



International Student Council
KU Leuven & Odisee
Campus Brussels

Executive Committee Agenda & Meeting Minutes

DATE:	01/10/2019
START:	18h
END:	20h
CAMPUS:	Brussels
BUILDING:	T' Serclaes
ROOM:	B07-16

Agenda

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Introduction of IASR for new students
3. Debrief of the Welcome Week 2019
4. Discussion on how the events could have been improved
5. Feedback on the Admission and Registration process
6. IASR vision 2020
7. Elections for available positions in the Executive Board of IASR
Note: Please be present should you wish to be a candidate in this election
8. Open Discussion (of any other topic you feel is important to be discussed)

*By Students
For Students*

Section 1 – Approval of the Agenda

Section 2 – Introduction of IASR for New Students

The meeting started with a brief explanation what IASR is. We introduced IASR as the bridge between the students and the faculty, as the voice of the international students.

Section 3 – Debrief of the Welcome Week 2019

This year there was a 50% increase in the number of students registered for the BBA program.

Since ASR did not expect such growth we were not prepared for that many students. As a result all the events were very crowded

What has been discussed:

- Everyone agreed that the event unfairly organized specially the way the tickets were given out. The main problem was the fact that the tickets ran out very quickly and the people in the back didn't get any since there was not a proper queue. It was an unfair 'first come first serve' system which meant that the people who were still registering didn't have the chance to get tickets. The ticket distribution was unfair and there was a lack of capacity. There weren't enough seats. The people who registered the next day had no chances of getting tickets at all because we had 0 tickets left. Therefore, for next time we should save some tickets for the second start event as well as increase the number of limited capacity events, for instance we had two tours, and we should increase it to three.
- Everyone said that the rooms were very crowded. There were too many people coming at once. There was no proper line so if you were in the back, you couldn't really tell which line to go in to get a certain ticket.
- Many students recommended that we should have let the students about the events through e- mail that they have a start weekend so that they could maybe book the activities they could do for that week.
- Everyone enjoyed the **trip to Leuven** and the free lunch which they said was really good. For the next time we should plan a second trip to Leuven on two different dates before the second registration.
- Everyone found the **campus tour** useful but the complaint was that there were too many people and only one tour guide so not everyone could really hear him. Many students said that the information was so boring because it was too long. It was interesting but after 15 minutes it started becoming very boring because he was talking about a lot of unnecessary details
- Everyone was quite pleased with the **feed me** event.

- Unfortunately the **bike ride** was a low capacity event which was only for 14 people. The event was meant to end at 4:30 but the tour person said that it would end at 5:30. There was basically an overlap with her classes and the events which wasn't cool as she wouldn't have gone to the event if she knew earlier. Otherwise the tour was very interesting.
- Everyone agreed that it was not a **culture shock** at all. It was way shorter than what students were expecting so many students were confused. For the next time we shouldn't give 3 prizes to one person.
- **Where is Johan** was not our event. It was a treasure hunt event. No one knew anything about the event and everyone was confused. Students who attended said that nobody heard the instructor.
- 125 people went to the walking tour and everyone enjoyed it. The students found it very informative. It did take some time as the guide showed them a lot. Still, students said that the one ESN organized was a lot better. The issue was that both of the guides were over 60 years old so they were very slow. They were giving out boring information eventually. Maybe next year we should consider finding another agency.
- **River cruise Brussels** was a bit uncomfortable because of the cold. Also there was a lot of garbage around which devastated students. People argued that if they only went half an hour earlier so that they could see the sunset which would've made it a lot better and for next time there should be music as well. According to the students, the tour guide was useless and you couldn't hear him nor understand him, no one cared or paid attention when he was talking.
- **Pub crawl** got positive feedback from the students and everyone agreed on that we should organize it again next year.
- **The buddy program** was not very successful. Many people do not have a buddy, some of the buddies did not even respond or communicate with the students.

Section 4 – Discussion on How Events Could Have Been Improved

Many students said that they were not informed about all the ongoing events, and even if they were the whereabouts were quite vague and confusing. For the next time it would be very helpful if the time of the event, where the event is, what is the event about, could all be posted on the social media platforms and send it to their e-mails in full detail and also include reminders.

Section 5 – Feedback on the Admission and Registration Process

- Most of the students were quite confused about the whole ISP process. Still, students were sent to the right places to get more information and the help desk was very helpful (The process of accessing the ISP and how to get it done is a bit confusing).



- Board members' idea was to tell the administration that with the ISP information they could put down the contact information of the ISP coaches.
- Registration is on multiple days so to solve the issue of too many people showing up at the same time, we could make sort of a doodle where only a certain number of people could go in each hour to register this way everyone could register, ask questions and get some help and it wouldn't be a whole mess.
- An info session for second years on how they could extend their residence card and how to re-register for next year in necessary since the students are confused and concerned about the process.
- We have to make sure to find a way to point out that if you skip re-takes, you will get N/A...when you get N/A, you cannot renew your visa registration ... which means you will not get an extension. Many non-European citizens don't know this because it's sent in a pdf file which is 4 pages long and it's written on the bottom of the page, so you can miss it very easily. With an N/A you might not get your visa reviewed. But you should have at least two N/A.
- We should ask the university to refresh their website about the 20 hours per week has been changed to 475 hours a year which is around 3 months and a half. You can work 475 hours and not be taxed but more than that you will be taxed (When you get the residence permit you also get the student work permit).

Section 6 – IASR Vision 2020

We will focus on organising events and activities concerning, psychological wellbeing, social life, general assemblies, diversity and Inclusion, celebrations as well as trying to support and help international students on academic/campus related matters.

Parsa explained all the following events in detail so students could have more information about what ASR is doing and how it's functioning.

1. The Presidents' conference
2. The Deans' Reception
3. Assembly for International Students A.F.I.S
4. Halloween decorations
5. Christmas Event
6. Christmas decorations
7. Exam stress relief activities
8. Grand ball
9. International CANTUS
10. Pride week
11. Goodbye party



Section 7 – Elections for Available Positions in the Executive Board of IASR

Anastasia has been elected for the Marketing Manager position. The two team members which were chosen are Doruk and Susan.

Team members for the event manager were also chosen and the chosen students were Ryan, Sofia and Dicle.

Section 8 – Open Discussion

- Significant number of students complained about the inconvenience of the microwaves around the campus. The fact that there are not enough of them and that they are all in one spot makes a chaotic situation during lunchbreaks.
- The size of the cafeteria become an issue within the rising number of students.
- The food options in the cafeteria are very disappointing considering the people who are vegetarians, vegans, gluten free, plant-based people. There needs to be more diversity in the menu.
- Non of the people working in the cafeteria are able to speak a word of English.
- There were complaints about the vending machines, how they're always empty and/or how they're always out of order and not working/functioning. Most of the year they're not working. Also the vending machines only include junk food., nothing healthy which they should also consider.