

Datum 6 januari 2016
Contactpersonen Naomi Appelman
Bijlage(n) -
Betreft **Re: letter ReThink concerning the selection procedure for members of the Board of Directors**

Dear members of ReThink,

The Central Student Council (CSR) would like thank you for the support and commitment that you expressed in your letter, and wants to say, first and foremost, that we share your concerns. You addressed several issues and proposed two courses of action; we would like to respond to these points separately.

Before we address these points, however, we would like to emphasize that the CSR has been working on and fighting for this procedure since last May. A lot has happened since then and some things have been conceded in the negotiations. The CSR, as an official organ of the UvA, needs to keep this in mind when we think about possible improvements of the procedure.

Regarding your request that the shortlisted candidates present themselves to the university community, the Student Council is sad to inform you that it has demanded this several times already from the Advisory Board in various meetings, to no avail. In June, the Central Student Councils and Works Councils of the UvA and HvA made a joint proposal regarding the selection procedure, in which this demand was also included. When the Advisory Board presented the final version of the procedure, and this demand, amongst others, was not included, the CSR heavily protested this move. After a round of negotiations last September we managed to win ground on certain points (for instance the members of the selection committees) and lose on others, amongst which the demand of public presentation. The Advisory Board adjusted the procedure accordingly and the CSR officially voted in favour of that procedure - this means that we have formally lost the right to contest the procedure.

In October, the CSR received clear signals from several student organisations that they were very discontented with the current procedure. We then protested the procedure again. The Advisory Board, however, refused to change the procedure as they already had the our vote as required.

It is clear from the above that the CSR isn't capable of contesting the procedure formally, but we wholeheartedly support your effort to create a more transparent and democratic procedure and we have worked hard for the same goal. That's why the CSR has decided to ask the candidates, via our members in the selection committees, to publicly present themselves to the university community.

Concerning the time frame for the *draagvlakgesprekken*, the CSR was not informed about any time frame whatsoever. The procedure, upon which we voted also did not mention any specific period in which we would have to finalize our advice. If the time frame is indeed 24 hours, we would very much like to know what your source is. We will then be sure to contact the Advisory Board to inquire why we were not informed and what the reason is behind this extraordinary short time frame.

We hope to have informed you sufficiently and we regret not being able to provide any solutions to the valid problems you pose.

Yours sincerely,



On behalf of the Central Student Council 15/16
Naomi Appelman