

# NEWSLETTER

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

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

### Introduction

On Wednesday 29 September, the University Council held its first meeting in its new composition with the Executive Board. Besides the items referred to below, the plans for the Reorganisation of the Communication Function (now an advice, subsequently possibly approval) were discussed, in which context the Executive Board promised to present the council with a memorandum on the communication and recruitment policy. The council expressed reservations with regard to the base of support for the plans in the faculties. In particular with respect to the capacity for providing study information, in which context affinity with and knowledge of the specific programmes play a major role.

Also the possibility of an accelerated right to grant a doctoral degree (ius promovendi) was discussed. Using the practical example of Groningen, the Executive Board intends to give senior university lecturers with proven qualities that make them suitable to become a professor the right to grant a doctoral degree. This right will then mainly be used in the context of an appointment in accordance with the Tenure Track. In principle the University Council adopts a positive attitude about this, but only if there are guarantees that all this fits in with the statutory framework and the academic job-ranking (UFO) system.

The next consultative meeting with the Executive Board will take place on 10 November 2010, at 9.00 am in the Horst Toren 1300. The University Council meetings are public meetings, interested parties are invited to attend the meeting!

### About the University Council

The University Council (URaad) is the central participation body of the UT and holds regular discussions with the Executive Board. The council has 18 members; nine staff members and nine students. The University 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.

At the moment the members of the University Council are:

Frits Lagendijk, Jann van Benthem, Björn Harink, Dick Meijer, Sjef van der Steen, Frank van den Berg, Jan de Goeijen, Jan Schut, Herbert Wormeester, Eva Kunst, Ellen Langerwerf, Pieter Willems, George Ndungu, Miranda Schraa, Beer Sijpesteijn, Sjoerd van den Bedem, Anne Benneker and David Smits.

## [Portfolio institutional strategy](#)

According to the new Higher Education and Research Act every six years the institution is to adopt an institution plan and submit it to the minister. For the participation it constitutes an important document because the content functions as a framework for the most important rights and obligations. The Executive Board has proposed the University Council to replace this document by a more dynamic portfolio which is linked to the multi-year strategic vision (RoUTe 14), whereby the individual themes constitute the chapters of the portfolio. The chapters include the current or announced policy documents together with the participation rights. The University Council has agreed to this principle under the condition that amendments are submitted for approval in future. The details of the portfolio will follow.

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## [University Council gives a positive advice on employability memorandum](#)

The University Council acknowledges the necessity of continuous attention for the development of staff members. Organisations and their staff are faced with more, and more rapidly changing, demands than in the past. The deployment of staff is a joint interest of the employee and the employer. The University Council is of the opinion that staff members should be held to account for their functioning and their development in a probing way, but that the outcome of the discussion is open: within or outside the current job, within or outside the UT. However, the University Council did believe that the tone of the memorandum - such as "the duration of stay in a job is for a maximum period of 5 years (OBP) and 10 years (WPP)" - should be more balanced and positive.

The Executive Board promised to phrase the communication in a positive and honest way, to ensure budgets for expensive facilities, such as for programmes and sabbaticals, and to pay attention to the actual implementation of this policy on the shop floor. The role of managers, employees and staff advisers will be clearly defined.

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## [Discontinuance master's programmes Mechatronics and SSES](#)

In the first cycle of the new academic year we, in the University Council, already found ourselves confronted with the discontinuance of two master's programmes. Mechatronics has moved to a master in 3TU context, namely Systems and Control. The intake of new students in the Mechatronics programme was very small, so this transfer is easily achieved, therefore the University Council does not see any problems in this context. The students currently enrolled in this master's programme will receive fitting supervision enabling them to graduate as yet in this master's programme without any problems.

After the end of December 2010 the UT will no longer apply for accreditation for the master's programme Social Systems Evaluation and Survey Research, abbreviated to SSES. This is because the intake of new students of this master's programme remained so small from the very start that the UT



saw no added value in maintaining the programme artificially. However, it will be examined whether there is a substitute research master for Behavioural Sciences students. An attempt will also be made to find possibilities for students currently enrolled in this master's programme to complete their studies in a sound way as yet.

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## [Collaboration Agreement Master Plan Area Development Kennispark](#)

The University Council was pleased to advise on the already signed collaboration agreement with respect to the master plan area development Kennispark. The University Council is satisfied that the collaboration agreement defines who is responsible for what, so that the UT will not find itself faced with any surprises later. The University Council would like to see the separate initial documents the moment these are ready, and this has been promised by the Executive Board. In addition, the University Council asked what the university's contribution will be in the demolition of the viaduct. Apparently this is approximately 1.3 million according to Van Ast. The University Council gave a positive advice on the collaboration agreement.



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## [Institutional tuition fees](#)

During the most recent council meeting it was time to take a definitive decision on the institutional tuition fees 2011-2012. The council agreed with the Executive Board that institutional tuition fees may not be too low because this could give rise to doubts about the quality of the institution, on the other hand institutional tuition fees should not be too high either, because then the institution might price itself out of the market. The new institutional tuition fees are based on a sound analysis of the composition of the costs of the various programmes. Taking this into account, the council has decided to give a positive advice on the new institutional tuition fees. The Executive Board promised to give better insight into the composition of the costs of the various programmes, to enable the council to see what the costs are made up of.

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