

Gezamenlijke Vergadering

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Bijlage(n) -

Betreft **Ongevraagd advies inzake Algemene Instellingsgebonden Ethische Commissie**

Geacht College van Bestuur,

The General Assemblée (NL: Gezamenlijke Vergadering and henceforth referred to as GV) at the University of Amsterdam is writing this unsolicited advice to requisition the reinstatement of the Algemene Instellingsgebonden Ethische Commissie (henceforth referred to as AIEC).

Art. 1.7 WHW, guidelines regarding the ethical aspects of the university will be brought to the ethical committee for advice. However, since the last meeting of the AIEC was on the 7th of February 2019 and has been dormant since then, we feel that these ethical aspects are not sufficiently protected by the ethical committee. As was previously discussed during OVs with both the COR and the CSR, we would like to see the reinstatement of the AIEC to protect the ethical integrity of the university. Since the UvA is a university that holds their ideals in high regard, the assurance of ethical integrity is of the utmost importance. Therefore, we send the unsolicited advice for the reinstatement of the AIEC.

Ensuring proper functioning of the AIEC

Since the last Ethical Committee became inactive, we want to propose certain actions to ensure proper functioning of the new AIEC, once established.



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As we discussed previously, the AIEC is capital for the well-functioning of the University of Amsterdam and therefore an incentive to the effort is necessary. We believe that the amount of time and effort that is required in order to run the AIEC properly is consequential enough to be deemed a financial compensation to all members. And with the status and responsibilities that come with the position, the extra work produced by staff and students should be fairly valued and rewarded. Indeed, as their work would not only be essential but also both far-reaching and meaningful.

The committee must be tasked to advise the Executive Boards and the Deans on the guidelines established by the CvB regarding the ethical aspects associated with the institution's activities; to advise on solicited and unsolicited matters related to ethical aspects related to scientific research and education; advise on policy regarding the ethical assessment of research.

In the event that the faculty ethical committees do not have an opportunity to evaluate the activity's ethics; the project's evaluation should fall under the AIEC responsibility. Eventually, any collaboration or research should be evaluated by one of the ethical committees of the university.

The committee sets out to ensure proper moral conduct in all the activities of the UvA including, but not limited to, research funding, partnerships, social security, staff management, and investments. In doing so, it will take into account both deontological aspects of matters as well as the rationally foreseeable, ensuing consequences, both in line with the pre-established values and societal mission statement of the University of Amsterdam. We therefore believe that the AIEC should be able to have the right of initiative on all matters related to the ethics of the university.

Possible steps for reinstatement of the AIEC:

The CSR is convinced that to reinstate the AIEC, as a matter of urgency, the following steps should be taken:

- The Executive Board should strive to find the chair of the AIEC, who will be ready to take the lead on proper formation and further development of the AIEC.
- The AIEC should have access to its own *secretaris*.
- The Executive Board should announce the vacancies in the AIEC for the new staff and student members so as to fill the vacancies. The GV states that the previous situation, where one member of the COR and two

members of the CSR take place in the AIEC is desirable for the renewed AIEC as well.

- Each Faculty Ethical Committee should nominate a member who will join the AIEC as a representative of the faculty ethical committees.

We hope to see the reinstatement of the AIEC and hope to be included in the process of the reinstatement.

Hoogachtend,

Nina Hol
Voorzitter
Gezamenlijke Vergadering 20|21

Gerwin van der Pol
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