

# NEWSLETTER

# UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

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

In this first newsletter of 2014 we will look back at the December meeting of 2013, which was a special meeting. For the first time Victor van der Chijs fulfilled his role as chairman of the Executive Board and Frits Lagendijk chaired our meeting for the last time. Points on the agenda were The Budget 2014 - 2018, the evaluation of TEM and an update of The Management and Administrative regulations (BBR).

This year the University Council-elections will take place for both employees as students.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the council, you can contact the registry of the Council or one of the current members, but of course you can also participate with a new list. See also [www.utwente.nl/uraad/verkiezingen](http://www.utwente.nl/uraad/verkiezingen) or [www.utwente.nl/uraad/en](http://www.utwente.nl/uraad/en) for more information.

## [Evaluation first quarter TEM](#)

The first quarter of the new educational model ended last November, which motivated the Council to ask the board for the first results of the evaluations. How did TEM go? What are the success rates? What are the opinions of both students and teachers? What is the work pressure for both students and teachers?

The evaluation wasn't complete during the plenary meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December, but Brinksmas gave a summary of the collected information. The dropout rate was limited to around 4% and by the time of the meeting approximately 63% of the students passed the first module. The students evaluated the modules with 6.4 on average. The appreciation for the individual modules ranged from 5.8 to 7.2. The first reactions on TEM were moderately positive, but the implementation of TOM results in a lot of work and problems, like the new way of grade registration and the availability of rooms for project education.

An important point of attention is the large amount of testing and retakes. TEM suffers from startup problems, which should be fixed in the coming modules and years. However, also direct action is

needed. Nobody wants the current first year students to bear the brunt of these initial problems.

The meeting mainly focused on the last point. Everyone agreed that solutions are needed, but all warned for too much leniency. The employees expressed their concerns about the norm shift with the allowance for compensation within a module and the workload related to extra retakes. Also the students warned for treating the quality improvement with a too loose attitude. It is in everybody's interest that students get information on their capability for the study of their choice. Therefore, unfit students should not be kept 'ignorant' too long.

*Remarks or questions?*

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## [BBR 2014 and educational governance](#)

The Council was requested to give their consent on the adjustments in the management and administrative regulations. The most important changes were the new uniform governance structure for the educational programs. Earlier in May 2013, the Board and the Council agreed that each faculty will have a Director of Education (OWD) and within the faculties each program will have a Programme Director (OLD). These positions cannot be fulfilled by the same person, to prevent a conflict of interest. However, a transition period of 1 to 2 years (starting May 2013) was agreed on. Regulations on this point are now fixed in the BBR and the Board committed to make a guideline for the faculties / Deans for arrangements concerning tasks and power of the OWD and the OLD; This guideline will focus on [point 6 till 10 of May 2013](#).

From now on, the BBR will be updated and published each time a decision is taken that implies a change of the BBR.

*Remarks or questions?*

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### Online testing

The Council had a written question about online testing. Recently several studies used online testing where students needed a code to take part in these assignments or tests. In some cases they had to pay for this code or had to purchase a new book. The Council does not want to slow down new forms of education, but did not consider this a good development. It is questionable whether this is permitted by law. The Council did not consider this desirable.

The rector believes that students should not be forced to make extra expenses to successfully study. It probably is legally allowed, because the bonus assignments are not absolutely necessary to finish the course. Brinksm called bonus assignments a 'dividing line case' and said it isn't desirable that students have to pay for them. The board agreed to find the best solution possible for this kind of situation in the future, such as a campus license.

*Remarks or questions?*

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### Budget 2014

Traditionally the new budget was discussed in the December-cycle. The Council was very content with the concreteness of the plans for 2014. The budget contains a clear view on these plans together with a clear insight in the needed resources and expected results.

The discussion mainly focused on the expectations for 2014 - 2018 and the decrease of 170 fte for the scientific staff, which concerns the UC. A large part already was in the reorganization of The School of Management & Governance and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics en Computer Science over the recent years, but the decrease comes with the intention to maintain the same amount of PhD candidates and to create 80 positions for two-years designer programs. Furthermore, the work load for education doesn't decrease, but even seems to increase. Currently, there is no answer on how to perform the increasing tasks with less scientific staff.

The UC gave a positive advice on The Budget 2014. In the coming years the question remains how to achieve the desired results in the primary process with the available staff. In particular, Professors and Senior lecturer (UK) should be busy with the tasks they are hired to do: good education and research.

*Remarks or questions?*

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### Framework evaluation modules

The Council gave an unsolicited advice on the information point regarding the evaluation framework for modules. This framework contains guidelines how TEM modules should be evaluated to achieve a more transparent evaluation and let them be comparable between different studies to quickly obtain a clear view on the quality of education. The goal is to monitor, guarantee and (if possible already during execution) improve the quality of education. The teaching staff of a module is responsible for both the evaluation as improving the module based on the evaluation. The Council fully agrees on this, because no one knows better how to evaluate a module.

A standard questionnaire is part of each evaluation and the Council and the Board agree that it is useful to be able to compare different modules on several points. However, the Council considers the questionnaire quite extensive and to detailed on some points.

Therefore, the Council advised to reduce the number of questions drastically.

Furthermore, evaluation results should be communicated to the students together with planned actions. The EB made to promise to do so.

*Remarks or questions?*

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### **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 UC three parties are currently represented: Campus Coalitie, UReka and PvdUT.

#### **At the moment the members of the UC are:**

Herbert Wormeester (Chairman), Gert Brinkman, Frank van den Berg, Barend Köbben, Victor de Graaff, Jörgen Svensson, Winnie Gerbens-Leenes, Jeroen Tijhuis, Anton Stoorvogel, Carmen Edelijn, Luuk Geurts, Mathijs van de Zande, Janine Koning, Ellen Hamelers, Abdul-Kadir Mumuni, Willemijn van de Meent, Finn Sauër and Teun Lassche.

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