

Minutes of the First Student Representative Meeting of the 24th of September 2014

Minutes by Cas Bezembinder

All 21 Student Representatives present. Joe Cotton (Fortuna Board – Communications) chaired.

To do list:

Everyone:

Sign Student Reps contract (available in the Fortuna Office during open hours)

Meet with a Fortuna Board member during office hours for updates about board activity.

Advertise the Fortuna Website as a location with a lot of (useful!) information on events, committees, GAs, etc.

Sub-groups:

“Breaking the Bubble” Sub-group: Cas, Davi and Ioana (pub quiz/crawl – maybe even in De Klok, not necessarily about breaking the bubble so much as encouraging mixing between floors and year groups)

“Theme day” Sub-group: Jerzy, Packy and Lisa (culturally themed events activities and chance to mix with all members of the association).

Introduction

Joe introduces the meeting by first having a game, that is won by Davi, and then going in a circle for an introduction with names, motivations, and reasons for applying for student rep.

Common reasons mentioned are to increase engagement with Fortuna and decrease the distance between the board and the members of Fortuna, resolve the lack of participation in GA's and other activities, and to expand on community feeling outside of committee activities.

Feedback from Fortunity week.

It was too early in the block, it is mentioned. There seems to be quite an amount of people that think like that (namely: 9)

People also said that for committees there will be board transitions, and that interferes with the organization of activities.

Lots of events where taking place during classes, or too closely packed. More spread might lead to more attendance. Added to this is that this also went to the culture taste, and there is a problem with reimbursement thereof.

Culture taste was perceived as a bonding activity.

The opportunity to see all the committees is appreciated, and that is an advantage to an early Fortunity week. There is some discussion about this. Committee fair could serve this function, but is too limited to really see what each committee do. Fortunity week does offer more of that. Spreading it out over two weeks could be a solution, as people could attend more events that way.

Fortunity week is not about committees alone, it is suggested, but also to bring together the first years and the rest of the LUC community. Inter-floor could do some of this, but Fortunity week is also seen to play a part. Floor dinners are slightly too limited.

General consensus does seem to be that it was too intense and too early.

Could the borrel work like this? Borrel is slightly too short for OC people, and the Hague social club is not really that good of a solution.

Davi brings up the first floor as a solution, but needs some change.

Haris has noted on his floor that people thought Fortunity week this year was an improvement. Also proposes a student representative activity.

Cas, Davi and Ioana proposed to look into possibilities for a pub quiz or similar On/Off campus bonding activity.

Off-campus the Bulletin and Fortunity newsletters are very well received.

There is a discussion on whether there should be a Fortunity week every block. It might open up more possibilities, activities, and connections, but also has its problems, like money and overkill. Once a semester is proposed as a solution.

There is also the point that there are not enough general activities, which could be better.

Fortunity month. Fortunity week could be a motivation to begin going to committees, but after that there is no need to force committees to do activities. That could be asking too much of the activities. Committees can organise activities in their own pace.

Fortunity week was also organized for volunteering. There is some discussion about the connection between volunteering and Fortunity week in the status quo. Last year this was already separate, and LUC Volunteer is now a committee. There was also an issue with motivation in the Fortunity week, as many people would rather do something else.

It is stated that the end of the week Fortunity week had more the intention of closing off a good year as opposed to an introduction, as in this year. Having both of those could be a nice combination. Fortunity early in the second semester could help engage first years, as they might be hesitant in the first half year. Half-years are also affected by this. Fortunity week at the end of the year might also be a problem because it was too busy, but it was in week 4 so it can't really be made any less busy.

Fortuna Spotlight is brought up. There was also an Africa day which brought all of it together. Theme days could solve issues that Fortuna Spotlight has. A Theme Day subcommittee is started up with Jerzy, Packy and Lisa taking the lead.

Refurnishment of the First Floor.

The first floor should be a student lounge as opposed to a study area as the second floor already has that function.

General mood of the first year. It is just not cozy enough. It is also too dark in some places, and too light in other places. Solutions might be things like colour, lighting, lack of plants, the weird chairs, and perhaps art and picture (proposed is graffiti and LUC diversity). This could be made better by using the TV and placing some couches. Zoning, pooltable (which should be fixed, faster rather than later), and table football. This would also improve the contrast between floor two and floor one. In the empty corner pillows, fatboys and stuff could be placed for relaxing.

There is also not enough going on on the first floor. Committee meetings could be moved there. Suggestion: open bar every day. Might not be feasible. The Fortuna Library might be moved outside. Other things could be boardgames. A projector could also help, both to give people something to do and help committees and student finding places to organize activities.

An exhibition space is proposed.

No one likes the low chairs and low tables. The same issue goes for the plastic bar stools.

The issue of noise complaints to floor two is brought up. Solutions should be found for this, but filling the open space might start to address the issue. Closing the study area with glass is proposed. Carpets might also help very much with sound absorption.

The weird combination of student café and the study area is brought up. Swapping things is discussed, but this doesn't really seem to solve anything.

The issue of the performing art room is brought up. It is weird and impractical. Could this be used more practical? The performing art room is too small.

The issue of the support pillars is brought up. Some of this empty space might be used for some extra offices?

It is questioned how much we can actually change, as Leiden has stated that it is the first impression that is given, and bar and things give the wrong impression.

GA's

The documents were too complex and messy, but a video might be a solution for this. Student Representatives could also offer constituency meetings in advance of the GAs to solve this.

The GA's does need more awareness and visitors, that is true, but certain floors felt it was as fun as it could have been.

There is the idea that students don't have to go anymore, because they have student representatives. However, there is no automatic representation (because of Dutch law), so everyone should authorize individually if they want to.

Culture taste – GA combination seemed to be a good idea, as there was overlap.

A lot of people just authorize, and even if they do go, they aren't enthusiastic and just study during the GA.

Peter brings up that Fortuna is actually not doing that bad as far as GA's go. It could be much much worse. People don't really need to go there if they don't want to. Davi replies that Student Reps need to motivate. Explaining will also feel like there are two GA's? no's are heard. It would also be foolish to expect everyone to read the documents.

Timing of the GA might also be a problem. Combining the GA and a fun activity could work.

Is there any option to keep the discussion apart from the GA. Legally, not really. But student representatives will improve the situation.

4000s euros were spend on speakers, people want to know about it.

Is it possible to give a timeline in advance?

Student Representative Contract

It is agreed that the Student Representative contract will be made available to sign in the Fortuna Office during office hours.

Any Other Business

Why is the café almost never open? It costs too much money, and we can't even dismiss it because we have a campaign against dismissing Astrid. Probably not going to change.

We could over time transition from Student Reps to Fortuna Council? For example include programme council and housing council updates.

There are not enough computers available on AvB.

Could Fortuna move to a more sustainable bank?

The study area doesn't have electricity. Should go to housing council.

People have to pay money for party for the alcohol, but the alcohol is poor alcohol. Also you have to pay even if you don't drink. Could we go back to coupos. Legal problems.

There should be a list of committees and their board members. Joe states its on the website.

Harris was thinking:

- Fortuna should partially fund a budget for every constituency
- There needs to be more interfloor and inter campus activities
- Ask every member of the constituency what they are doing. SR's can make committees too difficult to access. This could be determined per floor. They could also just drop by.
- There are fortuna office hours, no-one goes there. SR's might suffer from the same problem

Closing

Joe thanks everyone for coming and closes the meeting.