

# NEWSLETTER

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

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## Introduction

The question for consent on the updated Strategy Memorandum (RoUTe 14+) took a long time to discuss in the meeting with the Executive Board (in the presence of the Supervisory Board). But there were also many other subjects: UT-scope Examination Policy, Student Charter, Agreement Student Union –University Twente, Key Performance Indicators of the Institutes, Enrollment Policy, Memorandum Framework, BSA and the University College. A summary of the most important subjects can be found in this newsletter.

The Council welcomed a new member: Gert Brinkman. He replaces Sjef van der Steen, who had to end his membership for private reasons. The next consultative meeting with the Executive Board will take place on the 5th of October in Horststroom 1300. Council meetings are public meetings; interested parties are invited to attend the meeting.

## Enrollment Regulation

Initially we had several questions on these new regulations concerning the limited moments in which students could enroll into a Master. However these issues were already so well-explained before the consultative meeting that the Council advised positive about the changes. Pre-master student can now enroll as a master student but they will be registered as a bachelor student so they can enroll twice a year. Now it is also possible for students who have obtained their bachelor's degree to directly register as a master student at the University Twente in the following month. Lastly the *ludicium Abeundi* described in this regulation will for the time being only be in effect for the study of Technical Medicine. If this is also necessary for other studies new discussions will follow in the future.



Remarks or questions? Mail to: [a.m.benneker@student.utwente.nl](mailto:a.m.benneker@student.utwente.nl)

## Bindend studieadvies (Student Progress Evaluation (BSA))

In the past college year the student progress evaluation (BSA) has already been discussed several times. At first the discussions were mainly about expanding the BSA for the studies Psychology and Educational Sciences and the Council gave his consent after the Executive Board promised to provide proof that the demands for a BSA were met by these studies. Because the Council doesn't think it's wise to have participation on multiple levels, they have proposed that the Faculty Council of GW (Behavioral Sciences) makes the final decision. The Council should be informed afterwards. This will mostly be about the course-specific demands within the BSA. The Executive Board has approved the proposed procedure and it will be now implemented.

## UT-scope for Examination Policy

In this cycle the UT-scope for Examination Policy and a Plan of Action for implementing this was discussed by the Council. The Council is optimistic about the current policy and is convinced that the principle of "together where possible, custom-made where necessary" should be leading. The Council is curious about the results of this policy and would like to see that studies will actively be pushed to implement this policy. The Rector agreed to inform the Council on the results. In the next cycle a more extensive plan of action for the different standardization goals which are part of the Institutional Quality Care System will follow. This way the Council could have a clear overview of how these different plans and scopes work together. The Council approved with the scope for Examination Policy and gave a positive advice on the plan of action for implementing it.



Remarks or questions? Mail to: [e.m.kunst@student.utwente.nl](mailto:e.m.kunst@student.utwente.nl)

## Student Charter

In April the Council had already given an advice on the completely changed Student Charter and in the consultative meeting of 22 June 2011 it was on the agenda for approval. This totally renewed Student Charter is now much smaller and all the regulations and articles have been reconsidered, but this has no effect on the Council's rights of participation. Provided that the participation keeps guaranteed, the Council can approve the changes of the Student Charter to this extent. The Executive Board understands this and agreed to send a clear overview whether the Council's advice or consent is needed.

The Executive Board was also planning on abolishing the so-called STAN-regulations; this is an option that gives students without a Dutch Student Grant the possibility to get graduation months for being active for the UT. In the concept-decision the Council asked for keeping the regulation, because the Executive Board didn't have a vision on activism yet, so it is too early to make such rigorous decisions about this subject now. The Executive Board however didn't agree with this suggestion from the Council. This resulted in a discussion where the Executive Board clearly indicated that they thought it was a pity there was such a big difference in view and they didn't want to take the responsibility for keeping this STAN-regulation, so the abolishment shouldn't be postponed. The council gave arguments about that the UT would then make decisions before The Hague would, because there still is no final *Langstudeersregeling* (Study Delay Regulations). The Executive Board kept holding to their opinion that this is a regulation that shouldn't be kept. They also stated once more that students normally get slowed down within the time they get Student Grant, so these students would still get graduation funding and shouldn't be a problem.

After a short assembly suspension the Council gave an alternative proposal: the right of getting graduations funding with voluntarily delay wouldn't be based on the Student Grants, but on the normal study-period plus one year of the students study, a so-called C+1 arrangement. The Executive Board thought it was too early to respond to this, and wished to wait for The Hague. They did say that this same C+1



rule(Bachelor+Master+1) would return as a base for the piece Regulation Graduation-Grants. The last consent that the Council asked for was the Vision on Activism, the Executive Board agreed to provide this document for consent in November. The Council finally consented with a majority on the new Student Charter.

Remarks or questions? Mail to: [m.a.schraa@student.utwente.nl](mailto:m.a.schraa@student.utwente.nl)

### Strategy note RoUTe 14+

In December last year the Executive Board announced an updated strategic vision and implementation of the Institutional Plan RoUTe14: RoUTe 14+. This new vision also focuses on the profile of the UT where the technical and societal-sciences are combined and strengthened with the motto High Tech, Human Touch.

As a reason for these changes the Executive Board named the relatively heavy research-infrastructure of the UT, the declined marketshare, the need for more focus on internationalization, the poor study yields and low study speed, the broad scale of small studies and declining government funding. The Executive Board also promised to the Council that the need, scale and phases of the budget cuts/redeployments would be based on an judgement of the expected cuts and the previously named causes would be the evaluation criteria that will return in announced elaboration(does the elaboration match the causes?).

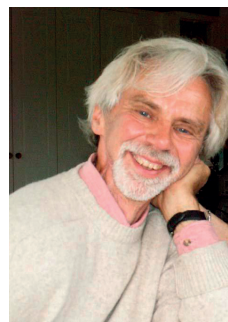
Regarding research the Executive Board wants the UT to focus more on specific excellent areas and making a division between three types: fundamental, valorizing and education-related. The Executive Board promised that the education would retain its link with related scientific research because of the critical mass of research-groups. The way the financing of the research groups will be structured will follow in the coming Memorandum Control Research.

An important aspect was defining the criteria for redistributing the research groups, because these are an important aspect in the reorganization of the research. In an earlier stage the Council convinced the Executive Board that next to explicit research criteria – like scientific output – also the educational activities of the group should form important criteria. The Executive Board confirmed among others that currently no Bachelor-studies are confirmed to be abolished as a major yet and the link between education and research will be guaranteed. Procedurally for the Council the promise that the deans – within the now on a central level defined scope and criteria –present their choices for a sufficiently broad and study-supporting scale of research capacity to their faculty council for advice. The Council focuses on the view that working carefully in the planned reorganization is more important than the speed, because working too fast would result that faculty employees on a decentralized level would not get the opportunity to formally have a say in this process.

The plans of the Executive Board for restructuring the Bachelor education ("Twente Educational Model") have been discussed

in detail and supplemented with several remarks. Especially the enforcement of the quality of education and the concerns that not every study fits the framework of the general demanded modular curriculum were for the Council important issues. Related to this the plans for a University College were discussed as well. About both subjects the Council had some unanswered questions, also related to the financing and desirability of these plans.

Agreed was that the Board continues the development and the final consent will follow in a later stage when all the Notes are the final versions. This will also be the case for the Bachelor Portfolio where the Executive Board will present a proposal for



clustering the bachelor-studies. Last but not least the financial bases of the strategic plans were discussed. The Council wants to see a better base for the financial needs and scale of the planned cuts and redeployments. The Executive Board has confirmed that they will provide this clarification before further decisions will be made.

Remarks or questions? Mail to: [f.l.lagendijk@utwente.nl](mailto:f.l.lagendijk@utwente.nl)

### KPI's Institutes

After discussing this subject the Council choose not to make a decision on the Key Performance Indicators of MIRA and



MESA+. This decision will be postponed and redirected to the yet-to-create Institute Councils, where these questions belong according to the Council. It is expected that these institute-councils will be operational in August.

Remarks or questions? Mail to: [b.harink@utwente.nl](mailto:b.harink@utwente.nl)

## About the University Council

The University Council is the central participation body of the UT and discusses regularly with the Executive Board. The University Council contains of 18 members; nine staff members and nine students. The University Council has a say in the policy of the UT at the central level.

In the council five parties are currently represented: Campus Coalitie, UReka, Pro-UT, Lijst Chairman and PvdUT.

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, Eva Kunst, Ellen Langerwerf, Pieter Willems, Andrea Lehmkuhler, Miranda Schraa, Beer Sijpesteijn, Sjoerd van den Bedem, Anne Benneker and David Smits.

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