

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.

Newsletter September / November 2023

PLENARY MEETING UNIVERSITY COUNCIL & EXECUTIVE BOARD

During the consultation meetings on the 20th of September and the 1st of November 2023 a number of important topics were discussed. A written report of the following topics discussed is provided below.

The 20th of September:

Selection MSc specialisation PCPT 2024-2025, the UT organisation language, the findings of the UT annual report 2022, the UTQ redesign and the collaboration VU-UT.

The 1st of November:

AI in education, the study advisor versus student ratio, the Twente Pathway College, the Student Union strategic plan 2024 – 2027, the O & O square and the new employment system.



UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The University Council consists of 18 members: eight staff members and nine

students. Three parties are represented in the council. For the students: UReka and DAS. For the staff members: Campus Coalition. For the academic year 2023 - 2024 the members of the University Council are:

Employees

Herbert Wormeester (chair), Hanneke Becht, Pieter Boerman, Cynthia Souren, Emile Dopheide, Wilma Dierkes, Roberto Cruz Martinez and Eline Marsman.

Students

Sabin Kerwien Lopez, Robin Kamphuis, Tom Lamaker, Lydia Mak, Ethan Höfgen, Oliver Davies, Monique Willems, Ilse Ekkelkamp and Bernard Mulder.

Registry:

Irena Olde Engberink and Laila Tijink - Zinad

SELECTION MSC SPECIALISATION PCPT 2024-2025

The student section of the University Council was presented with the [selection procedure for the master specialization Positive Clinical Psychology & Technology](#) for the academic year 2024-2025, and was very pleased with the current procedure and therefore [advised](#) positively to proceed with the selection procedure in the upcoming year.

For questions or remarks please contact Sabin Kerwien Lopez
s.m.kerwienlopez@student.utwente.nl

UT ORGANISATION LANGUAGE



Review

The university is currently looking into [reviewing the organisational language](#) of the institution and a bilingual policy is proposed that aligns with current practices. As [UC](#) we emphasized the importance of reaffirming the policy's original intent: promoting inclusivity rather than being driven by political considerations.

[Read the full article](#)

FINDINGS UT ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The University Council has received the [Annual Report 2022](#) for information. The UC acknowledges the hard work that has been put in this report and was pleased to see that the previous advice regarding the too positive word choice improved. This report reflected seriously on the challenges and pointing out the strong points of the UT. Most of the questions of the UC about the document were answered by the Executive Board during the external meeting. Therefore the UC did not give any written advice. One point that was raised during the plenary meeting was why rankings like “Leiden, QS or THE World University Ranking” are included in the Annual Report since the UT does not take active action on improving the ranking positions. The EB answered that it is still valuable for benchmarking, but they are looking into other rankings which display the qualities of the UT better.

For questions or remarks on this topic, please contact Monique Willems
m.c.m.willems@student.utwente.nl

UTQ REDESIGN



Connection to the UT Vision

The University Teaching Qualification (UTQ, or in Dutch: BKO) is a qualification of pedagogical competences of university teachers. All teaching staff of the University of Twente have to acquire this certificate within 3 years after their employment. Since 2008, an UTQ qualification is acknowledged at all universities in the Netherlands.

[Read the full article](#)

COLLABORATION VU-UT

The alliance between the University of Twente and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam has been existing for 5 years. The UC received a [document](#) with an outline of where we want to be with this collaboration in 5-7 years. Currently, the bachelor programmes Mechanical Engineering and Creative Technology are offered on the VU campus, which attract a good number of students. In the collaboration, VU alpha-gamma programs will be explored on the UT campus. For this, the University Council [advised](#) exploring a bachelor programme in the direction of earth and geosciences, as the council sees high potential in this. The executive board will soon start conversations about this topic, but needs to wait until a new chairman of the Executive Board has been appointed by the VU, which is expected to be in November.

For questions or remarks please contact Lydia Mak l.mak@student.utwente.nl

STUDENT UNION STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2027

During this cycle, the Student Union presented its [strategic plan](#) for the upcoming years, 2024-2027. It focused on different aspects that influence student life, amongst others on the changing student population, the decline in active students, digitalization and financial pressure on students. Based on this it drafted multiple strategies to enable personal development and to let students achieve “more than a degree”. The [UC](#) did notice that some of the indicators used to measure its goals are non-measurable. Therefore, it advises the SU to improve this for the upcoming Annual Plans to ensure that it can keep track of their progress.

For questions or remarks please contact Monique Willems
m.c.m.willems@student.utwente.nl



AI IN EDUCATION

Following previous discussions on the topic of the use of AI in education, the University Council was informed that the working group on AI in Education will be terminated as the original goals have been achieved. The UC [advised](#) the Executive

Board to carefully think about the placement of the instruction and support for the use of AI (and other technologies) in education within our organisation: (1) to ensure the awareness of the guidelines by frequently communicating these to teachers also to provide clarity to students, (2) to safeguard the evaluation and revision of these guidelines and (3) focus on the instruction for teachers on the future of education in general within our organisation.

For questions or remarks please contact Eline Marsman e.m.marsmann@utwente.nl

TWENTE PATHWAY COLLEGE



Extension proposal

Before the summer, the process of negotiations with Navitas to extend the Twente Pathway College contract was initiated. Considerations for this were that the TPC intake is substantial for some of the UT BSc programmes, and that it fits the UT's vision and mission about an international classroom and accessibility of UT bachelor programmes.

[Read the full article](#)

NEW STUDENT JOB PAYMENT SYSTEM



Dutch legislation

Since the summer, UT switched from the student payment system UT-Flex to a combination of UT student jobs and Driessen to comply with new Dutch legislation. The University Council acknowledges the need for this change but heard enough start-up problems that they decided that advice was necessary.

[Read the full article](#)

O&O SQUARE



Bike free

At the start of the academic year, the sustainable bike parking plan was implemented, which included new bike racks behind the Ravelijn and made the O&O Square a bike-free zone. This resulted in frustration for many students,

mainly because they did not understand why this policy was implemented.

[Read the full article](#)

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STUDY ADVISOR - STUDENT RATIO



Improvement

This cycle the University council was presented with the topic of study advisors that was brought up last academic year. The UC acknowledges that while the support provided by study advisors is generally sufficient

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