

Minutes

General Assembly December 6, 2023

President Andra Geurtz
Note-taker Noah Benjamins

Date: 06-12-2023
Time: 19:00-22:00
Location: Kohnstamm Room, Kohnstamm House

Present:

Presidium: Andra Geurtz, Noah Benjamins
Board 79: Izabella Voortman, Ilona Polle, Henk van den Bosch, Quinten Dam, Lily George
Voting members: Kevin Eng, Teun Otte, Gideon van Wijk, Simon van den Oever, Christiaan Baart, Violet Willems, Sophie Alsbach, Nina Niehe, Milena de Swart, Kade McEwan, William Clairbois, Frans van der Vlugt, Coen Kooijman, Melissa Bakker, Bas Peetsold
Member associations: Helios (Brechtje van den Brug), Kleio (Sven van Mullem), Particolarte (Elise Sarton), SES (Klára Jelínková)
Other attendees: Miles Kieberl, Wietske Dotinga, Esther de Boer

1. Opening 19:04

2. Communications

There are earpieces available that translate from Dutch to English.
A recording will be made for the minutes. It will be removed immediately at the next ALV after the minutes are adopted.

There are four vote transfers:

- Emma Buining authorized Melissa Bakker.
- Marit Broekhuis authorized Nina Niehe.
- Sam de Jong authorized Frans van der Vlugt.
- Hilal Demirel authorized Violet Willems.

3. Adopt minutes of ALV October 30, 2023

Quay: On the first page I read that there was a problem with people not getting ALV email. Has that been resolved?

Henk: Yes, the GA mail went through congressus this time instead of mailchimp, so that should be fixed this time.

Frans: Why are the permissions listed with the attendance list?

Noah: The authorizations are basically not at the attendance list but at the announcements, since they are always communicated to the ALV as well.

Andra: This is also done to ensure that the maximum number of votes can be found in the minutes.

Frans: About adopting the minutes of the August 30 ALV, I think something goes wrong at item 5.

Noah: What exactly goes wrong?

Frans: The structure. But I can also come back to it later.

Andra: If there is something wrong, it can always be done by e-mail as well.
The minutes are adopted.

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a. Action Items

Action items will be reviewed. The GA regulations can be revised now that the bylaws have been revised, so that will be done in the new year. Otherwise, the action items have been met.

4. Establish Agenda

No comments.

5. Board update

Izabella presented the board update, which was sent in writing as a document.

a. Questions

Gideon: Is there more information on diversity, inclusion, decolonization: the event on Palestine?

Lily: We first wanted to do an event about the difference between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism based on the fact that Jewish people feel unsafe, now we want the angle to be a little more about how misinformation creates an unsafe situation at the university.

Gideon: So the first topic has been withdrawn?

Lily: Is still a topic but not the main topic, it's now about how misinformation creates an unsafe situation at the university.

6. Nomination of Trustpeople

a. Presentation

Ilona presents the two candidate confidants to the ALV. Both candidates, Miles Kieberl and Bas Peetsold, introduce themselves.

b. Questions

Questions Bas:

Sven: Do you have experience within your student union?

Bas: Yes, I took the course for confidential contact person at both the AKvV and the LKvV. I can fall back on that.

William: What is your take on the tension between that someone may not want information to come out, but at the same time something has to be done with it. What do you do?

Bas: What is important is: I don't act further without the permission of the person who comes to me. I'm going to ask what that person wants to get out, and what I can do.

Brechtje: At the time you are a confidant at ASVA, are you disconnected from your previous positions? Do you continue to be a trustperson at SSRA?

Bas: I am still trustperson at SSRA. For me it is clear: all sensitive information must stay within the organization, whether it is SSRA or ASVA. Anything you report to me does not go further outside.

Brechtje: What if there are conflicts of interest between your position at SSRA and ASVA?

Bas: Depends on the situation, but I would contact both organizations and probe with an open mind. Also, in such a case, it might be better not to leave it to someone with a dual function, but it very much depends on the situation itself.

Questions Miles:

Brechtje: Are you currently involved in any other organizations?

Miles: No, currently I work at CREA but that's it.

Questions Board:

Frans: For how long are trustpeople appointed?

Ilona: In any case for one year, I think until they quit?

Milena: According to the HR indefinitely.

Sven: Miles says he has not been trained as a trustperson, can't that lead to problems?

Christiaan: At AKvV we can also arrange course for ASVA members.

Bas: I was going to suggest that next week AKvV give a course.

Milena: Previous trustperson also had no experience as a confidant when she started, but you can make a distinction between confidant and confidential contact person; they don't have to have had training.

Sven: So technically you can't appoint Miles as a trustperson.

Ilona: Marlieke was appointed at the time without this training.

Milena: If I read the HR, there is not an obligation that there only has to be one confidant and having several seems like a good thing. My personal preference would go not to between these two people but whether we have both persons.

Maartje: Good idea.

c. Vote

Bas: 16 in favor, 4 against. Adopted.

Miles: 18 for, 2 against. Adopted.

Ilona: We are still going to find out more about the legal situation in terms of trustpeople.

7. New SearchCo

a. Presentation

Henk presents 2 people who would be another addition to the search committee, Frans van der Vlugt and Lotte Dethmers. They both introduce themselves to the GA.

b. Questions

Questions:

No questions.

c. Vote

By acclamation, Frans and Lotte were accepted.

8. New SoCo (Application Committee)

a. Presentation

Izabella presents the nomination for the Application Committee, consisting of Ilona

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Polle, Izabell Voortman, Charlie Smit, Tyrone Scholsberg and Christiaan Baart. Christiaan is present and introduces himself. People who are not familiar with ASVA are still needed, they are still being sought and presented to the ALV at a later time.

19:48 Frans leaves the meeting.

b. Questions

Milena: I have two points of criticism, according to the HR there should be two external members in the SoCo. I also resent that this is not stated in the meeting piece that this did not work out. Also, it is not possible that people are added later because the work already actually starts now. The search co basically had extra time, but here it does start right away with a SoCo that cannot according to the HR.

Izabella: I agree, we are also looking for an extra person. My understanding was that last year additional people were added to the application committee though.

Milena: That's right, because someone had quit. But the fact that an external perspective is missing when putting together the job profiles I find troublesome. I don't have a clear solution for it either, but I miss an explanation of why it doesn't meet the HR.

Sven: When is someone external to you, would someone like me already be external?

Milena: We are talking about two members who have never held a position at ASVA before. Director of a member association is allowed.

William: Is there really no way for people to be added?

Andra: As in the HR, the SoCo must be elected at the last ALV of the calendar year.

Melissa: Last ALV during the SearchCo it was also mentioned something about Izabella not being in the SearchCo. But if you put the president in the SoCo then the face of ASVA shouldn't have anything to do with recruiting the board. I think that's a tricky point about this.

Izabella: I get your point, we also explained last time why: I find it more fun to be in the soco and I find it hard to convince people to come do board. That's why we made this choice. You may make a choice on that.

Melissa: I think the better choice is then also not on the application committee.

Milena: In the nomination of the SoCo: there has to be a staff member or former staff member on the SoCo. It does seem risky to me to put two current staff members on the SoCo. Both people have unique qualities, but I don't think it outweighs other qualities currently missing from the SoCo, such as diversity of opinion. Both staff members are also still employees when the board takes office, thus choosing their supervisor. I think both people are competent, but ASVA has more than enough competent former employees.

Christiaan: My contract expires Oct. 1, Charlie's contract Nov. 1 so we don't have to work a long time under a new board.

Milena: On a 13-month board year, it's still a quarter of the time you're board. That does provide a power differential.

Melissa: Those first few months are also the most uncertain of a board.

Izabella: We have considered it, we also do bias training. We trust this staff to make a good choice. Other than that, the staff are not a majority.

Milena: But ASVA has so many former employees, why didn't you ask them? Why two, and not one?

Izabella: We have a list of people we asked if they wanted, Charlie and Chris wanted. Besides, we thought they were good candidates, with keen insight into people. Enough knowledge and capacity to leave it that way.

William: I don't understand how capacity, knowledge and skill would lead to better handling of conflicts of interest.

20:01 Lotte and Miles have left the room.

Izabella: If you are better aware of the bias you have, you will also be better able to deal with conflicts of interest.

Milena: Has Charlie let you know yet how she's going to practically combine being chair of the presidency when she's on the application committee?

Izabella: She hasn't let us know, but we have a presidency vice chair who could fill in at those points.

c. Vote

For: 10

Against: 9

Blanco: 1

Because there was no majority of votes in favor, the application committee was not approved.

Andra: There should be an application committee.

Henk: There should be a nomination in the calendar year, the next GA is Jan. 8.

Teun: We could have another conversation to see if there can be an acceptable nomination right now.

Andra: We still have to do policy plan and budget anyway. We could pause and then see if we want to adjust anything else, or vote on this again.

Milena: Would we then have to vote again on the same proposal? Because that's basically not possible.

Andra: In principle, anyone can make a motion or amendment. But for now the proposal is rejected, we will come back to it later.

9. Policy Plan

a. Presentation

Izabella briefly presents the plans in the policy plan, titled. First, questions by main point below, then on the policy plan in general.

b. Questions

Education

William: Regarding internships and promoting internships attracting those that give an internship fee, does that mean that internships that don't give a fee will go away?

Ilona: Our goal is to insist more on colleges promoting as many/only internships with compensation. In doing so, we are not saying that no internships should be done without compensation, but we want at least the job board to explicitly state whether compensation is included.

Milena: About Education-WO, the last two policy goals are about working with CasualUvA for better teachers' rights. In the past, ASVA has supported CasualUvA with the idea that mentally healthy teachers deliver better teaching, but I think it goes far to

organize for CasualUvA so I would suggest deleting these goals.

Gideon: I strongly disagree. Disconnecting students learning from teachers teaching seems metaphysical and not really useful. If we see it from the perspective where a lot of the students are going, education also provide plenty of employment. It's important to couple the interests of students to their teachers. It's really important to stand in solidarity with our teachers when so many of them are heavily struggling.

Milena: I'm not advocating separating, but I am advocating that we don't actively advocate for teachers' interests, because we primarily advocate for student interests. In housing, we also don't advocate for more senior housing because students will be senior citizens later. We shouldn't send too much money and resources there, because we don't have them in abundance.

William: Of course we are there for students. What happens to teachers has a less direct relationship, but a big impact on education.

Izabella: I understand the point but I don't quite agree, fighting for better teacher interest is also fighting for the student. If the teacher has more capacity, the student also gets better teaching. With more permanent jobs teachers can also speak up faster, because that is not the case now there are less critical teachers in front of the class. I think we are shooting ourselves in the foot by saying we are only fighting for students.

Nina: As a portfolio education-WO we also held an event about this, and the well-being of teachers has an impact on the well-being of students, and there is also a direct demand from students to fight for this.

Gideon: I think on this point there are a couple of direct examples, one of ASVA's goals is improving education, giving students support. If teachers don't have the time to give written feedback, or scrap written assignments instead of multiple choice. If teachers only have 20 minutes per student to look at the exam, they have to work overtime. And what Milena said (you could struggle for the rights of dentists, lawyers): yes that's true, but that was my secondary point, my main point is the connection between teachers and students.

Nina: About the 8-8-4, it says that an investigation is being conducted. What if it turns out that there is no better form, will ASVA send a letter to the CvB?

Izabella: If there really is no possibility of improvement we won't send a letter, but I think for example re-exams are often placed oddly.

Gideon: Some of the teachers have to do the same with less contact hours in 7-7-4, which gives them stress.

Brechtje: You want to abolish the BSA regulations, on what timeline?

Izabella: Specifically: we want to abolish the BSA, no timeline for that. Unfortunately, this issue has been declared controversial after the fall of the cabinet. According to the BoE, it can no longer be adjusted for this year. The only thing this year is still talking with deans.

Sven: Why do you guys want it to be abolished?

Izabella: It is stressful for students, many students go to do the same or a similar study in another place, many students don't make it due to personal circumstances. Some deans then cut them slack, others are strict. We want to reduce the pressure to graduate nominally.

Brechtje: Your goal this year is to engage in conversation?

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Izabella: Our goal this year is to work to abolish the BSA.

Nina: To what extent are you guys willing to go over to protests?

Izabella: Says nothing about it, if it proves necessary we are willing to go over to protests.

Housing:

Melissa: You don't have to answer this, but I know in our year at Riekerhaven we had been criticized by De Key because it was about youth housing instead of student housing. Now that our relationship with De Key is less financially dependent, are we doing more with youth housing?

Henk: It is difficult, many students live in youth housing. The municipality is trying to include student housing under youth housing, which is harder for students to achieve.

Coen: I see a point about squatting, I find it bizarre because squatting is illegal.

Henk: It's true that it's basically illegal, but the housing shortage is bizarre and the vacancy rate is 10%. We are advocates of squatting, it is civil disobedience but we live in a time when there is no other way.

Coen: But for me it was mostly about international students. You can squat just fine, but I don't know if ASVA should inform the student about that.

Teun: Squatting is of course super cool, but illegal, but advertising for squatting is not. Squatting consultation is mainly for questions about squatting.

Milena: In March last year, ASVA passed a motion that ASVA is for squatting. You can choose to change that, but then you have to make another motion.

Henk: I also think it's in ASVA's DNA.

Sven: It says: we ... again ... in the last sentence. How are you going to make it work now? Henk

: We have monthly meetings and this is a topic that comes up regularly.

Gideon: I felt social housing, container housing, were understated in the paragraph. Yes, squatting needs to happen but it's not an end-goal: the end-goal is enough accessible high-quality housing.

Henk: We are committed to housing safety anyway, including fire safety. We also urge the municipality to put more effort into social housing.

Teun: I had added points about the sustainability of student housing; I don't see that included. Why isn't it included?

Henk: We already have a lot of goals on housing, I don't know why sustainability was dropped, but we have three staff members and quite a lot of goals: if we put more in there there is also more chance of not achieving it.

Student welfare:

No questions.

Services:

No questions.

constituency:

Milena: About the heading AKvV, the first goal is that next year we have a board member for the AKvV. I think it's ambitious, because we don't go about that ourselves: we supply an applicant might be better. In our board year the AKvV had no interest in a shared board member, so also from that consideration I think it is difficult to achieve this.

Quinten: Our idea is not necessarily a shared director, they just often get few applicants. Our idea was to get more involved in governance as ASVA, we want to get involved in this. For example, by helping to set up a recruitment committee. The point is multi-interpretable, whether you provide an applicant.

Milena: I understand your point, but I would rather see: we provide at least one applicant for the AKvV board.

Christiaan: Don't you also have an interest in the collapse of the AKvV.

Quinten: I don't know that I would say it's better that there is no AKvV. But the policy goal might indeed be better changed, I would suggest an amendment.

Melissa: How many joint member associations does ASVA have with AKvV?

18.

Gideon: In collaboration with AKvV we try to go for checks on social dispute hazing. Besides that, I have a comment. Hazing is "fraternizing through humiliation," which is quite an awful concept. I would argue against legitimizing it with checks. At its core we should struggle against it.

Quinten: There are sororities where this plays very much with humiliation. What this policy goal is referring to is that with hazing, there is no supervision of social vileness, that can go wrong. We always want supervision. It doesn't always take away everything.

Milena: I'm not going to get into a substantive discussion about hazing, but have you asked AKvV if they want this too? In the past they have not been so keen on ASVA getting involved in hazing.

Quinten: We haven't asked if they agree with this, but we do have good contact with them and they know what's going on with us.

Gideon: A lot of hesitation has a lot to do with the character of the associations with the worst hazings. I think it's pretty characteristic of the bourgeois associations. I think there is a tactical discussion to be made: your goal is to create a socially safer situation, and with the character of these associations: why would you spend your time lobbying for a social safety measure when that is such an antithetical request for them?

Christiaan: I won't go too much into the hazing discussion, but one of the goals is to promote the association culture, so I can't imagine the AKvV would agree to this.

Milena: Based on my earlier question, could I ACTION POINT that the policy goals about external organizations be submitted to external organizations? If external organizations don't want that.

Izabella: AKvV also has an ALV, even if we discuss this with the board their ALV may not agree.

The board does take the action item.

Internal Organization

No questions.

General+Annexes:

Gideon: It was to do if ASVA would organize for BSA: What could be done is to connect BSA to student debt, the housing crisis, because they all have an impact on each other.

c. Vote

Amendments:

Milena #1:

Delete goals Education-WO CasualUvA (page 6)

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For: 2 Against: 10 Blank: 2

Proposal rejected.

Milena #2:

Change: "We will provide a director for the AKvV next year" to "We will provide an applicant for the AKvV next year"

For: 14

Against: 0

B: 0

(note from the note taker: there was quorum in the room for both votes, a few people abstained)

Disagreement: 5

Entire policy plan

For: 18

Against: 0

Blank: 0

The policy plan, including amendment, was adopted.

PAUSE: Until 9:20 p.m.

10. Budget

a. Presentation

Quinten presents the budget on behalf of the board and gives a brief explanation.

Melissa explains the advice of the audit committee: Melissa sees concern precisely because the subsidy from De Key has disappeared. The treasury committee's advice is whether this is in line with the financial plan, and whether this is wise of ASVA: the more you go into the minus, the harder it is to cut back. There are some more practical points. While there is a realistic picture of the income and expenses, the ALV will have to express its opinion on how it feels about the minus.

b. Questions

Nina: It says there is a plan for fundraising, how?

Quinten: We are creating an acquisition committee.

General:

Milena: Membership dues, the projected amount is about the same as 2023 but according to your policy plan you are aiming for more members, why is this not reflected in the budget?

Quinten: Because it is never certain if this will succeed.

Milena: But that's not how policy plan and budget work. If we always assume the most conservative situation you never work that deficit away.

Quinten: Budget does have to always reflect policy goals. I chose to play it safe now.

William: It's good to be ambitious, but it gives a distorted picture if we assume many more members, then we have an even bigger financial problem if we don't achieve that.

Office & Organization.

No questions.

System Administration

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No questions.

Internal

No questions.

Marketing & Info No

questions.

Platform

No questions.

Services

No questions.

Reservations:

Brechtje: You say that you are not planning to make lustrum reservations because they were not used last time. Does that happen for other reservations as well?

Quinten: Four years ago there was a lustrum, but not paid from the lustrum pot. As a result, there is now a lot of money in the lustrum pot and we don't have to put money aside.

Gideon: How much was spent on the lustrum?

Quinten: €10,000 is always budgeted, but I don't know how much was spent.

Milena: The pot wasn't used then either because the treasurer didn't know the pot existed, so take it into account that it will be used next year.

Advice KasCo: Milena

: I think it is hefty that we are going from 35k in the minus to 60k in the minus, I understand that a subsidy was eliminated but on this footing you have to cut 60k at some point. The financial plan focuses on winding down in a healthy way without suddenly having big holes in three years. I am really concerned about this deficit and wonder if you have done your best to cut back. Otherwise, bigger choices may have to be made in the future.

Quinten: It's not that we're not thinking about it and not taking action. The financial plan also says to reconsider when employees' contracts expire. We haven't made those choices yet, it doesn't mean we're not prepared to make those choices.

Gideon: You can see some from the lustrum.

Milena: Yes, 10k for a lustrum is a lot of money, but on a budget of 300,000 it doesn't put a dent in it. More than 60% of the money goes to employees. I think you have to make these kinds of decisions right now, the budget is as realistic a reflection of your policy plan as possible.

Kade: We brought it up for discussion as KasCo because we think the ALV is making an informed decision here. The budget is correct, but the ALV should be aware of the consequences.

c. Vote

For: 1

Against: 4

Blank: 2

The proposed budget was rejected.

Quinten: There has to be a budget, otherwise we can't spend money in the new year, so we have to see what now.

21:39: Meeting suspended for 5 minutes. 21:44 reopened.

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Andra: The board has asked people if they would like to make an explanation of vote, if the board can do something immediately.

William: The discussion got a little confused about which perspectives were opposed, so I didn't realize what was happening. If it was clear to me what the concerns were I might have voted decisively.

Esther (BoA): I want to point out that if there is no budget on January 1, no money can be spent.

Nina: I didn't think it was clear why money was spent on akvv? But not on NGOs that are more in line.

Quinten: That is also what the acquisition committee is for, to look not only at FNV but also at housing associations and the like.

Andra: Explanation?

Quinten: Indeed, we need the budget for expenses, and reasonably we cannot schedule an ALV before the end of the year. I would suggest an amendment to approve the budget now with an agreed amount.

Milena: I think it's a good idea.

Simon: So do I.

Milena: Would the cashco dare to make a suggestion?

Kade (cashco): What you guys just decided was a policy choice, but I looked at last year's realization: then we were 35k in the minus, I would suggest maybe aiming for that. You can also choose to want less in the minus, to 25, 10k. To the 0 is very ambitious, but you guys can opt for it.

Milena: Does the cashco have any advice?

Kade: We can't get together for good advice. But you guys have made an informed policy choice.

Simon: I don't think we necessarily have to propose an amount, but the point is that a budget of 60k is not possible.

Brechtje: I think it's okay to go to a similar realization from last year.

Milena: For me between 30k and 40k in the minus okay.

Izabella: I do want to add that the financial plan talks about cuts, when we talk about 40k there is a post of 25k gone so

Quinten: There are also practical and moral objections to having reserves. I mainly think it's not good a

Gideon: I thought it was a bit too much, though it is arbitrary. But part of the reason is that there is a lot of money for lustrum, in practical and moral consideration. 10k is a bit extreme and extravagant.

Quinten: The reservations are not part of the budget, they are also not set expenses: that's only next year.

Nina: What happens if we don't adopt a budget now?

Quinten: There has to be a budget, if we want to do expenses it's calendar year.

Wietske: An amendment has been proposed.

Coen: I don't think 60000 is realistic, rather 50000. In terms of membership numbers many members can also join.

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Teun: Since I myself have quite a lot of doubts about the amount, I suggest multiple votes in a row with the amount so we can still set it democratically.

30-40k cuts:

For: 7

Against: 10

Blank: 0

Abstention: 3

40-50k

For: 15

Against: 1

Blank: 0

Abstention: 6

50-60k

For: 3

Against: 9

Blank: 2

Abstention: 8

The budget was passed with the instruction for the board to reduce the deficit to 40-50k.

Milena: I want to pass along, that you can also fill a budget deficit with more income. This can also be done by writing to funds.

Financial plan, Policy away from board, and vision members are pushed forward to the January 8, 2024 AGM.

11. WVTTK

Nothing.

12. Round-up

Andra: The drinks will be at Fest.

Quay: Henk said Jan. 8 for the next ALV, but website says Feb. 8?

Andra: Last ALV an extra ALV was already scheduled on January 8.

13. Closing

The ALV closes at 22:04.