

Amsterdam 14-05-2019

Aan: Prof. dr. Vinod Subramaniam (rector magnificus of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Van: ODC-FGB, FSR-FGB

Betreft: Recommendation Portfolio Holders FGB

Dear Prof. dr. Vinod Subramaniam,

The Employee Council and the Student Council of the Faculty of Behavioral and Movement Sciences have carefully reviewed the nominations of the three Portfolio Holders to the Faculty Executive Board. Prof. dr. A. Daffertshofer is nominated for the Portfolio Holder Research (1 juni 2019 - 1 juni 2023), prof. dr. A.H.M. Willemsen for the Portfolio Holder Education (1 juni 2019 - 1 juni 2023) and prof. dr. M.E.J. Raijmakers for the Portfolio Holder Education graduate school (1 juni 2019 - 1 juni 2021). The Employees and Student Council have examined the attached CVs of the candidates, the letter from the Faculty Board and discussed the proposed candidates in a meeting.

We would like to compliment the selection committee for finding the candidates from three different departments (Movement Sciences, Psychology and Education Sciences), as well as for taking important steps for achieving a gender balance in the Faculty Board. It is, however, unfortunate that there were so few applicants. We would like to receive a reflection from the search committee regarding such a meager response. This will be important for improving future searches.

We are pleased to inform you that the Employee and Student Council are both positive regarding all three candidates. In our view they all demonstrate impressive track-records in both research and education, are known to staff and students, and have ample experience in fulfilling management positions. To both Councils it is of the most importance that the new members of the board maintain a close connection to staff, students and supporting personnel, see the value of our input and act on it, strive to create and maintain stimulating and healthy working-environment and communicate in an open, respectful and constructive manner. We are looking forward to be working together with the Portfolio Holder Education on how we can make our educational process more efficient, reducing the overlap in courses and distributing the workload across the departments, maximizing on the available expertise and cutting down on bureaucracy. We are concerned about the rapid increase in the number of students and feeble future career perspectives for teaching staff, which together with the previous point, contribute greatly to the experience of high work pressure. In our view, for the Portfolio Holder Graduate School it will be important to improve the visibility of the Graduate School of the Faculty, making it findable, accessible and useful for students. One important addition to current practice in our view would be an independent committee that regularly monitors and evaluates the quality of supervision for PhD and Master's projects and assists students when actions need to be taken. In general, we would like to see the tasks of the Portfolio Holder Graduate School formalized, since at this points it is still rather unclear what they are. With the Portfolio Holder Research we plan to be working on improving scientific collaboration among departments, sharing content and method knowledge, improving methods for assessing scientific quality and improving career prospects for staff involved in research.

In conclusion, we give a positive recommendation to the appointment of prof. dr. A. Daffertshofer, prof. dr. A.H.M. Willemsen and prof. dr. M.E.J. Raijmakers for positions of Portfolio Holders Research, Education and Graduate School, respectively.

We look forward to productive and close collaboration.

With best regards,

On behalf of the Employee Council and the Student Council of the Faculty of Behavioral and Movement Sciences,

Artem Belopolsky (head of the Employee Council), a.belopolskiy@vu.nl

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