

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

[All documents discussed can be downloaded here](#)

On the 5th of October the University Council met with the Executive Board for the first time since the new Council started.

The main topic of the conversation were the plans of the Executive Board regarding the reorganization. At the requested of the council, the request for advice was not yet on the agenda this cycle because of the latest developments at the faculty Management and Governance. It recently appeared that the faculty MG has to eliminate a deficit of € 2 million on top of the other planned budget cuts. First the Council would like to await the opinions of all the faculty councils and the responses of the deans before giving a formal advice to the Executive Board. However, a number of issues have been discussed with the Board.

About the University Council

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At the moment the members of the UC are: Frits Lagendijk, Jann van Benthem, Björn Harink, Dick Meijer, Gert Brinkman, Frank van den Berg, Jan de Goeijen, Jan Schut, Herbert Wormeester, Lianne ter Heegde, Petra van Waarden, Eric Gropstra, Mirte van Geloven, Sofie Kooreman, Oscar Escobosa Bosman, Dirk-Jan Cornelissen, Afshin Eftekhar, Erik Meijer

[First discussion reorganizational plan Route 14+](#)

In the June-cycle the Council agreed to the criteria for judging the research groups in the reorganization. This is a part of RoUTE'14+ and will contain the quality compared to profile, valorization and education. Looking at the proposed plans from the faculties it does not become clear if and how these criteria have been used (in some parts it even looks like age is used as a criteria).

This aspect is also clearly mentioned in the advices the faculty-councils have given. The Council focuses on clarity and transparency in the whole process and wants to know how the criteria are used.

It is important that all staff members involved in this know the details of the reorganization: concerning the financial and policy-necessity, the goals, the quality-assets where the chairs will be assessed by and the strategic choices. Furthermore the current and future organization should be presented clearly, along with the differences in the number and types of functions that are needed in the future. Lastly the jurisdictional consequences like changes in functions or discharges should be clear. On basis of this information the negotiations with the unions can start concerning a social plan. Because the

reorganization is handled per faculty, the advice is given by the Faculty Councils and implemented by the deans, clarity about the targets of the budget cuts per faculty and the partial plans per faculty should be clear to all parties. Based on the judgments of the Faculty Councils the University Council finds several missing pieces, uncertainties and inconsistencies. The University Council shall send their comments to the Board.

The Council had also many questions concerning the finances. For instance: what is the requested reduction per faculty and is the promotional premium the right tool? To what extent will the faculties be hit by these changes? Where will the cuts be invested? How to interpreted the additional proposed cuts and how did they decide for the generic discount? In 2015 the costs will return to the faculties, how are they going to handle this? The Executive Board has to give additional clarity and arguments for these subjects.

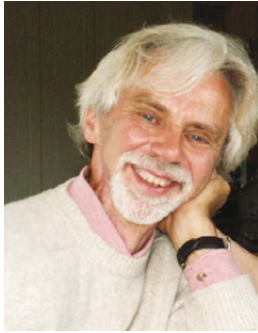
Concerning the subject of education and the connection to education/research the Council asked two questions. Firstly about the future of the Bachelor Onderwijskunde (Educational Sciences), the Board mentioned that the changes in education would not remove any studies. Nevertheless the dean of GW (Behavioural Sciences) mentioned in the UT-news that the study is already planned to be abolished. The rector Ed Brinksma said that nothing has been concluded yet. The abolishment of the bachelor Onderwijskunde currently is not a part of the requested choices, but internally discussions have already started, for instance on the question if the study should now focus primarily on the Master-education. Consent for abolishment from the University Council is needed before able to formally abolish the study.

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Furthermore the Council asked questions about the link between research and education, which was not described in the reorganizational plan. The



rector indicated that this link will to be safeguarded in the future, the Board wants to handle this differently. Especially the link on a Bachelor-level will be handled in a balanced manner. The precise form of this link is still unclear, but will be explained in the upcoming Bachelor Note.

To respond, send an email to: f.i.lagendijk@utwente.nl

[Advice campusvision](#)

A first version of the Campus Vision has been discussed. The Board as well as the Council thinks that the campus makes the UT more attractive as an University, especially for international students and PhD's. The financial situation however makes the possibilities for investments very limited. This however does not necessarily mean that no plans can be made using the current budget. The Council is an advocate of creating a new



Unity Campus, responsible for sport, culture and events, which will be led by the campus manager. This unit preferably would be a part of General Affairs. The Council advised the Board to more elaborately define the tasks and cooperation with the Student Union in the next version of the vision.

To respond, send an email to: t.m.j.meijer@utwente.nl

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