

EDUCATION COUNCIL

EXTRACT FROM THE MEETING MINUTES

10 DECEMBER 2019

PRESENT

Members:

- Prof. Ilse De Bourdeaudhuij, Director of Education, Education Department (DOWA), chair
- Prof. Mieke Van Herreweghe, Deputy Vice-chancellor
- Mike Nachtegael, Chief Academic Administrator
- Representing the professorial staff:
 - Prof. Kristoffel Demoen, Director of Studies, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
 - Prof. Mieke Adriaens, Director of Studies, Faculty of Sciences
 - Prof. Lieven Danneels, Director of Studies, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
 - Prof. Hennie De Schepper, Director of Studies, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture
 - Prof. Ignace De Beelde, Director of Studies, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration
 - Prof. Bernadette Van Ryssen, Director of Studies, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
 - Prof. Luc Tirry, Director of Studies, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering
 - Prof. Serge Van Calenbergh, Director of Studies, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Representing the academic assistant staff:
 - Femke de Backere, representing the bèta sciences
- Representing the administrative and technical staff:
 - Jeroen Ongenaë
- Student representatives:
 - Nathan Steyaert, representing Ghent University's Student Union
 - Emma Moerman, representing Ghent University's Student Union
 - Eline Vandewalle, student representative in the Board of Governors
 - Jeffrey De Rycke, representing the beta sciences
 - Nuria Simoens, representing the beta sciences
 - Selène Spruytte, representing the beta sciences
 - Maarten Buytaert, representing the gamma sciences
 - Jarne Ghijssels, representing the gamma sciences
 - Niels Clymans, representing the alpha sciences (deputy)

Members with advisory vote:

- Prof. Guido Van Huylenbroeck, Director of Internationalization
- Hilde Van Puyenbroeck, Education Department – head of the Quality Assurance Office
- Isabelle Lanzweert, Education Department – head of the Counselling Office
- Piet Ruysinck, Education Department – head of the Registrar's Office
- Frederik De Decker, Education Department – head of the International Relations Office
- Bieke Morlion, Education Department – expert

Taker of minutes:

- Charlotte Cailliau, Education Department – expert

EXCUSED

Prof. Sabien Lust, Director of Studies, Faculty of Law and Criminology
Prof. Geert Van Hove, Director of Studies, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences
Prof. Patrick Vyncke, Director of Studies, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences
Lien Valcke, representing the assistant academic staff - alpha sciences
Christoph Portier, representing the assistant academic staff - gamma sciences
Erik Maes, government commissioner
Katrien De Bruyn, expert on gender and diversity

Agenda item 5. Quality conduct for education quality assurance

The chair explains that the attached memorandum is the elaboration of what was presented on the previous meeting of the Education Council. This memorandum includes all feedback, including the comments formulated during the feedback sessions on 21 November. The first memorandum is the starting memorandum, which explains the new quality assurance system. The other documents are appendices. If the Council approves the framework for the new system, the next step will be to operationalize the proposals from the memorandum. That will be done step by step. For the discussion of the memorandum, the chair proposes to start with the global memorandum and then go through all the appendices.

Discussion of the memorandum mainly focuses on the concern for professional development of study programmes, i.e. who will be responsible and how will it be organized. Will the liaison officers for active teaching (ACTIVO) be involved in this? The chair replies that professional development initiatives for study programmes are currently few in number. The initiatives referred to in the memorandum will have to be built up gradually, based on information in the Education Monitor. The Activo liaison officers work on a project that is managed at an institutional level, and have the experience to support broader training courses. The Activo liaison officers will have to be consulted to determine whether they can provide professional development support. A pooling of expertise in a single team would be most efficient, so that expertise/liaison officers can be deployed depending on the faculties' questions. This will be discussed further in the evaluation of the Activo project after a two-year run.

The head of the Quality Assurance Office adds a short-term organization of specific initiatives is being looked at. There will be workshops on study programmes, curricula, assessment and Ghent University's education themes. The train-the-trainer principle will be maintained. The general memorandum does not elicit further questions.

The student representatives have a question about Appendix 5. The students appreciate and agree to this appendix, but would like to have the example on page 3 deleted. To have a quality assurance staff member moderate the sessions, would mean a risk of outside influence. This is best avoided. The appendix also states that seven student co-ordinators will be appointed from among members of Ghent University's Student Union to monitor the focus group discussions. It is suggested that the students see for themselves how best to organize this per faculty or group of faculties, without determining numbers in advance. This will be amended in the appendix.

The next comment relates to Appendix 7. This appendix proposes to change the composition of the Education Quality Board (EQB) by adding an extra assistant academic staff member and two supporting staff members. The EQB will take on a supporting and co-ordinating role in the Quality Conduct 2.0. This will require capacity. The Education Council agrees with this and also finds, as specified in the appendix, that the various sections best send experts from among their members instead of representatives. This change of composition has meanwhile also been submitted to the EQB and the comments of the EQB are listed in the addendum to this agenda item. These will be dealt with in the memorandum. The students and the assistant academic staff serve a one-year term in the EQB, the other sections serve a four-year term. This does not necessarily preclude the possibility of serving longer terms for students and members of the assistant academic staff. They will be asked every year whether they wish to extend their term.

Finally, Appendix 11 elicits the question for a speedy release of the screening calendar as soon as possible. The chair replies that the calendar will be drawn up at the next EQB meeting. Study programmes that have not had an external quality assessment or peer learning visit for a long time will appear in the calendar first. For these programmes, the student reflection and the external perspective will have to be started fairly quickly. These study programmes will be contacted to determine whether they require additional support.

Conclusion and follow-up:

The Education Council gives its unanimous assent on the Quality Conduct 2.0, provided that the above comments are incorporated in the memorandum and the appendices. The amended policy memorandum Quality Conduct 2.0 will be submitted to the Board of Governors on 10 January 2020, together with the advice of the Education Council.