



University Council

**Date**

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**Subject**

Response to Student related advice from the Covid-19 Taskforce

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**Your reference**

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Dear members of the University Council,

Thank you for the advice we received regarding 'Temporary reduction BSA to 45 EC in all Faculties', 'Stimulate a voluntary pass/fail grading system', 'Priorities in scarcity', 'new possible spaces on and outside the campus' and 'Online examination'.

We understand your concern about the impact of the Covid-19 measures. The board shares the concerns you put forward especially since not long after we received your letter, we came to face another lockdown. In this letter we would like to respond to the suggestions and advice you have given.

In terms of grading:

- **A temporary reduction for the BSA to 45 EC in all Faculties during this crisis year**

On Tuesday, January 12, it became clear that the lockdown that has been in effect since December 15 will be extended by another three weeks. Partly for this reason, the Netherlands' universities have jointly decided to lower the BSA standard that applies to first-year bachelor's students.

It is agreed that the measures will lead to a reduction of the BSA standard by a minimum of 10% and a maximum of 15%.

All students will be informed about the specific implications by their programme coordinator as soon as possible, because the programmes and curricula at the EUR differ in structure and the number of credit (ECs) that are allocated to courses.

- **Stimulate a voluntary pass/fail grading system**

This is an interesting suggestion. We will discuss this with the Education Directors given that the decentralized regulation of exams and examination requirements is in principle a faculty matter. The schools can individually decide to change this,

although there are some practical arguments against adjusting the grading model during the academic year.

**In terms of physical education and spaces that are open on campus:**

- **Priority in Scarcity / Considering new possible spaces on campus**

We share your concern for students especially those who are in a vulnerable position. During the lockdown period, the 400 study places in the Library are still available via the registration system. This has also been the case during the Christmas period. At ISS, EUC and Erasmus MC we aimed to make available as many as possible study places. We will monitor if it is necessary to scale up in 2021.

Since we strive to organize as much as possible on campus, we will look at what is feasible after the measures are relaxed.

- **Considering new possible spaces outside campus**

Before the lockdown, we were in contact with the municipality and Luxor about extra study places and physical examinations. We have finished preparing for the study places in Luxor. We can realise 100 extra study places when the measures allow us to use them. Since the options outside campus are scarce, alternatives on campus will also receive further consideration.

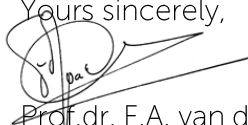
- **In terms of online examination**

Just as we want to provide as much physical education as possible, we also hope to move quickly towards more traditional/on campus sitting of examinations within the prevailing measures. Students in need can submit a request to sit his/her examination in a physical setting, which will, in any case, be maintained even during a lockdown period.

We understand the request for more physical exams, but the recent lockdown has shown that Online Proctoring will still be needed for the coming period, to prevent study delay. We will however ensure that this meets with all requirements. We also discuss alternative examination on regular basis with the Education Directors. This also applies to hybrid education.

Again, we would like to thank the University Counsel for its communal effort to gather useful information from within the EUR community and sharing your insights. We propose to schedule a meeting to further explain this letter and the current situation.

Yours sincerely,



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