 pandemic will still continue next year?

A10: Kayna Duport: As we have 29 committees, we can split the committees over one week, where on each day 3 to 4 committees are promoted. Then each committee could prepare a video for the first years to see. There are some flaws to this plan, as students need to decide to watch these videos but the committees can then show who they are and show their vision.

Q11: Louise ten Bosch: Seeing that you listed a lot of online platforms, it can be a bit overwhelming to use all of them. I was wondering which one you would choose and why?

A11: Kayna Duport: The Weekly Newsletter is a great way to share information. Seeing how relevant Facebook still is, I would still keep it. Furthermore, the AUCSA website should still be kept as it contains many important documents. I would wait with implementing Uni-Life depending on the COVID-19 measures.

Oné Mikulskyté

Jet invites Oné Mikulskyté as panelist to the assembly, and she gives her speech.

Q12: Grace John: Can you tell us about your strengths? You said that you have experience, can you explain this?

A12: Oné Mikulskyté: I went to an advertising school, where I have learned how to do effective communication and know about audience approaches. Here I learned to see behind advertising and communication, what would cause a problem and how to resolve this. At my time there, I, along with one other person, had to find consensus on how to approach other people, giving me teamwork skills. Next to this, I have been in numerous AUCSA committees and teams, mainly holding the Public Relations Manager position.

Q13: Erika Mier y Teran Yamamoto: What things would you say you would improve on while being on the AUCSA Board?

A13: Oné Mikulskyté: I think I would improve by being more structured. I am also sometimes a bit all over the place and get distracted very fast, so I want to focus more on one point.

3. Treasurer

Bram Mak

Jet invites Bram Mak as panelist to the assembly, and he gives his speech.

Q14: Marc Oliveau: In your speech you mentioned treasury proportionality. What do you mean with this?

A14: Bram Mak: With this I mean a sense of intuition of proportionality. It would be weird if a small event has a budget of €1000. However, you want these events to happen. So it would be to have some certain intuition of proportionality here.

I am talking about a sense of intuition. It would be weird if a small event has a large budget. But on the other hand you want an event to happen. So this is an intuition of proportionality, and looking at the content etc.

Q15: Jasmijn Doorgeest: Could you elaborate on your ideas for improving and reinventing the treasury?

A15: Bram Mak: There are some things I want to play around with before implementing it, such as transparency. Currently, we make quick decisions on the budget, and I would like to have



more time to interpret it. I want to see if graphs or other such possibilities are possible to be used to give more information for people to know how the budget works in advance. This also applies to people who are not in any committees.

Q16: Faris Dzinalija: How did working at Spar help you become a better Treasurer.

A16: Bram Mak: That is not what I meant. What I meant is that the people who work with me know my way of working and my capabilities, which currently are the people who work at Spar.

Mahi Shah

Jet invites Mahi Shah as panelist to the assembly, and she gives her speech.

Q17: Leah Dollo: During the COVID-19 pandemic, what do you think are the most important elements for you to stay on top of things?

A17: Mahi Shah: From my experience with AUCMUN, is that patience is key, and also not jumping to conclusions and waiting for more information. Also, be practical and not too emotional when making decisions. Sometimes you have to be realistic which is hard to do as everyone has worked hard on events. Lastly you have to be supportive to your peers and Board members, you don't always know what others are going through.

Q18: Victoria Mai: What is your experience with time management and giving attention to different projects, and how will you continue this in your Board year?

A18: Mahi Shah: This is one thing I can improve on. When I have a project in front of me but I tend to prioritise it. There is no question that I would give my best to the AUCSA, but balancing this with my academics I am unsure of. Maybe making sure to do my academics first and then my AUCSA tasks later.

Q19: Erika Mier y Teran Yamamoto: I was wondering how you would like to work with the Audit Commission? How will you make the budget more transparent?

A19: Mahi Shah: As I said in the debate, I would have a weekly meeting with Audit, but also get additional meetings to get feedback on the work I am doing. I also thought of Julien's idea of last year by placing a live budget on the website. I would also update you as stated in the Policy Manual, when expenses of larger than €2500 are made.

4. Committee Affairs Officer

Blanca Gonzalez

Jet invites Blanca Gonzalez as panelist to the assembly, and she gives her speech.

Q20: Grace John: Can you tell me about your previous experiences, and things you would like to learn in the AUCSA?

A20: Blanca Gonzalez: I have been part of Springboard, which has given me experience working in a teams. Also in high school, I did debating leagues, where I also learned leadership skills.



What I want to learn is more communication skills, and also listening to people outside your comfort zone. I think this is an important skill and something you definitely need at AUC.

Q21: Laura Gerritse: If one of your committees is underperforming, what would you do?

A21: Blanca Gonzalez: I would tackle this by having regular meetings with them. The important thing is to talk to Board members, and not to constrain them. Try to find the problem and then a solution, and if not alone, find a solution with the rest of the AUCSA Board.

Eleanor Swanson

Jet invites Eleanor Swanson as panelist to the assembly, and she gives her speech.

Q22: Jaël Kortekaas: You said that you want to revamp the Introduction week. How do you intend to do this?

A22: Eleanor Swanson: It depends on what the situation is, if it is more online or in person. I also would want to spread out the committee market over several days, making it more accessible. I want to keep the mentor groups, and have online/COVID-19 friendly events, like online tours of places in Science Park. Also, I think it is important to focus a bit more on AUC and less on Amsterdam

Q23: Louise ten Bosch: I was wondering if you could expand on your experience?

A23: Eleanor Swanson: At AUC, I am the decorations manager of Dormfest. I was in the food working group for Pangea. So this gave me different views of committee life at AUC. I am in the Writers and Acquisitions Team of TEDx. Between high school and university, I was a computer class teacher, which gave me skills of working with others, how to deal with uncertain circumstances and how to plan for myself. Also, as Student Body President I learned the skills of mediating which is good for a CAO.

Ignacio Sánchez Abenante

Jet invites Ignacio Sánchez Abenante as panelist to the assembly, and he gives his speech.

Q24: Bluma Brecher: You would want to increase the level of diversity at AUC. What would you do differently than other AUCSA Boards to increase diversity?

A24: Ignacio Sánchez Abenante: As CAO you get to pick floating tasks and I would love to get the Diversity Commission. I think that the Diversity Commission is a bit eurocentric. I think we could have diversity weeks about different regions of the world. I don't think we should only focus on LGBTQ+ or Black History Month, but have it more embedded in the daily life at AUC.

Q25: Erika Mier y Teran Yamamoto: Can you tell us about your weaknesses you have and what you can improve on?



A25: Ignacio Sánchez Abenante: One weakness is public speaking as I get very nervous. I think I already improved but I still can improve. I have a bit of a way to go on my work ethics and punctuality. I can still improve though, but I can work on that by being part of the AUCSA.

Laura Psara

Jet invites Laura Psara as panelist to the assembly, and she gives her speech.

Q26: Grace John: Could you tell us about the committees you are in and what positions you have had?

A26: Laura Psara: I was part of Junket, where in the first semester I was the General Board Member and in the second semester I was the Public Relations manager. Also, I participated as a buddy in R2E.

Q27: Grace John: What strengths do you have and what you would like to learn in the AUCSA?

A27: Laura Psara: My strengths are communication and leadership skills. I think both are necessary for being a CAO. I am also good at solving issues when they come up. I have creativity which I think will help committees with their events. I have to learn a bit how to work in a team and that can always improve.

VII. Elections Commission 2019-2020

Jet explains what the Elections Commission is and how they got appointed. She then says who is in the Elections Commission, these being Siem Teusink, Maxime Eljon and Kia Mikkonen. She then invites the Elections Commission to become a panelist to the assembly.

Kia congratulates all of the candidates for what they have done and the progress they have made during the GA. She emphasises that all candidates were great. She says that the proposed board is made by looking at each candidate individually and then how they would work together as a Board.

VIII. Proposed Board

Maxime announces the Executive Committee of the proposed board: for President, Stijn Maathuis; for Secretary, Oné Mikulskytė; for Treasurer, Bram Mak.

Siem announces the Committee Affairs Officers of the proposed board: Eleanor Swanson, Ignacio Sánchez Abenante and Blanca Gonzalez.

Siem reminds the assembly that the voters in no way have to follow this advice, and can decide for themselves.

IX. Vote

Jet explains the voting procedure, after which a time span of 1 hour is created for everyone to cast their vote.

Jet suspends the General Assembly for 1 hour.

X. Open Floor

Jet welcomes everyone back, and asks if there are any questions or concerns.

Q28: Erica Mier y Teran Yamamoto: Can the AUCSA Board provide information for what their plan is if the next semester is also going to be done online?

A28: Jet de Vries: Seeing that this semester falls in the board year of the next AUCSA Board, many of the decisions and organisation is left up to them. However, it is a good idea to share this information as soon as possible with the members and committees. Thank you for your idea.

Q29: Pieter Parlevliet: In the Extraordinary White Letter, it stated you wanted to budget some money for revamping the AUCSA office. I wanted to check what you wanted to spend all that money on, as it is maybe a bit much.

A29: Alexander Sleenckx: This is for the office revamp, which is what we have been busy with for a while. We spend a lot of time there and use it for storage, yet AUC does not sponsor it. The items in there are leftovers from AUC, UvA and VU. We would like to enlarge the AUCSA space as we share it with the Student Council, and renovate the office for more practical uses. Unfortunately, storage space is not really possible to be discussed as it is full now. So it's tricky to upgrade the storage now.

Q30: Pieter Parlevliet: Isn't a couple of hundred of euros quite a lot as you could acquire new things over time.

A30: Alexander Sleenckx: This is the first time that the AUCSA is going to spend money on this, and it will also last a long time.

A30: Jet de Vries: As of now, the table is not ideal, as the chargers on the table are not built in. Also the chairs in the office are not comfortable, while you are working a lot there. Lastly, we're looking into a shelving system for the storage so it might create more space.

A30: Pieter Parlevliet: I think that allocating more money to this will increase spending, but I get that you need this money.

Q31: Bram Mak: I read about plans to switch the payment system to iZettle, and the main reasoning being committees struggling using Adyen. What are these problems that committees and are we certain that these won't be encountered when using iZettle?

A31: Julien Vandermosten: This is a valid question. The way that iZettle will look is like the cafeteria counter, where you can just click on a screen to select an item. We have already received 1 pin machine and it connects very fast.

A31: Jet de Vries: With Adyen, you would have to fill it in manually, but with iZettle it is all clear.

A31: Julien Vandermosten: We also had a demo that proved to be very effective!

Q32: Jasmijn Doorgeest: Adding on to this discussion, are there any differences between transactions for payment between Adyen and iZettle? Like are the transaction fees less with iZettle?

A32: Julien Vandermosten: It is a bit more expensive, however the equipment like the pin machines are cheaper, so the standard fee is much less than Adyen. The Adyen pin machines also aren't that durable. We think it was worth the cost to transfer.

Q33: Jasmijn Doorgeest: In response to the Extraordinary White Letter, I think it is great that you want to allocate so much money to the website, and improve some points of it. Do you have more clarification of what these improvements would be?

A33: Boris Koehoorn: What we did this year, is that we moved away from the VPS, and we have given committees access to their own pages on the website. The feedback was that the back-end was still hard to use. We are now in contact with a developer, who intends to improve the visual aspect of the website, but also make the back-end easier to use. We want to make templates of templates. Other things to improve are the calendar etc. Our goal is to have the website be able to go up and running for the coming 5 years.

Q34: Bluma Brecher: I was wondering whether you thought about using the money to support financially struggling students?

A34: Julien Vandermosten: Yes we have talked about it in our meetings. That is also why we are here as well, so we can discuss it. We saw on Facebook the questions posed about whether we could give the money to the members. We would have to check with the Solidarity Fund but if we would want to do this, we would donate it to the Solidarity fund, and they would decide how to handle the money.

Q35: Bluma Brecher: This is the last GA where you are the Board. I want to thank all of you for doing an amazing job. You made my image of the AUCSA change and probably for everyone as well. I think we should give a round of virtual applause.

A35: Jet de Vries: Thank you so much for saying this.

Q36: Eleanor Swanson: I would like to comment on the voting procedure. As a lot more people were present than at other GAs, I would suggest to start thinking about continuing voting online.

A36: Jet de Vries: We have had this discussion as well. A benefit is that it would be easier to count. However, in Dutch Law it says that a GA and the voting therein needs to be done in person, unless there is a clause in the Statutes which states otherwise. This we do not have. It is something to think about.

A36: Eleanor Swanson: So if there weren't a need for it, we would not be able to do it online?

A36: Jet: No, as then we would violate Dutch Law.

Q37: Bram Mak: I would actually say that physical voting is better. As when voting physically, you were at the GA and you had to listen to all the GAs. You would then have a more informed vote. On that note, the password for this year's voting ballot was being shared amongst members. It was unclear whether or not this was allowed or not. Because of this, I was placed in a position where I had to tell people not to vote for me if they hadn't attended the GA. This is in a sense wrong as I in fact should be in a position where I would promote myself and not discourage myself.

A37: Jet de Vries: Thank you for sharing this. Our aim is to prevent this from becoming a popularity contest.

Q38: Eleanor Swanson: Relating back to my previous point, I would say that having the GA be physical is a hindrance and could prevent many people from coming. I think taking this obstacle away of physically going to a GA might be better, and maybe make the GA online.

A38: Maurits Jurgens: If one cannot physically attend the GA, the normal procedure would be submitting a proxy vote, where you let someone vote in your name. This is done because we would rather have 100 informed votes, instead of 900 popularity votes. In this particular GA, we are in an extraordinary situation. But Dutch Law prevents us from doing this in normal situations.

Q39: Bram Mak: But today, the password has been shared multiple times, and I wonder if this is better than a proxy vote.

A39: Maxime Eljon: The difficult thing about voting online is that you want to make it accessible for everyone. So the choice to keep the password only on the slides, but not telling people explicitly to not share it is because you want to make it accessible to a certain degree. Personally I think that if you have people voting outside the GA they have so little information and the AUCSA wants the voting to be about content rather than popularity. Also this is the first time this is happening online. I have seen the AUCSA Board work really hard to make this all run smoothly.

A39: Anna Spiering: I also know how hard it is to move these things online. So I don't know if it is even possible to make this impossible to cheat. It is very hard for a GA to go online, and this is rather unexplored territory. I want to say that it is really well done like this.

Q40: Niels Verduin: There is a lot of talk whether the Elections GA would be a lot more accessible online. But we should take into account limitations to online GAs, like bad wifi and time zones. Just because someone physically can't go to the GA, does not mean they can make an uninformed vote as they could watch the debate and read the Elections Statements. The GA does not add that much necessarily. It is a bit dismissive to talk about people who are not here, but were at the debate and have read the statement.

A40: Bram Mak: I think you're making very good points, but at the moment there is a password that it isn't waterproof yet. Now there is a sense that it was stimulated to share the password. The way we now stimulate people going to a GA is not effective as it puts people in a position

disadvantageous to themselves. Like in the position where I would have to discourage someone who did not attend the GA to not vote for me. It would be nice to have some clarification on this. I think the rest of the GA, it went really smooth.

Q41: Jet de Vries: Do you want some clarification on the sharing of the password?

A41: Bram Mak: Yes please.

A41: Maurits Jurgens: When making the voting procedure we compared it to the other UCs' voting procedures and then had to decide what we would prioritise. Either, there would be a really long time frame to vote, which might result in uninformed votes. However we prioritised informed votes, hereby making a small voting frame, which might then require discouraging people near you to vote. There are of course many ways to improve this, as this was the first time it was done this way.

A41: Bram Mak: But with this, I was hurting my own chances.

A41: Jet de Vries: This was the strictest way of how we could do it. But, it is something to think about when we might have elections online next year.

A41: Bram Mak: Thank you for trying to make it the best you could, it is appreciated.

Q42: Maxime Eljon: To reply to Niels' point, I agree with you to an extent. But as previously said, proxy voting still was still applicable, so people could still vote through their friends.

A42: Niels Verduin: It has been that this GA's Proxy voting has been a bit troublesome, with the information for this being sent relatively late. So the time to submit a proxy vote was very small. This may have hurt people's abilities to acquire proxy votes.

A42: Maurits Jurgens: Concerning proxy voting; we were already aware of this issue and we were trying to counter it. But with the systems that were available to us, there was no option to include proxy voting in a controlled manner. We presented this issue to other bodies to get the best solution. As a consequence, we also extended the ability to submit proxy votes longer than what is usually done. I understand that the information was a bit too late, and we apologise for that.

Q43: Eleanor Swanson: One different point to discuss is how committees choose new Chairs. As far as I know, these positions are being shuffled internally. Just as how much attention is placed in the GA not becoming a popularity contest, should this also not be done in a committee vacancy. I want to ask others for their opinions on this too.

A43: Jet de Vries: The Policy Manual says that all positions should be open and nepotism shouldn't be a reason to fill in a Board. It is hard to enforce this rule on committees. However, if we perceive suspicious instances we will investigate it. Also, committees signed a contract to adhere to the Policy Manual and Statutes. Ultimately, it is hard to draw the line here.



After all votes have been submitted, the Elections Commission counts and verifies these votes. The AUCSA Board 2020-2021 is announced and shall compose of:

President: Stijn Maathuis
Secretary: Oné Mikulskyté
Treasurer: Bram Mak
CAO: Eleanor Swanson
CAO: Ignacio Sánchez Abenante
CAO: Blanca Gonzalez

XII. Closing

Jet then thanks a few parties.

First, she thanks the Elections Commission for their involvement with these elections and making it run as smoothly as it has. She then thanks Marik Westerhof for hosting the Elections Debate. Afterwards, she thanks the Advisory Council for offering assistance and guidance for the past few months. Next she thanks all people for attending the GA. Lastly, she thanks the rest of her Board and thereby closes the GA.