
MINUTES GENERAL ASSEMBLY 6

22 May 2012

Present: Roelant Stegmann, Sarafien Hiel, Ad-Willem Dashorst, Stella Toonen, Louis Klamroth, Marianna van der Stel, Shanna Hanbury, Steven de Grauw, Nicole de Groot, Shanti Wisniewska, Tobias Reinauer, Dax Boot, Tobias Rijken, Zuzanna Fiminska, Karlijn Hoyer, Martijn Hagoort, Reinier Maat, Jules Corret, Dorine Klei, Renata Ensor, Regien Stolp, Thirze Hermans, Ruben Slot, Michiel van der Staay, Merel Hendriks, Laurie Kemp, Nina Breedveld, Nita de Groot, Chu Sik Strauss, Donald Kreiken, Gloria Goebel, Marie-Sol Reindel, Joep Bouma, John Paton, Auke Visser, Renske Schuitmaker, Liselot Koelman, Sönke Matthewes, Simon Jonas Hadlich, Judith Nieuwenhuis, Bénine Buijze, Lea Bäcker, Eefje Smeulders, Martijn Hagoort, Bastiaan Gielink, Flora Oudeboon, and Remco Jongkind.

Proxy votes: Monique Spijkers, Kim Blunae, Jip Welkers, Malte Werner, Gijs Stapel, Johan Veenstra, Karla Mikulic, Zahra Runderkamp, Wilhelmina Diop, Anne Koopman, Thirza Chessa, Felicia Liu, Quico Spaen, Laurie Kemp, Leffert Lansink, Thomas Nutz, Djuna Croon, Mathijs Mul, Sander Couch, Mariska Kortie, Joost van Amersfoort, Alexandre Gartner, Katja Meijaard, Jens Maluck, Merijn Noppers, Sanne Balvert, Iulia Pisca, Tess Czerski, Natalie Bakker, Alexandra Beunders, Robin de Vogel, Verena Ried, Davide Dispenza, Anne Botman, Arja Huestis, Rosa ter Kuile, Alejandro Zerain, Jesse Hetteema, Helio Campos, and John Steinmark.

Opening

Roelant: We would like to start the GA in one minute, please all settle down.

Welcome everyone to the one but last GA of the year, we are happy to see so many of you here.

Let me first explain to you how the voting works: There's two different ways of voting today. We'll vote on the new board by means of filling in a voting ballot during the break. For the rest we'll vote by asking if you want to vote. If there are no hands, we don't vote. If someone wants to vote, he or she should raise his or her hand. From that moment on we'll do a favour/against procedure, so we'll ask who's in favour, who's against and who abstains. First we'll ask all the people in the room, and after this those who have a proxy, can vote again. So there will be no proxies during the first round. Is this clear?

Girl from the audience: No. Could you explain it to us one more time?

Roelant: So, we'll vote by raise of hands. We'll ask who's in favour, who's against, and who abstains. Then we'll see which proxies are against, in favor, and abstain.

Q1 Is there a difference in abstaining and voting blanco?

A1 Roelant: You'll only have the option to abstain.

Q2 Sonke: What if you have two proxies?

A2 Roelant: You also have two hands.

Sequential Ordering of the Agenda

I'll now continue with the agenda. We'll first have the February Audit, where Reinier will explain how our financials were in the first semester. There will be another one Audit in June to check if Ad-Willem did okay during the second semester as well.

Next we'll deal with some changes that we propose to make in the Statutes, then we'll vote on the new Audit Committee and on a new Advisory Council. After all of this, there'll be the elections with a break in which you can all vote. Then we'll see the results. Do a round of any other business and soon after this I'll open the second GA to decide upon the Statutes again.

Is there anyone who would like to change the order of the agenda?

Q3 John: Can the elections be shifted to the beginning of the meeting?

A3 Roelant: All that is before the election won't take too long. But are there more people in favour of this change in the agenda?

[The majority of the people in the common room raises its hands]

Roelant: Okay, so we'll change the order of the agenda by changing the statutes and the elections procedures.

Audit Committee: February audit

Roelant: So, now Reinier will explain about the February audit.

Reinier: Thank you all for coming. Maybe I should remind you all what is exactly the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee checks the financials of AUCSA. I have done that for the last semester, together with Strauss.

Let's give Strauss a round of applause, because he was here all year to do this. So what we do, we check the financial. And this year we paid extra attention to transparency.

Overall, it was very well in order. Ad-Willem even added a small journal so that we could see what was spend by AUCSA on each day. So when you look in the budget, it's all on a daily basis. You can see where the money goes.

We do have some notes for next treasurer:

1. Include other costs. Make sure to have every entry of budget expenditure. You cannot see now if there are more costs made, so if you're exceeding costs in budget, you won't see.
2. Another thing: a lot of assets were in the financial. For next time, note those things down at costs pricing. Otherwise we have no idea of inflated things. The safest way is to put the costs down in cost pricing.

That was all of it. We would like to congratulate Solace on their improved financials.

Roelant: Are there any questions to the Audit Committee? Do we want to vote on their audit and their notes?

[No one wants to vote, the Audit has thus been accepted unanimously.]

Okay, then we are moving on to the elections. Let me first give the word to Martijn of the Election Committee.

Elections

Martijn: I am, together with Marianna [van der Stel], in the Advisory Council and we formed the Election Committee with Katja Meijaard. Let me first say that most people didn't apply for a function and we would like to improve this.

I'll first explain the procedure of the election and then the candidates will give their statements.

So, what we did was, we got the letters from the applicants, we read them and then we had interviews with all of them to get to know them. The interviews lasted for about half an hour.

We asked them about their plans for AUCSA, among other things.

We came to a board, by looking into these people. We didn't only focus on their resumes, but also on how they would work together as a board. This is because we don't want to have people that don't say anything.

What I can say about the proposed board is that it's a great mix of people: international students, Dutch students, we also have diversity in gender, so that's good.

We invited these five people as the proposed board, but other candidates could also come here with their statements. Some withdrew and didn't come here tonight.

Let me first ask to come forward, Flora Oudeboom, the proposed President.

Statements

Flora: Hi everyone. I am Flora, I am second year student, majoring in Social Science, focusing on economics and International Relations. The experience that I have is that was in the introduction week committee as the treasurer and I am currently in the Sports Committee [AISA] board, also as the treasurer.

My plans for AUCSA are to have some more corporate sponsors – a bank for instance, that would help sponsor AUCSA. And as a favour, we could also get bank accounts for international students. Second, I believe it's very important to maintain a good relation with the Study Store, selling books at new building. This would be very convenient for students, instead of cycling all the way to the Roetersstraat for their books.

I would also want to work on the visibility of the committees. There should be more and better interaction between the committees. They should do more together. For example, the Environmental Committee and the Garden Committee could work together. For example, the dorm festival that we'll have in June is also a great opportunity to work together. These are all plans for the board and I am looking forward to work together with them. I hope I have your vote.

Roelant: Are there any questions to Flora?

Q4 Shanna: What kind of bank are you thinking of? Rabobank? It would be nice to have a sustainable bank.

A4 Flora: For instance. We could maintain our relation with them and to cooperate in future with them. And sustainable banks would be great, yes.

Q5 Reinier: What are you going to use the extra money for if you get it?

A5 Flora: To spend wisely on committees for activities of AUCSA. To get more students to participate and to make sure that everyone knows the committees and provide opportunities to participate.

Q6 John: I don't think the problem is money here, but the hesitance of people to get involved (it takes courage and time). Shouldn't you make it more rewarding to participate in AUCSA activities?

Roelant: Even though I love brainstorming, please keep it concise for now John.

Q7 John: I'm just wondering, what do you think money would add to involvement?

A7 Flora: What are you thinking about then? We wouldn't need more money if we spend it wisely. But this depends on the committees and their motivations. I like the idea to be more rewarding for people to be in committees.

Martijn: Okay great, let's move on to the Treasurer position, next is Joep Bouma.

Joep: I am a first year, Social Sciences and I am running for treasurer.

A while ago I realized what a privilege we have here, we're studying with challenging people with creative ideas. And how great would it be to get these people together. This is an important job for AUCSA. I am impressed with what AUCSA has achieved in this short amount of time. But there's also room for more improvement: committees have dedicated members, but they miss the flow. AUCSA has the responsibility to provide structure to them.

I have financial abilities to contribute to be facilitating this in a constructing manner. My goal is to put in effort to make committees more successful, to make social life even better at AUC, if I get your vote, which I hope I will.

Martijn: Are there any questions to Joep?

Q8 Donald: Are there any plans for investments by AUCSA?

A8 Joep: We haven't had the transition period yet. So I don't know about the options yet. The most important thing is to work together with committees in order to make solid plan to come up with the things that we can do (better). But for now I don't have an answer yet.

Q9 Bas: Do you have any experience in financial accounting?

A9: I have been a treasurer in high school, for the activities in the final year. I have done some company administration. So I have some experience, but not so much in this setting.

Martijn: Are there any other questions?

[No one raises his or her hand]

Martijn: I'd like to introduce Thirze as proposed secretary.

Thirze: My name is Thirze Hermans and I am a first year, Social Science major. I am interested in Earth Science. I applied for secretary, because I feel that we are in a learning community that can be creative, sportive, about asking questions and discussions. I have two things to add to this: communication and flexibility.

Communication: It is important that the communication is good. The communication with students is most important in order to improve student life. I would work on the communication with students to see what they want and what they miss.

My second point is flexibility: AUCSA and AUC are both only three years old. Unexpected situations can occur and that is why flexibility is important. I hope I can use my experience from DANSA, open days, experience days, and my enthusiasm for AUCSA to improve student life at AUC.

Martijn: Are there any questions to Thirze?

[No questions]

Martijn: I would now like to introduce Shanti as CAO.

Shanti: So for those of you don't know me, I am Shanti, I am in my second year doing environmental science. I am running for the position of CAO and I have three main goals:

1. Open up committees. I've noticed that committees are often groups of friends with same ideas. If we would open them up for all students, we would have more diversity in these committees.

2. Creation of Committee Day. Incoming students don't know about all these committees yet and if we would have one day for all committees, for the students to walk around common room shop around at all the committees and see what they stand for and what their plans are.

3. Communication should open up. We want new committees and see a better approach to AUCSA in general and the students.

Q10 Bas: It should be intrinsically more attractive to join a committee, but how do you open a committee?

A10 Shanti: Most people don't even know the committees. They're on the website and I'm sure none of you look at the website. So we should open up new opportunities for committees.

Q11 Claire: How do you plan to actually get people to committee events?

A11: That would start with committee day. Committees each have their own stand to get the student interested. And within the committees, it's up to committee heads to facilitate that.

Martijn: Next, we'll have Remco, running for CAO.

Remco: Good evening. My name is Remco and I am a second year student, majoring in Science. I'm from Amsterdam. As CAO, I'd like to work on improving student life by following means:

1. Improve on the Inter UC relations by having a bi-annual sport tournament, and hosting one tournament in Amsterdam.

2. Regular competition. To play sports regularly against other University Colleges.

3. Competition within AUC, which could also be focused on sports and arts.

4. Decrease bubble feeling. For example, work with solace on getting together in a bar with Beta Gamma for example.

5. Stimulate diversity committee. We could have Arabian nights, Latin party, Indian night, etc., where we would represent the countries that we're from.

6. Foundation of new committees. We would then approach more students through increasing the amount of posters throughout the building and I agree with Shanti on the promotion of committee involvement.

That was it, thank you all for coming. I'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Are there any questions?

[No questions]

[Roelant sets up skype with Alina for her answering her questions]

Louis: She's on skype for questions.

Roelant: We have skype connection. We don't know if it will work. So I'm praying.

Louis: Let me first tell you some news. We'll have a General Assembly right after this one. Also, as Remco mentioned, continuous competition. From next year onwards we'll have this. Each UC will play another UC at least once. Hockey will be mixed and football will have two teams: one male and one female. If this goes well, we'll maybe expand the idea to basketball and/or rowing. If you're interested, check the AUC website.

[We have connection with Alina]

Alina: Hi, I am a second year student at AUC and I am running for the CAO position. As you might have heard...

[video crashes. Roelant is trying to fix it.]

Roelant: Rebound.

Alina: Hi guys, my name is Alina and I am a second year student at AUC. And today I apply for the position of CAO. Before I introduce myself, let me apologize for not being with you today. As you might have heard, I am in Ghana at the moment for an internship. Well, for those of you who have read my statement, you already know that the most important feature of my life is that I have lived in nine different countries for over eight years. These travels have taught me a lot, about myself and of course about other cultures and life styles. When I joined AUC finally in 2010, I had a really rough first year. I had to adapt to academics after not being in school for three years. Then, during my second year, I went abroad to Toronto. Now I am coming back for the third year and I am absolutely reading to engage myself in our small community. So of course you might ask yourselves now: why AUCSA? First of all, AUCSA is engaged in a range of topic that I really care about. I think AUC is more than just academics. We need to develop on a range of topics. And in order to develop our full potential, leadership skills, teamwork and creativity and many more are really important. AUCSA is giving us a platform to develop these skills. Moreover, the second aspect is the overall AUC development that I care about. I think we are a big family and I think that it's important that we grow closer together. I could experience

this here in Ghana when I met someone from UCM and we immediately clicked because we share a common experience.

And the second big question you might have for me: why would you vote for me? Let me tell you this: there's more to myself than a person who writes inappropriate messages to a person on facebook. Did my emotions carry me away over the past and more than this one time? Yes, definitely. I am the person I wanna be one day at this point? No I am not. Nevertheless, my weaknesses are only a part of who I am. I also have a lot of strength and I think these overrule my weaknesses. I am full of energy and I am really committed. Once I stick to something, I pull through. I am really loyal, I don't leave people hanging. Overall, my travels have taught me to have a lot of empathy. I think I can understand how people feel and adapt to that. And then, a big third aspect, and yes I must admit, I am stereotypically German, when it comes to structuring and organizing and this is really the moment that I can sparkle. Well, the time is really short, I cannot say more than that. I really hope I can be there tomorrow to answer your question, I bet you have a lot of them. If not, I have internet issues right now and I can just nothing I can do about it. This is Africa and I am really sorry. I hope to see you tomorrow. Bye.

Roelant: Are there any questions for Alina?

Q12 Donald: You talked about developing extracurricular skills, but what about making fun at AUC?

A12 Alina: That was the point I was trying to make: AUC is not all about academics. That's why I believe that the associations are so important, because they help us to develop as a whole. And still, the associations help us to develop skills. Such as solace: it is not easy to organize a party, it is fun and teamwork and organizational skills.

Roelant: More questions to Alina?

Q13 Donald: My last three years I've seen at AUC people are not drinking enough... How does she think we can improve this?

A13 Alina: There's a drinking association. So we could actually give them funds.

Q14 Louis: When will you be back? Will you be here during the transition period for instance?

A14 Alina: Well, depends on whether I get in I will consider flying back home early to be there for the introduction week. It's a question of money.

Q15 John: How would you motivate committees to organise things? How do you motivate a board to keep on organising?

A15 Alina: Well I think the stronger the board, the stronger the association. So it shouldn't be all about work. So, the board needs to take time as well to ensure that it runs efficiently. It can help not to only meet to work, but also to take time to get to know each other personally.

Roelant: We'll show you first the voting ballot. Ad-Willem and Louis will hand them out to you. You can get up to two proxy votes, so you can have a maximum of three voting ballots. Since people tend to make mistakes, I'll explain the ballot to you. In all rows, you stick only one box. In the last row, you can tick boxes as there are two CAOs you will be voting for. Are there any questions so far?

Q16 Steven: What happened to voting against people?

A16 Roelant: You'll be voting on people, you cannot vote against because this simply cannot happen, as in the Dutch parliament.

Q17 Steven: The way I remember it is that when many people vote against, they have to find a new candidate, right?

A17 Roelant: On the moment that more than 50% would abstain, then we'll find a new president for instance.

Roelant: Yes? Okay?

Statutes

Roelant: We'll now give some time to the Election Committee to count the votes. What we'll do now is talk about legal documents.

As AUCSA, we have two legal documents: the Policy Manual and the Statutes. We changed the Policy Manual during the last GA, we'll now look at the Statutes. We propose a small change, but it's an important change. Before we continue, let me tell you that we'll have two GAs tonight, as we need 5% of our members present at our GA for it to be a GA (30 people). But we need 2/3 of the members present during the GA for the changes to be approved legally. Then we need a 2/3-majority vote for the change to be made. Since we won't have 2/3 of the members present, we'll need a second GA to approve the changes. That's why we'll have another GA right after this one.

So, what we want to change is, first of all, the financial year. The financial year is our book year. It's the administration of Ad-Willem and that will be what we're changing. Ad-Willem will leave for Boston, but he carries the responsibility for the administration up until September. He also wants to leave in the Summer and the new Board wants to make payments, so technically the treasurer already takes over in Summer.

Q18: Would that apply to committees as well?

A18 Roelant: No, only to the Association.

Ad-Willem: Roelant has told the main points, but something else to consider is that all Student Associations of the University Colleges in the Netherlands are working together in the Inter UC tournament, for example, and we're trying to harmonize all our financial years, since we're also making payments together, sometimes.

Roelant: Alright, this will be first change we're making. You'll see the Dutch text, because, before the law, we are actually changing the Dutch text. We think that actually should be changed. This change will involve article 5.3, which we want to change from

"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."

to

"The club year will also be the financial year and shall run from 1 July until 30 June."

Which would in Dutch become: "Het verenigingsjaar is tevens boekjaar en loopt van één juli tot 30 juni van het daaropvolgende kalenderjaar."

The second change involves article 6.2 of our Statutes, which currently states:

"Board members shall be elected by the General Meeting."

We propose to change this 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."

Which would become in Dutch: *“Verkiezing van de bestuursleden geschiedt door de algemene vergadering, waarbij tevens de functies van voorzitter, secretaris en penningmeester worden vastgesteld”*.

Q19 Shanti: Isn't it already kind of applied that 'board members' include president, secretary and treasurer?

A19 Roelant: This is our next change. We currently have a conflict in the Policy Manual. We have to make sure that the members know what they're voting for.

Due to this change, we want to remove the entire article 7.1, which currently reads:

“The Board shall designate a Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer from among its members.”

We'll change the numbers of the following articles accordingly. We want to make this change, or these changes, because we feel that the AUCSA members should elect Board members into a certain position, and the Board members should not decide afterwards, within the Board, who will take which position. This won't be fair towards the members and this will also make it more clear during the GA.

Q20 Bas: Just some voting advice. The financial year would indeed make things a lot easier. Changing it might cost some money, but it's worth it.

A20 Roelant: we should be fair about this. It's €350 to make these changes. It's worth to make the change now, in the beginning. Rather than after couple of years.

Ad-Willem: To add, it's important to realize that we as the board we've been working on changing our association documents. We want to give it to the next board to have a good start.

Q21 Simon: If it's so expensive, can you make sure things are not going to be changed next year again?

A21: Exactly, we want it to be clear that it shouldn't become a tradition. Next year, I'll be sitting there on your spotting making this clear to the new Board. We cannot prevent the next Board to do this, but what we could do is vote on not changing the Statutes in five years. Overall, we will be clear about this to them.

Q22 Simon: Wouldn't it make sense to have some kind of process to create some broader support among the members? That we all know what is in the statutes and what is paid with our

money?

A22 Roelant: Let me react to that. We put it on the posters, we hoped for more members. Most changes you'd want to make are in the Policy Manual. In the statutes it's the financial year, as basic things required by law are in the statutes. We sent it to the Advisory Council. We looked at it and there are not that many interesting things in it, so I think we'll be fine.

Ad-Willem: it's a basic document, like constitutions. People have made sure that this document has all the necessary things. There are only three minors things. We're not changing the entire documents. We don't foresee any other changes in the coming years.

The last change involves article 10.3, which reads:

"Committees and working groups shall report on their actions of the Board three times a year."

We propose to change "three" into "two", as committees currently also send one report per semester, which makes most sense. It'll read: *"Committees and working groups shall report on their actions to the Board two times a year."*

In Dutch, this would become: *"De commissies en werkgroepen leggen twee keer per jaar rekening en verantwoording afaan het bestuur"*.

Are there any questions?

[No questions.]

Is there anyone who wants to vote on the change to the financial years?

[No one wants to vote]

Okay, this change is accepted unanimously.

Change to article 5.3 of the Statutes has been made.

Next two changes shall be made together: The General Assembly elects people in function, so there will be no deciding within the Board.

Does anyone want to vote on this change?

[No one wants to vote]

Changes to articles 6.2 and 7.1 have been made, unanimously accepted.

Now we'll have the last vote: we would like to change "three" into "two" in article 10.3. Does anyone want to vote on this change?

[No one wants to vote.]

The change to article 10.3 has been made, unanimously accepted.

Audit Committee

Roelant: The Audit Committee checks the financials of the next Board, so that's why we're proposing them. If there are any weird expenses, the Audit Committee will look at this. There are the ones who can tell you what the board is spending the money on. They will look into issues as committees getting €2000, and make sure that they don't spend more than that.

First of all, I'd like to propose Ad-Willem, as he has a lot of experience since he currently is the treasurer of AUCSA. But don't worry, he won't check his own administration, that will Reinier and Strauss do.

Next is Ruben Slot. Ruben has a Bachelor in Economic, almost, and he has been looking at us from a Student Council point of view, which is why we think he is suitable for this job as well.

Finally, we propose that Marco is in the Audit Committee as he has been a good treasurer for language committee.

Q23 Shanti: So, it's AUCSA nominating this committee?

A23 Roelant: It will be the case that the former Board is nominating an Audit Committee for coming board, so that they don't choose on people checking their own administration.

Q24 Donald: What's the Language committee budget size?

A25 Ad-Willem: 300 euros.

Do you want to vote on the proposed members of the Audit Committee?

[No one wants to vote]

Audit Committee is accepted unanimously.

Advisory Council

Ad Willem: I'd like to propose the Advisory Council to you, they give advise to AUCSA, even when they don't ask for it. There are an independent body and if you have any complaints about AUCSA, you can refer them to the Advisory Council. They're there to make sure that stuff's running well.

First of all, Roelant, because he has two years of AUCSA experience. He knows all that is know to AUCSA.

Secondly, Gijs Stapel, as he has been working on Policy Manual when he was the AUCSA secretary. He knows the Association very well as well.

The third member would be Lea Baecker, who has been very active in the AUC community. She would be the independent member, as she's also great in giving advise.

Does anyone want to vote on the proposed Advisory Council?

[No one wants to vote.]

The proposed Advisory Council has unanimously been accepted.

Roelant: let me hand over the microphone to Martijn, who has the results.

Martijn: I have the results here.

Flora, with 76 votes in favour and 14 abstentions, has been elected President of AUCSA.

Thirze, with 83 votes in favour and 8 abstentions, has been elected Secretary of AUCSA.

Joep, with 80 votes in favour and 12 abstentions, has been elected Treasurer of AUCSA.

Shanti, with 66 votes in favour has been elected CAO of AUCSA.

Remco, with 61 votes in favour has been elected CAO of AUCSA.

Alina, with 31 votes in favour has unfortunately not been elected as CAO.

The total amount of abstentions together, for all the CAOs, is 28.

We now have a new Board!

Roelant: But, until the end of June, don't go to them, go to us. Thanks for the Election Committee for reading the CVs, doing the interviews and for the elections. Let's give them a warm round of applause.

Any Other Business

Roelant: Does anyone want to raise any points?

[No one has any other business.]

Closing

Roelant: I hereby close the first GA of this evening.