

MINUTES 109TH FC MEETING – 4 MARCH 2009

Attendees

FC Members	Guests	MT	Official Secretary
Frank Wijen	Juup Essers	Steef van de Velde	Catheleyne Jurgens
Martine Schey	Frits van Engeldorp Gastelaars	Dominique Campman	
Jan Sirks			
Patrick van Straalen			
Vinay Tiwari			
Jimmy Tseng			
Erik van Veen			
Linda Huinink			
Gianna O'Brien			
Bart Ariëns			

1. Opening

Frank opens the 109th FC meeting and welcomes everyone. Frank invites attendants to introduce themselves. Juup Essers and Frits van Engeldorp Gastelaars are lecturers in the MSc Management of Change.

2. Agenda

There are no questions or further points to be added to the agenda.

3. Minutes

The minutes are approved without further remarks or amendments.

4. Announcements

The MT makes one announcement: A new professor, Jim Hunton, has been appointed at the Accounting and Control Department and will start in May or June 2009.

5. Future of MSc Programme 'Management of Change'

Two weeks ago the rumour reached the FC that the MSc programme 'Management of Change' (MSc MoC) would not be offered to students for the next academic year. After confirmation by the Dean of BSc & MSc Programmes, the FC would like to be informed regarding the issue. On 3 March last, the FC had also received a letter sent by faculty involved in the master programme voicing their concerns. Questions from the FC are: what reasons and process have led to the MSc MoC suspension decision? First of all, the Vice-Dean makes clear that the programme will be suspended and therefore not discontinued. The programme is not fully embedded within RSM, it needs to be revised and too little time is available to make this change before the coming academic year. Last year, the curriculum was already revised but the programme has not improved enough according to several indicators, including student evaluations, discussions with lecturers and others involved in the programme's improvement process. Representing half of the MSc MoC lecturers, Juup Essers illustrates their concerns regarding the procedures followed, the substantive reasons for the decision, and the precedent which can be established. He requests the FC to revoke the decision, investigate the relationship between student evaluations and how programmes can be discontinued, and start a

discussion on the desired degree of autonomy of its scientific staff in the performance of its duties and the limits of the programme directors.

The subsequent discussion focuses on the status of the student evaluations. The vice-dean explains that the programme directors are responsible for the quality assurance of educational programmes. The MSc Programme Director and Dean of BSc & MSc Programmes talked to the lecturers and students when indicators this year again gave rise to concerns over quality. Lack of consensus exists between half of the MSc MoC lecturers, who think suspending the programme for a year is the best option, and the other half, who would like to continue with some extra measures. The Vice-Dean emphasises that evaluations are just one dimension which, next to discussions with lecturers, students, and others involved in the improvement process, have led to the decision to suspend the MSc MoC programme. Other possibilities than suspending the programme were already considered last year. Frank states that the FC is particularly unhappy that not all relevant parties have been involved in the process. Moreover, the FC regrets the pre-emptive strike of posting the decision on the website. The Programme Committee should have been asked for their advice, given the fact that they are an independent advisory body regarding the quality of the educational programmes, especially against the backdrop of divergent stakeholder views. Furthermore, the MT has subverted the FC's position by not informing and consulting the FC in a timely fashion. The FC opines that the decision taken by the Dean BSc & MSc Programmes, the Programme Director, and the academic department under which the programme comes lacks the input of important constituencies, who should have a genuine voice in such a process. A balanced decision calls for the timely involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

6. Financial update

The 2008 financial year closed with a negative result of € -179,000. The results are in accordance with earlier expectations. RSM has to deal with pre-financing operations. The deficit is not a structural problem. The outsourced services of BIT are the result of the policy that most of the budget must be invested in material, rather than in personnel, so BIT often has to hire external personnel. The huge differences in bonus costs are the result of (earlier) individual arrangements. In a follow-up report, the FC would like to see if the figures are incidental or structural, as well as more clarification on deviations from the budget.

7. Personal accounts of faculty members

No faculty-wide policy on personal accounts of faculty members exists. To the extent that basic faculty-wide financial rules are being complied with, departments are autonomous in the way of allocating financial streams to and from personal accounts. The Vice-Dean argues that it would be fair that every faculty member with an ERIM research voucher is entitled to an annual budget for attending academic conferences and other profession-related expenses.

8. Update Greening Coordinator

Dominique has spoken to Joy Kearney, who is RSM's Greening Coordinator. Joy will set up a plan regarding her approach and organisational structure, including how much time she thinks she will spend on 'Greening RSM'. A student-assistant has been hired to provide support.

9. Update operations T-building

Campus Surroundings: Dominique has discussed the traffic-security issue with Kees van Lansbergen (EFB), who told him that EUR has contacts with the Rotterdam Municipality on the campus surroundings. In the longer term the Campus Master Plan – with the campus redesign to be progressively realised in the coming

25 years – provides ideas with regard to the integration of the tram on the campus, which should be achieved in the coming years.

As a result of the recent accident, three measures have been taken:

1. The doubling of the zebra crossing stripes;
2. Ramps will be created on the road;
3. Railings have been placed, so that one can only enter the tram platform by taking the zebra crossing.

T-Building: Dominique will follow a workshop on calamities. Many 'things to do' which arose from the EUR security plan which needed to be done at the RSM level have been dealt with by EFB and RSM. Dominique will discuss the state of affairs with Henk de Vries, including the need to still have an external (fire-)security audit. Many complaints have arisen with regard to the elevators. RSM has opted for another elevator maintenance company. Some improvements have been made to the elevators by the new maintenance company, which seems to be successful to date. The FC has received a complaint about stairways which are closed in the evening, as a result of which the car parking can only be reached by means of the elevators.

10. Any other business

No further items need to be discussed.

11. Closure

Frank closes the meeting at 12.30 hrs.

Next FC meeting: 8 April 2009 02.00 pm in T03-42.

Action point FC meeting 4 March 2009

1. The FC will send a letter to the MT concerning the future of the MSc MoC Programme.