Student Association Fortuna

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Fortuna GA Minutes

Opening:

Total mount of votes present in the room: 188

Samuel Hopcroft ('Samuel') opens third and final General Assembly of 2014-2015. It's an Electoral Assembly, which will conclude with speeches. Samuel announces that we want everyones opinion on a number of proposals. Samuel announces Cas Bezembinder ('Cas') as Chair and Peter Sprietsma as Secretary. They were the only applicants.

Cas opens the meeting and explains agenda point by point.

Cas explains the voting method used in the GA: there are four different kinds of votes (Green, in favour; red, against; yellow, neutral; and white, abstention). Samuel explains difference between yellow and white votes.

Cas asks for volunteers for the voting committee, and explains voting procedure.

The volunteers for the voting committee are: Bob van de Mortel, Laurie Morgan and Thomas Bolding. They are appointed by acclamation.

Adoption of the Minutes

Cas introduces the adoption of the minutes. The adoption of the minutes is voted upon by by acclamation. No one votes against, and thus the minutes are adopted by acclamation.

Student Council Proposal

Cas yields the floor to Samuel for the introduction of the Student Council proposals. Samuel explains that the proposal has been in the making for a while. He explains that the Fortuna Board is currently the only representative body in the student body. He explains that it would be a good idea to introduce a truly representative body.
Samuel takes the GA through the proposal. The Student Council should integrate several functions. The representative student functions (the students on the programme council, college council etc.) should be brought together, for easier access and transparency. This proposal will take work away from the Fortuna board and involve other students. The Student Council would have a president. Samuel introduces and explains the organogram.

Veerle van Wijk: Could the president of the Student Council be a member of another Council?
Samuel: I don't know yet - what do you think?
Veerle: I think it would be best if that would not be the case.

Davinio Dawarkasing: Akbar isn't mentioned in the proposal- why not? We are also stakeholders, even though we are not officially part of the college.
Samuel: Explains legal position of Akbar. Samuel explains that the roles on the proposed Student Council are representative, and Akbar is not necessarily a representative body.

Joris Broeders: The Advisory Board is absent form the organogram. Additionally, the separate functions (housing council member, collge council member etc.) require specific skill sets - adding more responsibilities to those would limit the pool of proper candidates from which people may be elected to these functions.
Samuel: The Student Council would be part of LUC, not part of Fortuna; therefore, the Advisory Board was not included. The Advisory Board should stick with Fortuna. To answer the second question: The specific functions (i.e., college council member, programme council member) come first, the responsibilities attached to the Student Council function come second.
Joris Broeders: The first part of the question isn't answered - why should the Student Council have UCSRN-representatives, but not members from the Advisory Board?
Samuel: The UCSRN-members represent LUC students to other UCs, so they have a representative function. The Advisory Board has a different dynamic. The key part of this proposal is separating Fortuna from the College - but I do understand your concern.

Simon Toussaint: Leiden University as a whole also has a Student Council; how will our Student Council and the one in Leiden interact? Addittionally, why isn't everyone on the specific Councils is part of the Student Council?
Samuel: All of the students who are part of the separate councils will be on the Student Council. Not all RAs are on the Student Council because there are a lot of them. I don't know much about the Leiden Council. It is your decision whether you want to have one of our own, here at LUC.

Henry Abbink: What will the Student Academic Representative's role be in the Student council?
Samuel: You might be right, that they should be in the Student Council. One of the reasons they are not in this proposals is that it didn't fit on the chart.
Bob vd Mortel, who is the student academic representative: My representative role is limited; I would only be able to take in info, not give it out, because many of the information I receive is confidential. Additionally, I am not elected to my position. This might be changed in the future - the position will be reformed. Lastly, the position brings with it so much work already that another role would not be welcome.

Samuel: Asks for more questions.

Laurie Morgan: What kind of issues would be discussed between the Student Council and the College Board?
Samuel: The Student Council would primarily have two functions: First, the members would share updates on what everyone is doing. Secondly, it would discuss issues brought up in different councils who might best be discussed in the Student Council forum. Also, the Council could act as a 'safeguard' of sorts to discuss all problems not fitting in the mandates of other councils or forums. Samuel explains that he did some of this representation over the past year, which was difficult.
Laurie Morgan: Is it relevant for the Councils to know what others are doing? Additionally, are all of the roles now included in the Student Council in the proposal relevant to the college? Do we need the UCSRN-representatives in there?
Samuel: We'll have to see. These things will become clear once we implement the proposal. We can't know yet.

Laurie: Will the GA be able to change this after it has been voted on?

Samuel: The GA won't have anything to say in this, so there wont be a vote. This Council will be part of LUC, not Fortuna. You - the students in general - have very specific questions. We might change the things you mention over time after the proposal has ben implemented, when we have more experience.

Danilo Bertazo: You mentioned this proposal is not part of Fortuna. If so, how would we implement it?

Samuel: The GA can't implement it, the College Board would have to implement it.

Bob vd Mortel: But Fortuna members would be on the Council.

Samuel: We have this discussion to test if students are in general in favour. If that is the case, we will fight for this proposal to be implemented. Do you think this is a good idea?

Floris Rene van Strien: If the body is representative, can we hold them accountable, and can we impeach them? Right now it seems there is no possibility to influence the body after the elections?

Samuel: This is a very technichal question and too detailed for now. No formal procedure is in place. This would, however, improve the current situation on accountability.

Bob van de Mortel: I have two issues: It is LUC which doesn't know where to go, and Fortuna who tries to solve it. Then, there would be a president of the Student Council. However, no body can oversee the College Council, so the head of Student Council would have to be a secretary as opposed to a president.

Samuel: These are semantics, but I agree.

Bob: It can't be a principle-agent relationship. Also, I believe it is unneccesary to create a new body. I suggest looking into adding something to Fortuna, like an ombudsman for students to approach - separate of the board, but approachable and taking complaints.

Samuel: A very good idea.

Samuel: Let's take a quick vote - its about the concept, not the specifics. Vote about whether the board should pursue something like this. Opinion only.

Vote: ' 90% green, 5 yellow, 5 red'

Samuel: If youre interested: let me know if you want to get involved, the more people the better. Also, authorize people if you leave to not the ruin legality of the GA. Then he yields the floor to Cas.

student reps

Cas: yields the floor to Samuel, who will introduce the future of Student representatives.Samuel: Explains history of student reps. The results of the Survey on the effectiveness of Student reps were mixed. Samuel wants to know the opinion of the GA, because the Fortuna board doesn't get a lot of imput. The vote at the end of the discussion will be about whether there will be Stureps next year.

Laura Stam: Is this proposal dependent on the outcome of the student council proposals?

Samuel: No, because we cannot influence whether or not there will be such a Council.

Anna-Liisa Springham: Can we have a an overview of Sturep activities?

Samuel: I will let Cas, who is a Sturep, answer this.

Cas: The fact that you need info about this is exactly why Student Representatives were slightly uneccesary. We advised the Fortuna board, and organised several events.

Frenkchris: Can we vote on dissolving the Stureps conditional on whether the student council will happen?
Samuel: Yes, we can vote to have the student reps disbanded on the condition that another body will take it's place.

Erik Post: What do the student representatives do? I am speaking for a lot of third years when I say that I don't know.
Samuel: We've had this question.

Boudewijn van Eerd: I'm against student representatives. I believe they have a privileged position which they dont deserve.
Josh Treacher: That's not a problem with the system, it is with the representatives. I have no problem with them, but I feel like the opinion is not critical of the system but of the individual. Boudewijn does not agree.

Nadine Froughi: Do we need a codified system? Outside of AvB the system of Student Reps is rather difficult. Can you, as a board, ask questions to student reps because they are student reps, or because they can just ask other people more efficiently?
Samuel: Rephrases question, lables it retorical.

Joost Thuis: Last GA we voted on student reps?
Samuel: That was on the by-laws. They were not rewritten because they knew this issue was up.
Joost Thuis: biggest issue with student reps: they hoarded votes from their floor in the last GA.

Cas Bezembinder: I am student rep. I will be voting against, but many of the issues brought up here are inaccurate. LUC hasn't asked stureps anything. Also, vote hoarding was a result of them going out to collect votes on the board's request.

Bob vd Mortel: We should not be voting conditional on the creation of the student council because we do not know yet how the student council will look.

Cas: Moving on to voting on dissolving student reps.

Voting:

In favour:

34+37+48=119

Against:

18

Neutral:

28

Abstentions:

Student Reps will be dissolved next year.

Samuel passes floor to Cas.

Fortuna Survey

Cas passes floor to Samuel for the discussion of the results of the Fortuna survey.

Samuel explains what the survey was about. Explains the main results: the board's decision making could be more transaprent. Committees got good feedback. Student reps got mixed feedback. Councils (housing e.g.) got great feedback. Especially the comments were really helpful. Come talk to us. The results will be published in the annual report, which will be presented first GA of next year. Hands floor back to Cas.

Voting results

Cas yields floor to Tijmen for the discussion of the publishing of the voting results.

Tijmen explains background of the voting question: whether or not the exact results, as oppossed to only the winners, of the Fortuna elections will be announced.

Laurie Morgan: I think that's kinda mean.
Joris Broeders: Because we use a complex system for voting, publishing the results will be a lot of extra work en requires a good reason.
Davinio Dawarkasing: It might be mean but it is necessary; publish it on the fortuna website, where nobody goes, so that it's available.

Thomas Donaghy: Apart form increasing transparency, why should we do this? It creates meannes.

Filippa Braarud: Doing this is not necessary.

Nadine: I did find out about my vote, and it wasn't nice - you don't need to know that many people didnt want you to take your place.

Boudewijn van Eerd: The people counting these votes are not biased, so transparency is unneccesary.

Ola al Kathib: Let people who approach the board know, so that it is their own responsibility.

Sophie Auton: Candidates should be allowed to know, but the results should not be published.

Samuel: That system will create rumours, which is bad. We should have it out there, or not have it out there. We've had experience with this.

Bob vd Mortel: People lose big. Publishing the results - the form is very important - will create public knowledge. How much do we gain from this? Consider carefully.

Erik Post: The only reason to want to know is whether election was fair. If an election is contested, you can ask via the GA.

Joris Broeders: That system won't solve the question, because the votes are destroyed after the counting.

Voting:

In favour:

17+5+1=23

Against:

32+50+46= 128

Neutral:

7

Abstentions:

4

Fortuna Election results will not be published.

Electoral method

Cas calls forward Tijmen and Jochanan Mussel to discuss the electoral system.

Jochanan Mussel: In the new manual, there is a recommended electoral system, not a mandatory one; this opens up opportunities for abuse (cadidates might work with the electoral commission to secure a certain method of voting which increases their chance of winning). We should also have clarity. The first amendment is about codifying the recommended system as the compulsory system.

Tijmen: Within fortuna, there are multiple elections each year. We dont want to pin down the system because there might be different elections in the future. It should be left up to the electoral commission.

Joris Broeders: It was never a set method.

Davinio Dawarkasing: Does it mater? If the GA elects the electoral committee, we place our trust in them.

Bob vd Mortel: We could fix our voting method for only for the board elections.

Cas: First amendment will be voted on only.

Voting:

In favour:

20+47+28=95

Against:

10+21+9=40

Neutral:

20+17+8=45

Abstaining:

5

Amendment passes; There will be a compulsory system for Fortuna Elections.

Cas introduces JD to give clarifications on the second amendment.

JD: I am neutral, but people have suggested this change. Ask me anything.

Josh Treacher: It might be helpful to clarify what Alternative vote means.

JD: Do you understand the current system?

Josh: At the CAO elections, you couldn't abstain.

JD: This amendment doesn't change that.
JD: The current vote so far works by ranking candidates; candidates get points according to their position. The candidate with the most points wins. AV looks first at peoples first preferences. If there is no majority, eleminate the lowest candidate, distribute their vote according to second preferences etc.

Steward Smith: What we really want to know is how this will change the outcome of the elctions?

JD: That depends. The system could produce the same winners. The extreme example of difference is wen one candidate gets near majority, but everyone else dislikes him. In the older count, everyones opinion is taken into account, in the AV, the first preference is given more weigh.

Vote:

In favour:

34+27+18 = 79

Against:

11+39+23 = 73 +1

Neutral:

8+12+11= 31

Abstentions:

4

Proposal failed.

Honorary members

Cas yields floor to Samuel for the introduction of the topic of Honorary members of Fortuna.

Samuel: We have two people: Miika has done a lot for the community, as a secretary and by student representation. The second person is Anna-Lisa, who has done great work with Beyond Arts and the choir. She has a great passion for what she's been doing, and we can all look up to her for that.

Audit Commission

Cas yields the floor to Cox for the audit commission.

Cox: We need two people for the audit commission to check the financial report which I will make. Do we have volunteers?

Cox: Everyone who is interested comes to the front for a GA vote.

Cas: we are sorry for that short distraction. If all three candidates are accepted by the GA, they will all three of them be part of the audit comission.

Vote by acclamation failed.

Voting:

Against:

6

Neutral:

4+10+17=31

Abstaining:

16

In favour:

26+60+32=118

Audit Commission: Leanne Zeppenfeldt, Simon Toussaint, Thomas Bolding

Electoral Commission

Cas calls Tijmen to introduce the creation of an electoral commission.

Tijmen explains the position - he wants as many people in the electoral comission as possible. Volunteers come forward.

Cas: Is there anyone against?

The Electoral Commission is appointed by vote of acclamation.

Jerzi Brinkhof
Liza Leimane
Davinio dawarkasing
Frieda Agema
Joris Broeders
Chiara Zorzi
Jochanan Mussel
Emma Basseti

AOB:

Cas Introduces any other business.

Nadine: Thanks to the board, Student Reps, committees etc. for the great work they have done. General applause ensues.

Cas: The votes on the honorary members are in. 156 votes Mikka is honourary member; with a vote of 143, anna Liisa is an honourary member.

Samuel proposes a vote by acclamation to discharge Cas. Mentions Peter will be discharged upon the acceptance of his minutes. Cas is discharged.
GA is suspended for 5 minutes.

Samuel closes the GA.