



# Election General Assembly June 2018

*Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2018*

*Prepared by Ruben Dominguez Payne*

## List of those present:

**Universalis Social Board and Academic Council:** Eleanor Kelly, Paulina Raniecka, Hannah Grijns, Ruben Dominguez Payne, Stephen McCarthy, Erick Jackaman, Rion McCall Majan, Freya C. Walker, Paul Grass, Lennart Salek Nejad.

**Independent Body Members:** Thilo Buchholz, Chih-his

**Members:** Mishael Quadeer, Jonathan Scheon, Lea Pehnt, Esther Salem, Laura Robinson, Sanne Schaller, Lisa van der Poel, Sander Brouwers, Eva Bartner, Juliette van den Brule, Hannah Rae Savage, Phineas Shapiro, Bernard Lafontaine, Lisette van Loo, Judith v. Lookeren Campagne, Ana Rosas, Lottie Kunze, Pierre Schmit, Maxine Fowé, Paula Pleuser, Sarah Körtl, Max Grigatsch, Marla Schiefeling, Agust Leo Axelsson, Emma Bussi, Houra Javadi.

**Proxys:** Alice Worrall appoints Eleanor Kelly

## Overview & Purpose:

This GA is mainly about voting in the new Social Board, Academic Council, and Independent Body.

## Minutes:

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Welcome to the Election GA. To begin, we have a UCSRN announcement from Stephen.

Stephen McCarthy announces and explains that Juliette van den Brule was also voted in. They still need somebody to take up the external, treasurer and secretary positions. Consider applying, it is lots of fun! For any questions feel free to message Stephen and/or come to next UCSRN GA.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Now we will go through the general procedure of a GA; we have the IB and also the secretaries taking the minutes (which will be published online later on).



Thilo Buchholz gives the IB introduction, explaining the most important rules and reminds the students of the motion forms at the front. He explains the procedure for if you want change in statutes and how the elections done by secret ballot. He continues to explain the procedure for procedures that do not comply with policy manual as well as how to use a procedural motion or a technical point for if you cannot hear or if you want to extend duration of speech. All this information can be found on the website.

Paulina Raniecka: There is also a sign up sheet being passed around - please sign with your name.

Stephen McCarthy: If you have any motions to pass, I will pass the forms around.

Ríon McCall Magan: The AC has a few motions so I thought we should pass it now?

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Hereby declares GA open. He reads the agenda. I believe we can take motions in now. Any complaints for agenda?

Thilo Buchholz: I will take care of the ballots for voting.

Paulina Raniecka: Please switch new committees agenda point to before board member vote.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Because of time constraints, the committees will be discussed before the actual board members.

Ruben Dominguez Payne asks if agenda is accepted, and the agenda is passed by a majority.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: All in favor of the previous GA minutes?

*Minutes passed. 1 abstention.*

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Okay so we will start now with the committees then! First committee that is becoming a new one is the Book Club.

Judith van Lookeren Campagne: introduces herself as a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student with a wish to set up a book club. In next week's meeting they will discuss Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. She says she looking forward to fruitful discussions and a lot of reading fun.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: To my understanding, proposed committees are not secret ballot.

Thilo Buchholz: Yes, proposed committees don't need to be voted upon. They are only formally introduced.

Freya Walker: Are books provided?



Judith van Lookeren Campagne: There is still a bit of discussion about that because we are not an actual committee, so have been paying mostly on our own. Another idea is to provide an audio book for people who have some disabilities. Maybe we could propose a bookshelf in the reading room - still discussing; we will see.

Stephen McCarthy: This will be voted upon in the next GA.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: All in favor of passing the book club as a new committee?

*All in favor, no abstained, no against. Book Club is now an official committee.*

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Next up, we have wellbeing!

Jonathan Schoen: Hi, I am representing the wellbeing committee. Basically, we are trying to improve wellbeing here at UCM with events like Sharing Mondays. We do not have too many active members yet, but we are hoping to have a more active semester next semester. We look to make sure we have discussion in which we can all be open.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Any questions? All those in favor of well-being becoming a committee?

*All in favor, no abstained, no against. Wellbeing committee is now an official committee.*

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Next up, we have the PINE committee!

Paula: We represent the Pluralism in Economics committee. This is something you do not find at all unis. We plan to rethink economics and economics courses, mostly neoliberal ones. As Maastricht University turned out to be 95% classical liberal practices in economics education, we want to diversify the curriculum at UCM. We want to offer input for fostering debate and to show other approaches to economics education.

Maxine: It used to be a purely student-run community which wasn't a committee, but we decided to change that and become one of the societies under Universalis. We will be hosting a Conference on Capitalism and economics in 2 weeks. Moreover, we are planning on organizing more workshops and lectures as the new committee, so there are quite a few events coming up. We also had an idea to organise a protest, collaborate with academics and students, and look to network across the Netherlands. The idea to push more pluralistic economics at UM.

Jonathan Schoen: To promote new courses or change existing courses?

Marla Schieferling: Both of those. We are proposing a new course. Economics and Society will be a new course, but we also want to change old courses.



Paula: As Wolfgang says, adding something means taking something away, so it'll be both.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Also for clarification, there is no big change for PINE. The only change is that they will have an executive.

Lisette van Lowe: Where did your budget come from previously? And what about your budget now?

Maxine: Previously it came from UCM. I don't know now but it'll be more official regardless. Now we will also be able to make an official budget under Universalis

Ruben Dominguez Payne: All those in favour?

*One abstention, rest in favor. PINE is now an official committee.*

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Moving on to motion forms. The first four are from the AC.

Phineas Shapiro: Wait, wait. We first have to vote upon hearing the motions.

Thilo Buchholz: Were they ad hoc?

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Yes, ad hoc.

*All vote in favor of hearing the motions.*

Ruben Dominguez Payne: (reads) Noticing that Budget GA slides are not in published in advance, they need to be published first.

Ríon McCall Magan: In the budget GA, we passed a budget and then we had a difficulties with making changes. So having the budget earlier would be helpful.

Paulina Raniecka: The issue then was the bonding money. It was not that the slides were not online, but while passing it we agreed on the bonding money for the Social Board in the first round and then (because it was passed) changing it did not work. So, the issue was about the order and that everyone voted to pass it.

Hannah Grijns: Usually slides are not online, but we can move it earlier if you want. However, the PDF is online. This is a week in advance.

Erick Jackaman: With breakdown of activities?

Hannah Grijns: Yes.



Phineas Shapiro: I am confused. Are we talking about the final financial report or the proposed budget?

Ríon McCall Magan: We are talking about future budgets, not past budgets.

Hannah Grijns: The PDF with future budgets is online.

Paulina Raniecka: Make sure not to vote for it, if you know something else will come up later.

Ríon McCall Magan: We can't go back in time and unpass it, to prevent that from occurring.

Paulina Raniecka: Even if you have it a year in advance and you know exactly what to address and you are prepared, you still need to make sure it's not passed by the law of majority because that was the problem last time that it was passed too quickly.

Thilo Buchholz: Please raise your hand.

Phineas Shapiro: How about instead of making a change in the policy manual that would allow us to make amendments in the budget during a GA instead of having an arbitrary 'two weeks before' rule.

Erick Jackaman: These are separate points. If everyone reads it the budget before, it would make GA go much quicker.

Stephen McCarthy: there will be a policy manual discussion in the future. This will be at the next GA.

Hannah Grijns: Usually the executives of each committee discuss the budget with the committees before. Maybe this year that did not go that smoothly, but usually one would know in advance.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: So would you like to make an ad-hoc motion?

Phineas Shapiro: Presents an ad hoc motion; We should have something in the policy manual about this. Our budgets for fall semester are being made now.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: The motion on hand is the publication of slides, so let's pass that first before moving to a different issue. If you want to make a change, we can do that later.

Ríon McCall Magan: The treasurers need to make sure that the PDFs are online on time.

Freya Walker: Specifically with the breakdown.



Ruben Dominguez Payne: Noticing that Social Board gets 50€ and the AC gets 25€, considering that we are equal, everyone should get 25€. The Boards suggest that everyone gets 25€.

Phineas Shapiro: So to make sure it is clear, we are lowering the bonding money.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: All those in favor?

*One abstention, rest in favour. Lowering bonding money for the Social Board passes.*

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Next up, president and chair elections. Noticing that voting “abstain” is counting as a no-vote and is calculated against a representative, considering that “abstain” is not synonym for no, it should not be counted against the majority.

Thilo Buchholz: Coming from the IB, this decision needs to be announced to all the members of Universalis at least two weeks in advance. So if you want to change the procedure you need to make a change and announce it to everyone.

Erick Jackaman: I don't believe there is a point in policy manual.

Ríon McCall Magan: Then it would be an addition to the policy manual.

Thilo Buchholz: This consists of a change in policy manual and even if just a change, changing the policy manual without notifying people should only be for ad hoc motions in the GA. According to point 6 or point 4 of the policy manual, we need to push it to the next GA because we need to notify the UCM students. We can do this at the next GA.

Ríon McCall Magan: In this case, we would also like to take out the next motion.

Erick Jackaman: I'd just like clarification; if a motion requires a change in the policy manual, we need to submit 2 weeks in advance?

Thilo Buchholz: Yes:

Ruben Dominguez Payne: All in favor of bringing in the next motion?

Ruben Dominguez Payne: The music committee has a motion. They are asking for more budget.

Phineas Shapiro: But ad-hoc motions can also ask for a change in the budget,

Stephen McCarthy: Historically this has been done. A change in the policy manual cannot be done but budget has been allocated in the GA.



Bernard Lafontaine: To be honest, if there is a way that would allow us to know in advance we wouldn't do it, but this is an urgent change. The motion is for urgent changes for upcoming events.

Thilo Buchholz: Is there a reason this could not have been 2 weeks in advance?

Bernard Lafontaine: We couldn't do it in advance because obviously we didn't know we will need that. We didn't know what worked and what didn't in due time.

Lennart Salek Nejad: I have a question about the ad-hoc motions. Firstly, we need to make sure that we all want to discuss the issue. We need to respect democracy

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Motion to discuss music committee motion.

*Motion read, 5 abstentions.*

Phineas Shapiro: Noticing that our gear sucks; Considering that music equipment is used all the time, we ask for 509€ for new speakers and 49€ for a new snake. This is 618€ in total.

Bernard Lafontaine: During the last open mic, we had technical difficulties all throughout the show. This didn't happen spontaneously; it was a gradual deterioration of the equipment. We have many events coming up and we would keep the equipment for the foreseeable future.

Paula: What happens to the old equipment?

Stephen McCarthy: In response, the previous speakers will be kept at UCM, but the snake won't be used. The previous snake is broken - it cannot be used.

Freya Walker: Just to clarify, you just said that the money is supposed to be taken out from the surplus budget?

Hannah Grijns: Yes, we have sat down and discussed this.

Rion McCall Magan: Do we have enough surplus for this?

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Yeah, my question was the same. So we have enough budget for this?

*Hannah nods.*

*Motion passes, all in favour.*

There is another motion from Phineas Shapiro, but it is agreed that it will not be discussed today but at the next GA.



Ruben Dominguez Payne: Next thing is passing the new board members! And we will start with the Social Board.

Chih-Hsi Hu: I am so sorry but we have made a mistake - we didn't print the ballots. It's a big mistake, so once again, we are sorry. Can we ask you to do it manually? *Explains voting procedure.*

Mishael Warraich: Can people please speak once at a time? Also, please speak up and respect each other because it's just very messy at the moment.

Jonathan Schoen: Can proposed board members vote at all?

Thilo Buchholz: Each person has a right to vote for everyone.

Jonathan Schoen: So I can vote for myself basically?

*Resounding yes.*

Stephen McCarthy: In order to conserve space on balance, write Y for yes, N for no, A for abstain.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Cool! Okay let's start with Universalis Social Board. First up - Mishael!

Mishael Warraich: Introduces herself as a 2nd year; she applied for post of secretary and president. She is looking to get involved in UCM on a larger scale and make some sort of effective change, e.g. trying to solve dying committee issues and improve collective wellbeing. If you any questions, feel free to ask!

Lisette van Lowe: I don't want to sound offensive, but we never see you at the well-being committee meetings.

Mishael Warraich: Interestingly enough, the Arts and Photo committee and wellbeing committee has worked together, so my committee (Arts and Photo) has been heavily involved

Pierre Schmit: Given that you are also president of Rhetorica, how will you manage the balance?

Mishael Warraich: Fair question. I am the president of Rhetorica which is the inter-faculty organization. The job entails administration, but we have many other positions, so it is more



of an oversight and managerial stuff kind of job. Throughout the year what happens we have two workshops a week and some meetings, so it's a lot of managerial stuff more than being a president 24/7. Therefore it entails more delegation than being active, so I will have a lot of time here. If I was not to be a member of the SB, I would apply to be the Coach which is a more intense job than the President.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: The next proposed candidate is Laura for treasurer.

Laura Robinson: Explains she is very new here at UCM as she started in February. She really liked the way people get involved here and wanted to get involved in some way here herself. She is studying maths at UCM (still trying to figure out what application of maths) and loves that getting involved in the Social Board makes sure that you are interacting with people.

Chih-Hsi Hu: Oh! A technical point from Mishael.

Mishael Warraich: Yep, we don't have ballots to vote. *They are handed ballots.*

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Next, Juliette.

Juliette van den Brule: Explains she is a 2nd semester UCM student. She likes that this position combines both being active here at UCM but also outside UCM, as we need good rep at UCSRN (especially seeing as we are slightly more south). She wants to make sure we have great events and a good UCSRN tournament.

Phineas Shapiro: I am just making sure that because you are representing both UCM and UCSRN that won't be a problem..

Freya Walker: Representing us at UCSRN is an interest of UCM!

Stephen McCarthy: I want to give Juliette the opportunity to answer, but will be here to possibly elaborate.

Juliette van den Brule: Obviously I will listen to the others, but we do have to push our interests forward at UCSRN as UCM.

Jonathan Schoen: Isn't it that it's only the External Executive who can run for the position at the UCSRN board that Juliette ran for?

Stephen McCarthy: In terms of running for social chair, the only people that can run are proposed candidates. UCM and associations similar can propose a candidate member to run if they were not able to. Otherwise we would never be able to have a UCSRN representative whatsoever.

*Stephen continues to explain the way the UCSRN board works.*



Ruben Dominguez Payne: Next up we have Jonathan!

Jonathan Schoen: Explains he is 18 years old and running for social exec, taking over the position from Paulina. He likes UCM's nice cosy atmosphere and wants to keep it going and be a good exec for the committees. Moreover, he wants to make sure that we, as a board, function correctly, by keeping up communication etc.

Paulina Raniecka & Eleanor Kelly: Babyyyyyy!!

Jonathan Schoen: I'll be turning 19 soon!!

Paulina Raniecka: I'm still testing him. (Hehe).

Pierre Schmit: Aren't you quite inexperienced when it comes to Photoshop?

*Laughter from the crowd.*

Jonathan Schoen: Yep, me and Pierre were talking about this recently. I told him that I don't actually have any experience and he told me he will definitely ask me about loads of posters. As a social exec, I need Photoshop, and as Photoshop has a free trial, I am already practicing at home. I also have a housemate who professionally makes posters, so I will ask him to help. I will get the experience!

Ruben Dominguez Payne: As is the tradition with election GAs, one member is always forgotten on slides. Please come up Esther!

Esther Salem: Hello, I'm Esther, as you cannot see. So, my motivation to be on board has started with the committees. I was a part of musical and through that I felt very connected with the community. She explains she wants to get to know UCM staff better and is excited to bring her own ideas and creativeness to the job and being as present as possible.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Any questions?

Marla Schieferling: So, what position are you running for?

Esther Salem: Acquisition Exec.

Hannah Grijns: Why did you go for this position specifically?

Esther Salem: I was running for another position as well but I thought it will be more interesting for me to work with the UCM staff. I like the creative aspect and am able to do so with this position.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Now we are moving on to the AC. First up, Freya!



Freya Walker: Sorry, I was just complaining that I really need to wee. Currently, I am the events coordinator, but if all goes well, I want to be treasurer. I was working as assistant manager in a shop so I feel very comfortable with it, really passionate about student representation and EPC. Some examples of what I want to do is take fail off transcripts and give science students the opportunity to receive a BA instead of BSc.

Ríon McCall Magan: What kind of shop were you working at before UCM?

Freya Walker: A gourmet fudge shop.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Next up, Lea.

Lea Pehnt: Hi, I'm Lea. I'm in my second semester now and I was running for the External Executive at the AC. I want to become more involved in UCM community. I enjoy events but also want to have more of a role on the admin level. I am excited about EPC with Freya, as well as the Freiburg exchange. I was born and raised there so I feel I can help organise a really fun exchange between both UCs.

Stephen McCarthy: Do you have any plans for other academic exchanges?

Lea Pehnt: With other UCs in the Netherlands perhaps!

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Cool! Thank you very much! Next up, Ana.

Ana Rosas: Hello! I'm Ana. I am 20 yrs old and come from Venezuela. I'm an active member of a few committees at UCM (FemSoc, GECCO). I want to be events coordinator of AC because I enjoy being involved in UCM community. I am interested in representing students - we are indeed at the heart of this institution that we all care about. Students come and go and the AC should keep up with the interests of students now; we would like to create new platforms for students to combine social life with academia.

Lea Pehnt: Do you already have an event in mind that would represent students' interests?

Ana Rosas: Well we have UCMx right now, which is one of my favourite events. Many 1st years apply, but not a lot of 2nd or 3rd years sign up. We would like to try an event to present their research results etc. This gives us more motivation to work on our own projects.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Thank you very much. So, following we have the Independent Body elections, starting with Phineas.

Phineas Shapiro: Introduces himself and explains he is already on a few committees here.



Jonathan Schoen: You just got onto the FSE Student Council. Do you think these jobs will clash?

Phineas Shapiro: FSE should be one to two times a month as well as a few DOPE meetings, and I have other meetings too. So that's three meetings with them, maybe four. FSE council is a commitment, but for the IB I expect long periods of nothing and then long periods of audit.

Paul Grass: Very very quickly. What is your interest and the source of motivation?

Phineas Shapiro: I love this community. I want to make sure it works well and smoothly, and there are changes that need to be made in policy manual.

Bernard Lafontaine: How are you going to manage all your interests?

Phineas Shapiro: I am no longer in the musical. For music committee, I am not exactly sure. Most of what I will end up doing will be for the music committee.

Paulina Raniecka: How do UCM courses come in?

Phineas Shapiro: I have a plan.

Mishael Warraich: Where is the time for your sanity?

Phineas Shapiro: What sanity? Weekends.

Ágúst Axelsson: Will you get fired from your job? What? Phineas!! Time!!

Phineas Shapiro: Let me plan my life!

Lennart Salek: Can we stop asking funny questions and power through?

Ruben Dominguez Payne: Next up is Thilo!

Thilo Buchholz: You all love me and you all hate me. I have experience in the job. Not suited for these reasons: I am not independent at all - I am actually a part of a few organizations. Not suited because I know members of social board. The reasons you should vote for me are obvious. If you want me to be your slave I can do that!

Stephen McCarthy: Do you actually want to be on the IB?

Thilo Buchholz: I can be slave if you want but I don't have to. I simply do many other things and that is a fact, but it is very important that there are three IB members, so vote me - I want to be on IB.



Chih-Hsi Hu: There are 3 people, what if there is a gap in activity?

Thilo Buchholz: Even 3 of us can manage what needed to be done, it is very appropriate that everything works.

Pierre Schmit: Are you more or less independent knowing you were already on the IB and have some experience?

Thilo Buchholz: I am very independent. No committees, like most of Universalis members. The IB should be as passive as possible.

Marla Schieferling: How does the voting work again?

Chih-Hsi Hu: You can vote for every one of them yes and no and abstain.

Erick Jackaman: If you have an abstention, does it count against candidate?

Stephen McCarthy: I really hate to say this, but it is a yes and a no. It is in accordance with the policy manual. At the next GA we can discuss this.

Ruben Dominguez Payne: And next up we have Sander as the new member of the IB!

Sander Brouwers: I am happy I changed my profile pic 2 weeks ago, as I want to be member of the IB. I have been here for almost a year and have participated in the musical. I did not do anything else for UCM community I must admit, but I want to improve myself and still want to do something here. The IB is necessary, because otherwise everything explodes. I find myself a real in-between, as I am a listener but am also creative.

Stephen McCarthy: What do you think of the current policy manual?

Sander Brouwers: To be honest, I was not yet able to dive deep, but I will of course. I will have a proper opinion later.

Chih-Hsi Hu: You said you are involved in musical?

Sander Brouwers: Yes, but only as a player.

Ruben Dominguez Payne reminds committees about semester plans. The votes are counted and all new members were elected.

Ruben Dominguez Payne declares the GA officially closed.