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To the Executive Board

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uw kenmerk  
ons kenmerk UR 19 - 147  
datum 18 September 2019  
bijlage(n)  
cc.  
onderwerp SBD Investment

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Dear Executive Board,

The University Council appreciates the efforts that has been made for strengthening the Strategic Business Development. The discussion on this topic is rather limited also due to the confidential of this document.

The following are summarised general remarks regarding this document.

The University Council appreciates the vision to facilitate linkages between university, industry and society. This is consistent with the vision for Shaping 2030; strengthening connections with society that enables us to become a 'people-first' university.

Although, the University Council supports this vision, there are some concerns regarding the investment to be made in 2020 and the influence on the years afterwards. The main concern is the lack of an organisational plan mandatory for the large changes intended. The 2020 investment is intended for hiring 6 fte. for SBD, and by hiring them limits on the organisational plane will be made even for it is written down. On the other hand, there the Executive Board claims an immediate requirement for expansion of SBD as they no longer have the capacity to 'support the whole UT community in connecting excellent research to external needs'. SBD had already to deny several requests from faculty boards to facilitate them due to lack of capacity. The number of business developers at SBD is at this moment only one. SBD is therefore understaffed and hiring personnel is a necessity.

# UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.

The confidentiality of this document did not allow the University Council to check these arguments.

At this moment the University Council is asked to consent to an expansion without being able to check the necessity and to make a good opinion about the implication. At the same time the University Council is not deaf for the necessity due to understaffing at this moment claimed by the Executive Board.

The discussion on this topic would benefit from the following information:

1. the present status of the implementation of the organisational changes of 2 years ago in which the institutes were repositioned with regard to SBD;
2. the advice of the Strategisch Beraad of July 3, 2019 showing the full support of all faculties;
3. the timeline for the implementation plan that describes the future development,
4. the necessity for the confidentiality of the document.

We would appreciate to discuss this issue with the above information during our plenary meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

*Yours sincerely,  
On behalf of the University Council,*

*FW*

*dr.ir. H. Wormeester*  
Chairman