

URNews 2 February 2010

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

Announcements

The discussion meeting of 27 January 2010 once again included several interesting matters which made for a fruitful discussion with the Executive Board; the implementation of the Real-Estate Plan for 2010, the Draft Budget 2010, the evaluation of the reorganisation process Efficient Modern Operational Management (EMB), the results of the assessment of engaging external expertise, the progress (or lack of it) of the Graduate School, the Strategic Plan ECIU and several other interesting matters for discussion. A brief report by the spokespersons can be found further on in this newsletter. To let the University Council know your views, send an email to:

info@uraad.utwente.nl

The next discussion meeting with the Executive Board will take place on Wednesday 3 March at 9 am in Horst Toren 1300. [Subjects](#) to be discussed at this meeting include the Evaluation of the *Onderwijsnota* (education policy document), the Education and Examination Regulations Guideline for bachelor programmes, Monitoring Budget and the Code of Conduct English in the bachelor programmes.

The council's meetings are public, all interested persons are welcome to attend!

Concerns about preliminary registrations

The council has expressed its urgent concerns about the preliminary registrations for the next academic year. Nationally, the figures are the same as those of the previous academic year, but according to reports the number of registrations for the UT has been halved. The council wants to know the reason for this and wonders whether the introduction of the new visual corporate identity has indeed achieved the intended effect.

The Executive Board agrees that the number of preliminary registrations for the UT is cause for concern, but hopes that the figures will increase.

At the council's urgent request, apart from preliminary registrations also the December figures, the number of the certificates and the trends - as used to be the case - will again be included on the UT website.

School of Management and Governance to be fully housed on Campus

After prolonged insistence from the University Council the Executive Board has ultimately made the final decision to fully house the School of management and Governance on Campus, partly in Ravelijn and partly in Spiegel (second floor). Details will follow.

Evaluation Kick-in

The University Council was presented with two bulky reports containing the complete evaluation of the pre-

vious Kick-In, drafted by the Orientation Committee (IK). The main point for the council was the collaboration of the uni-

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versity with Saxion to arrive at a joint orientation, as is the case in almost all the other university towns. IK 09 identified three problems; in the areas of introduction to the institution, capacity and a perceived cultural difference. The council wondered how the Executive Board now sees the future and whether the views of the Student Union, IK and the Executive Board are still in line with one another. The Rector answered that in the next years, the collaboration will be limited to the part of the Kick-In in which the orientation focuses on Enschede and its surroundings, thus following the advice of the IK 09. In due course more intensive collaboration is

not ruled out. So, for the moment, to the council's satisfaction, everybody is in agreement.

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p.d.prins@student.utwente.nl



Real-Estate Plan 2010-2014 version 2010

In this cycle the Real-Estate Plan again featured on the agenda, having been moved on from the previous cycle due to budget changes. In the Plan we have focused on the UT's primary process. Projects for students should be given precedence over prestigious projects. Spaces designated for students from the same academic year, the housing of the School of Management and Governance and the housing of the student societies were discussed. The main point is that it is made clear why certain choices are being made. Therefore, the prioritisation of lots needs to be more clearly defined. Promises were made on all issues and we agreed to the Real-Estate Plan.

Of course we are curious as to its further implementation.



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n.a.m.leone@student.utwente.nl

Position Student Union

Recently, relations between the Student Union (policy-setting on behalf of the Executive Board for, among other things, Sports and Culture) and the Student & Education Service Centre (responsible for operational support) have come under increasing pressure, resulting in desired student activities often being needlessly delayed or frustrated. The problem is caused by the present system, in which the Student & Education Service Centre unit Sports and Culture is accountable to both the SU and the Student & Education Service Centre; two captains on one ship. This results in

contradictory decisions, which has an adverse effect on the decision-making process resulting in effort, time and money being misspent by both parties. The University Council posed a question on this subject to obtain clarity on the current situation and how to deal with the issue. The problem was acknowledged and promises were made to quickly address the problem together with the parties involved. We have to wait and see; we feel that much is to be gained in this context.

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UReka

At the moment UReka is the largest student party of the University Council. UReka distinguishes itself from the other parties by its proactive stance and initiatives outside of the University Council. We focus specifically on the students and have intensive contacts with, for example, the student societies, policy officers and, of course, the students themselves. We regularly write articles for UT News and organise happenings and debating evenings.

All council members have their own projects besides their work for the University Council. What are our focus areas this year? Among other things, teacher qualifications, personal attention, subject assessments and internationalisation. Check out our website: www.ureka.utwente.nl for an update. At the moment we are also involved in looking for successors and people with ideas.

Draft Budget 2010-2014

The draft budget was also discussed in the previous (December) cycle.

Due to amendments to the budget in response to the Supervisory Board's observations, this document again featured on the agenda. The University Council is positive about the fact that a multi-year budget is now available. The trends in results in the medium term are now visible as well. However, no supporting performance data (target figures) have been included in the multi-year budget. This applies both to the units and to the UT as a whole. Because of this, it is difficult to assess the realism of the multi-year budget. The council establishes that although spending cuts are in place (Berger Committee), at the same time the number of OBP appointments and management positions WP in the scales 13-18 have substantially increased in the past few years. On the other hand, the Executive Board strives to decrease the extent of *permanent* academic staff ("the primary process") and has decreased the number of jobs in lower OBP scales. The University Council considers this imbalance undesirable.

The University Council has some reservations regarding the level and the continuing of TCOs (*Tijdelijke Centrale Ondersteuning*; temporary central support). The council is of the opinion that in future, TCOs should be granted exclusively on the basis of specific plans with clear objectives, a fixed time schedule and assessable criteria. The council is also concerned about the fixed staff costs assumed by projects based on a TCO.

ECIU strategic paper

– the network is still too busy to create any added value

In this cycle, the University Council talked about the ECIU's strategic set-up. Questions about the strategic plan concern in particular the progress of the project, a more effective working proce-

These (staff/hardware/software) costs possibly continue to be chargeable to the budget of a Service Department/Faculty indefinitely, which in turn is at the expense of the regular provision of services or results in new reorganisations. During the discussion meeting the Executive Board was asked to "explain to the University Council how the Executive Board will better stick to the budget compared with previous years". The University Council was happy to hear that the Executive Board promises to shortly (next week) issue a memo on Budget discipline at the UT. Partly because of the above promise, the University Council has given a positive advice on the Draft Budget 2010-2014.



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dure, and the added value for students. Summarising, we can conclude that much work is still to be done. Flierman was aware that more communication was required within the network, in particular in view of the fact that the mem-

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Elections University Council (Uraad) 2010

The elections for the University Council are approaching, this year both for students and staff. Nominations will take place on 21 April 2010 and voting in the week of 31 May until 4 June 2010. For more information about nominations and elections, go to our website:

www.utwente.nl/uraad/verkiezingen2010

bers only meet twice a year. At this moment there is a website and internal access for staff, but apparently this platform is still made too little use of to proceed with any content. The Executive Board will see to this. In order to make people more aware of the advantages of the ECIU which the student network offers and to set it up as a network more effectively, the collaboration with Erasmus is to be strengthened further. Furthermore, by organising Summer Universities, the ECIU wants to effect more exchanges of students. The staff component is another important subject the ECIU wants to deal with. Flierman considers the international exchange of researchers and professional expertise an important subject that is still in need of improvement. Nevertheless, the ECIU has realised more exchanges here than for students. In addition to students and staff exchanges, the ECIU has the intention to assume a stronger role within the

European Committee. In the past year, the committee has asked for a benchmark as to how internationalisation is to be maintained at ECIU Universities.

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s.hackurtz@student.utwente.nl



Conclusion University Council: reorganisation EMB largely a failure

The Executive Board had an interim evaluation conducted and has taken a decision about a number of points for improvement. The University Council compared the results of the EMB with the targets laid down in the 2007 reorganisation plan and concluded the following:

- Envisaged spending cuts of €5 million have not been achieved by far: half of the cuts are paper savings within the faculties. For the other half, the target has been adjusted downward by €0.7 million by "new policy", whilst none of the remaining amount has been realised.
- The envisaged decrease of 47 FTEs for support has in effect resulted in an expansion.
- An important point of discussion in 2007 was the basic package of ICT and educational support services: there are still no agreements about these. What do the service centres do for their money?

The Executive Board considers the University Council's conclusion premature

and is very confident that the target, albeit at a much later stage, will be achieved as yet. However, the Executive Board wishes to include the targets and success factors in a definitive evaluation as yet. This will take place in 2011. The discussion did not bring the University Council to change its position on the EMB and it advised to focus more on an efficient working procedure, specific targets and gradual changes in the future, instead of complex organisational changes that detract from the content and quality of the work.

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t.m.j.meijer@utwente.nl



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The University Council:

The University Council (URaad) is the central representative body of the UT and holds regular discussions with the Executive Board. The council has 18 members (nine staff members and nine students). The council has a say in UT policy at the central level. Five parties are represented on the council: Campus Coalition and UReka, Pro-UT, Lijst Chairman and PvdUT.

The members of the University Council are:

Oscar Bloemen, Bouke de Loos, David Smits, André Veenendaal, Jan van Alsté, Frits Lagendijk, Laura Franco Garcia, Sandra Hackurtz, Mark Franken, Dick Meijer, Stas Verberkt, Silke Kücking, Jann van Benthem, Peter Prins, Marije Telgenkamp, Herman Poorhuis, Jan de Goeijen and Nick Leoné.

Engaging external expertise

The University Council is concerned about the large amounts involved in engaging external expertise. In October, we have raised questions about this, for example which important issues required external expertise; what tasks the external advisers had to perform and what objectives needed to be met. Also questions about the extent, time and costs of the expertise hired. The Executive Board's answer showed that this involved approximately 9 million euros in 2008 and also in 2009, which comprise more than 3,000 transactions of faculties, institutes, service centres and central institutes such as Strategy, Marketing & Communications (S&C), Personnel

department (PA&O) and the Executive Board. The University Council has never been asked for advice by the Executive Board although this should have happened. It appears that the Executive Board does not provide any steering in the way in which external expertise is engaged. The Executive Board settles for the limited amount compared with the total UT budget. The University Council urged to realise part of the forthcoming spending cuts through a limitation of outsourcing and external advisers. In future the University Council will be informed about major expenditure and be asked for advice in case of expenditure exceeding 250.000 euros.

Institute Councils

The University Council is of the opinion that co-participation has still not been properly arranged at a number of research institutes. However, academic directors take important decisions with far-reaching consequences for staff and research. A recent example concerns the decisions taken by the MIRA director with regard to research priorities, as a result of which some permanent staff will possibly be made redundant. At this moment no assessment is made whether this concerns a reorganisation

and the staff and students involved have no say. These decisions also have consequences that may be passed on to the faculties. The University Council has therefore formulated a number of written questions to be put to the Executive Board. The University Council for example considers that it has to substitute for the lacking institutional co-participation. The Executive Board has other ideas about this and this item will therefore be put on the agenda for the next meeting.



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j.a.vanalste@utwente.nl

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