
GENERAL ASSEMBLY 9

November 5, 2012

Present: Flora Oudeboon, Thirze Hermans, Shanti Wisniewska, Joep Bouma, Remco Jongkind, Katja Meijaard, Franka van Arendonk, Amber Spijkers, Nina Breedveld, Jip Welkes, Bastiaan Gielink, Leonard Wein, Talah Hassan, Marie Sol Djonthé, Reinier Maat, Hannah Bragdon, Sophie van Dam, Louis Klamroth, Michiel van der Staay, Danu Thung, Eddie Stok, Renata Ensor, Jules Coret, Anne Koopman, Mathijs Mul, Yara Al Salman, Ruben Slot, Malte Werner, Kim Blumnau, Eva Degler, Bente de Vries, Elisa Rodenburg, Barbara Rosen Jacobsen, Rhona MacGuire, David Ziegler, Jaco Corra, Torkan Omari, Henk Nieweg, Nita de Groot, Laurie Kemp, Merel Hendriks, Mick ter Reehorst, Dorine Klei, Judith Nieuwenhuis, Lea Bäcker, Lelia de Lucchi, Tjardo Postma, Rose Wijnberg, Marije Martens, Camiel Wijffels, Floor Kreijkes, Gloria Goebel, Jia Xu, Benine Buijze, Gijs Stapel, Olivier Bus, Felicia Liu, Dico van Dissel, Ascha Prins, Simone van Dijk, Linde de Nie, Dragana Stojmenovska, Heleen Ruhe

Opening

Since there is much room left in front, Flora requests people to sit in the front. Subsequently, Flora welcomes all the members and start with showing the agenda for the 9th General Assembly.

Sequential Ordering of the Agenda

In the current order of the agenda, the AUCSA board will start with the elections and the election statements by the candidates. After the statements, the voting procedure will be explained and the members can vote regarding the secretary elections. After voting regarding the secretary function, the election committee will count and the AUCSA board and members will continue with the changes of the statutes. After the statutes changes, the results will be announced. Flora asks if someone wants to vote about the ordering of the agenda. Since no one wants to vote, Flora introduces Gijs, who will introduce the election procedure.

Elections

Election committee

Gijs starts with introducing himself as member of the advisory council. He explains that the advisory council formed the election committee, which includes two members of the advisory council and one external. The other colleagues of the election committee are Lea and Dico. Gijs explains that together with Lea and Dico, he was responsible for handling these elections. The elections were necessary since one board member is leaving, which is not usual. Gijs explains the subjects of the elections and the process of proposing one candidate. It started with collecting the applications. After the applications the interviews were held in the AUCSA office. Although the election committee tried to intimidate the candidates, the interviews went very well. In total there were six interviews, and now still four candidates are running. It was a difficult decision but in the end one person was proposed. This, however, did not disqualify the others. Gijs hopes that the members read the statements of all the candidates and announces that the election committee proposed Felicia as secretary. The motivation behind this proposal is Felicia's motivation, the fact that she is well informed about the responsibilities and structure, her involvement in AUC community, the buddy program and science panel and her work experience in terms of promotion and the necessary computer skills. Besides these skills she showed to have good ideas in her interview. Gijs stresses that her having these qualities does not mean that the other candidates do not have good qualities.

Gijs would now like to raise some issues during the elections. As the policy manual states, only statements are allowed and no promotion. The election committee received complains about candidates making promotion. Gijs points out that they would like a guarantee for a certain quality and that it is not a popularity contest. Moreover, he points out that they expect a certain amount of integrity from the candidates since controlling private messages is very difficult. It is understandable that candidates want to bring friends but still some integrity is expected. This issue could be a subject of reviewing in later General Assemblies. For now, the election committee still thinks it was a completely fair election. The last point Gijs wants to make, concerns Gloria's missing statement. Her statement was not included in the email due to some implications. However, it was added afterwards. Now the candidates will make their statement and afterwards there is time to ask questions. After all the statements and questions there will be voted. This will be done with voting ballots, which include instructions. Flora will explain later on how it works. Gijs already mentions that people with proxies go to Thirze and people without proxies go to Joep.

Q1:Malte: How does it the voting work? 50% or the majority votes?

A1: Gijs: The elections are direct. The secretary will be election if not more than 50 people abstain. There is thus no majority rule.

Statements

Gijs introduces Gloria, who starts with her statement. After Gloria's statement, Gijs asks if there are questions. There are no questions thus Judith will now make her statement. After Judith's statement, the members also do not have questions. Therefore, the GA continues with Ascha's statement. Gijs asks if there are any questions for Ascha. This time there are questions.

Q2: Judith: So could you maybe organize the graduation trip?

A2: Ascha: I will not organize it myself but AUCSA could set up an idea. Moreover, AUCSA could try people to organize this trip.

Q3: Bas: You work as a secretary as a law forum? Which law forum?

A3: Ascha: It is a law company at the Herengracht.

Q4: Henk: How do you think your work as a legal secretary translates to be an AUCSA secretary?

A4: Ascha: I have to work structurally, so I became very structured. Moreover, my typing skills have become very fast.

Since there are no questions anymore, Gijs gives the floor to Felicia.

After Felicia finished her statement, Gijs asks again if there are any questions.

Q5: Floor: Which festivals did you work at?

A5: Felicia: The festivals I volunteered are the DJ tour and another one.

Q6: Elisa: How are you going to overcome the cultural restraints that AUC puts upon us?

A6: Felicia: You are right that I want to promote more cultural activities. However, the questions concerning the academic restrains, is something I cannot do something about.

Gijs requests if there are more questions for Felicia.

Q7: Reinier: Is there some general question time for every candidate? Judith raised the question of the graduation trip, which raised a question in me. What do you think the task of AUCSA is?

A7: Gijs: The mission of AUCSA is to be a social platform for AUC students. For more goals you can check the policy manual. Unfortunately, AUCSA's line to walk is to choose between sponsoring individuals and organize it our selves.

Reinier thanks for Gijs's answer, but would like to hear an answer from the candidates.

Gijs agrees that the candidates can give a short answer and gives the microphone to Gloria.

Gloria admits that her points are rather abstract and that she thinks AUCSA has to do with everything that is a social experience. She thinks she can contribute to this. So also mentions that she already told her concrete ideas during her statement.

Next candidate who answers Reinier's question is Judith. She takes the graduation trip as an example. She stresses that AUCSA works for the AUC students. However, after graduating the students are technically no AUC students anymore. For them there is an Alumni association. She likes the idea and would like to forward it to the alumni association. This event is not directly AUCSA's responsibility. She emphasizes that she sees AUCSA as an organization to organize cultural and social events. Since there is already an AUCSA board, she stresses that she will integrate so will be restricted by the goals already set out. She would like to promote AUCSA via facebook and website, so students feel connected.

Ascha reacts to the idea of the graduation tip by admitting that the current board has already a program for the year but that she can still introduce the idea. Moreover, she could contribute to work out a plan.

Felicia answer starts with a question for Reinier. She questions if Reinier sees the graduation trip as the graduation party already existing. She thinks it not necessarily AUCSA's task but something for AUC as a whole. She also mentions that the introduction week has as purpose to bring students together but graduation does not have this purpose.

Q8: Ascha: What did you think about introduction week?

A8: Felicia: I do not think the introduction camp is a good idea since we already have an introduction week. Moreover, Felicia questions when should it be organized.

Ascha reacts that she thinks it is worth to discuss it.

Q9: Gijs: Mick do you have a question?

A9: Mick: No, never mind

Voting

Gijs quits the discussion and says that he would personally like to thank the candidates. He introduces Flora, who will explain the voting procedure.

Flora explains that the members with proxies need to go to Thirze and the people without proxies can go to Joep to get their voting ballot. She requests the members to vote in ten minutes. Lastly, she requests the members to mark their attendance in the purple book.

After ten minutes Flora asks if everyone voted. Since everyone voted, the election committee now leaves the room in order to count the votes. Flora explains that the General Assembly will now continue with voting about the statute changes.

Statutes

Explanation on the changes

Flora explains that last year less than two third of AUCSA's members voted on the statute changes last year. Therefore, it has to be done again.

The first change concerns Art. 5.3: The association year shall also be the financial year, and shall coincide with the academic year, to wit, from the first of September tot the thirty-first of August of the following year.

The change proposed is the new sentence: "The club year shall also be the financial year and shall run from 1 July until 30 June."

Flora explains that there need to be voted over the Dutch version, but the translation is on the slide. She requests if someone wants to vote. Since no one wants to vote, the change is accepted.

The second change concerns art 6.2: Board members shall be elected by the General Meeting. Proposed it to change the whole sentence into the following: “Board members shall be elected by the General Meeting, during which the function of chair, secretary and treasurer are also designated” Since also no one want to vote about this change, the change is accepted.

The third change is about Art. 7.1: The Board shall designate a Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer from among its members. Flora proposes to remove the entire clause and change the number of the following articles accordingly, such that Art. 7.2 will become 7.1. After asking if someone wants to vote and the no one responds, this change is accepted.

Lastly Flora proposes to change Art. 10.3: Committees and working groups shall report on their actions to the Board three times a year. The change concerns to change “three” into “two”, such that it’ll read: “Committees and working groups shall report on their actions to the Board two times a year.” There is also no voting requested about this change and therefore the voting is accepted.

Flora does not think the election committee is done already, therefore there will be waited till the election committee is ready.

Elections

Results

Gijs announces that the election committee has counted the votes and that there is a tie. The top two candidates had significantly more votes. Therefore, the members who attend the first election round can vote again between Ascha and Felicia. The members, who already left, have the chance to come back. Gijs explains that there will be a 15 minutes break in which there will be voted again and the votes will be counted again.

Q10: Michiel: Doesn’t it say in the policy manual that if there is a draw there must be another general assembly?

A10: Gijs: In article 8 of the policy manual it states that the chair of the GA is allowed to add another election round at the end of the GA.

Therefore Flora mentions that she would like to have another election round to the agenda.

The voting procedure will be the same as the first round, so people with proxies go to Thirze and without proxies to Joep.

Results 2nd round

After 15 minutes, the election committee announces that Ascha Prins wins the elections and will be the new secretary.