

UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.

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Aan het College van Bestuur

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datum	June 6 th , 2019	e-mail	g.w.m.oldeengberink@utwente.nl
bijlage(n)			
cc.			
onderwerp	Code of Conduct on Language		

Dear Executive Board,

Thank you for the extensive and detailed code of conduct you drafted. The document addresses many of the challenges surrounding language in the organisation. The University council would like to point out the following.

In article 6.1c, implicit or explicit, implementation of academic language skill into the learning goals of programs on the UT is mentioned. The University council recognises the importance of academic skill in the curriculum, as mentioned in WHW 1.3.5. Alongside this, there still remains a discrepancy between the Bachelor qualifications and the Master entry requirements. The University Council concludes that there are two options to mitigate this problem effectively: implement language competency (not only academic skill) into the learning goals of the program and with that, into the curriculum, or make the students who do not have proof of their language competency take a certified English language competency test. The University Council views the discrepancy between the Bachelor qualifications and the Master entry requirements as an urgent problem.

To promote Dutch language courses among Dutch and international students and staff, is seen as important by the University Council. In this light, it would like to receive a plan of the UTLC which outlines the actions that will be taken to promote the language courses. The University Council would like to emphasize the need for accessible language courses. This means, frequent points in time someone from the UT-community can join a language course, a good variety of course offer, and a low contribution from the customer's side. To ensure accessible language courses is seen as essential to promote the courses and realise the university's values by the University Council.

Lastly, the organisation is very aware of the desired use of English. However, the University Council sees a strong tension arising in the organisation and wants to emphasize a possible lack of flexibility in the organisation to shift its use of language effectively.

Flexibility is meant with respect to language competency, willingness, and anticipation of current employees. If the Board desires to achieve its earlier set goals regarding language, this has to be facilitated more intensively by the university with, for example, translation services. The University Council would like to see a dedicated effort in this respect.

CONCEPT-DECISION:

The University Council,

seen:

- UR 19 079 Agfrm Gedragscode Voertalen – def;

heard:

- recent discussions on the language policy of the university
- the SI-committee meeting on the 29th of May;

considering:

- this advice is not unanimously supported by the council;
- the UC-regulations stipulate the council's right to advice on the code of conduct 'buitenlandse talen', which has been honoured;
- the code of conduct has defined a clear position of the English and Dutch language within the organisation;

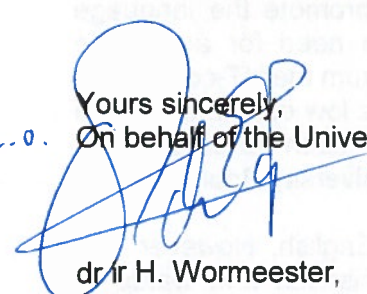
advices to:

- keep readjusting the ambitions within, timeframe of, and the facilities during the language transition according to the challenges faced within the organisation;
- provide translation and correction facilities for documents, with special focus on university policy documents;
- present a plan on how they are going to promote the maintenance of Dutch skill among Dutch students, learning Dutch among international students and staff, as stated in article 6;
- publish the list of the required language(s) of specific documents as soon as possible;
- update the list of the required language(s) of specific documents every year to ensure this document's relevance in the organisation;
- change 3.4 in article 4.5 to 3.3;
- delete the reference to the qualification of VWO in article 4.2;

decides:

to advice positively regarding the code of conduct on language.

i.o. Yours sincerely,
On behalf of the University Council,


dr ir H. Wormeester,
President