

Minutes Education Committee meeting

Date	Time	Location	Chair	Secretary
September 17, 2020	9:30 – 11:30	Van Steenis, A2.02a	Quentin Bourgeois (QB)	Marjet de Ruyter (MdR)

Attendants: Laura Llorente Rodriguez (LLR), Aris Politopoulos (AP)

Absent with notice: Ian Simpson

1. Opening

2. Introduction: Procedures and regulations

QB explains the main goal of the EdCom. Also, he explains the agenda items of the meeting.

3. Update by the chair on ongoing discussions

Discussions that are relevant at the moment:

- meetings about Covid-measures.
- calendar and process for OER etc.
- evaluations are a big part of the work of the EdCom
- issues around the program as a whole

4. Fieldwork plan

QB explains the pain points in the organization of fieldwork in recent years:

- logistical issues
- no ownership
- no one assigned for internships as a whole
- if you want to do fieldwork in the Netherlands you need certain permits (KNA-qualifications)

There is a discussion on the memo and all members share their thoughts. Points that are taken in consideration are the distribution of the workload, the proposed change of the name of the MA Applied Archaeology, the future of the MA AA and the BA Heritage and Society track. More information about the desired functions is desirable.

Summarizing, the EdCom agrees with the plan. It is a good plan that solves issues and has great PR opportunities (flagship projects for instance).

MdR will draft a memo and QB will design a final version of the memo and send this to the board.

The memo will include:

1. Workload should still be investigated. We would like to see a more detailed plan on that. How will this impact the workload of other staff members in the other departments. Are there already thoughts on this? Is there an organizational chart?
2. Renaming the MA Applied Archaeology; are we going to adapt the education to relate to the name? We do not agree with the renaming without any research on how this will affect the positioning and content of the track.
3. In the memo it is not clear whether the new unit will be responsible for national and international excavations or solely for excavations in the Netherlands.

4. What if the student numbers are not growing? Is there a plan in case this doesn't happen? The same goes for the BA-track Heritage and Society.
5. We see additional responsibilities for the unit: first aid requirements, health and safety and safeguarding the code of conduct.

5. MSc/BSc-discussion

Does an MSc/BSc degree have added value on the job market?

Background information is the funding structure for sciences and the fact that Anthropology is also a BSc. At the moment we can already give our students a BSc degree if we want to. If we are going to make the switch from a BA to a BSc this should be broadly agreed on.

The overall consensus is that the BA Archaeology is not a BSc yet regarding the content of the program.

Questions we have to ask ourselves:

1. What do we need to design a competitive BSc?
2. Will a BSc instead of a BA provide a benefit for the job market or for the number of students we are attracting?
3. Is this something we want? Students and staff?

LLR will do some investigation.

MdR will do some research on the places where our students end up.

QB will do some research on how the BA/BSc is perceived.

AP will find out where a BSc Archaeology can be done and how those tracks look like. Are they successful and how do they present themselves?

QB will interview some of the professors.

6. Evaluations

For the course evaluations we conclude to not adding questions about online education. We are skeptical about assessing the quality of online experiences. Instead we suggest broadening the question 1.5 and 1.6. (1.5 include in the parenthesis live lectures and clips, 1.6 expand availability online).

The EdCom suggests doing the proposed evaluation of the Coronaproof team in December.

MdR will communicate to Joanne Mol (and Femke Tomas in cc).

7. Any other business

MdR will ask the board for the letters of appointment.

8. Closure