

URNews 7 January 2010

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

Announcements

The University has organized a meeting with the Faculty Councils, to be held on 20 January. In the coming cycle, many interesting documents will be discussed, such as the report by the Berger Committee, the Draft Budget, the Real-Estate Plan and the policy document on student accommodation.

To let the University Council know your views, send an e-mail to info@uraad.utwente.nl

The next meeting with the Executive Board will be held on 27 January at 9.00 a.m., at Horst Toren 1300. The council's meetings are public; all interested persons are welcome!

In the view of the council, the Evaluation of the *Onderwijsnota* (education policy document) presented by the Executive Board bore too little relationship to the previous *Onderwijsnota*. The Executive Board therefore withdrew the document, and will present a new version in February.

Clemens Pouw has resigned from the council. He will be replaced by Dick Meijer as of 1 January.

Twente Graduate School (TGS)

In June 2009, the University Council of the time approved the institutional plan of the TGS. A number of points required later clarification. This was partly done during this meeting. An important point is the structure of the TGS. The responsibility structure and advisory relations were not clear; an organogram would resolve this. This was unsuccessful, however, because the organogram raised too many questions. Despite the fact that the Rector is not keen on diagrams, he will ensure that an organogram is produced to clarify the relations. The co-determination system was also discussed. The University Council is currently looking after formal co-determination. This will probably continue to exist, since the government has not yet clarified the status of the TGS and research assistants (AIOs). A form of student-advice body is in place. The financial section will be dealt with in the following cycle.

Finally, attention was drawn to the risk that the TGS is becoming a sort of elite 'club' receiving high-quality teaching and supervision at the cost of other study programmes. This impression is due to the fact that the document frequently refers to excellent students. The Rector corrects this by stating that the aim is for students *throughout* the university to achieve excellence. Hopefully, in future newsletters, we will be able to report on plans designed to realize this goal.

To respond, send an e-mail to: m.franken@student.utwente.nl



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Study/student facilities for ITC-UT

ITC officially became a UT faculty on 1 January 2010. It is a *sui generis* faculty. Although a great deal of time was set aside to prepare for this organizational change, at the final meeting before the integration the University Council had to make a decision regarding study/student facilities for ITC students. This related mainly to the question of whether the Institutes section of the Students' Charter applies to current ITC students as of 1 January. The straightforward answer is that it cannot apply to the majority of ITC students. The current institute-specific Students' Charter for UT does not apply to students who are following study programmes that are not financed in the normal way, such as the post-initial Master's programme. The decision taken by the council is that the current ITC ar-

rangements will apply to ITC students until 1 September 2010. A new integrated Students' Charter will take effect on that date. The council has requested, and obtained, an undertaking from the Executive Board that ITC students will be involved in the new charter.

To respond, send an e-mail to:
a.a.r.veenendaal@utwente.nl



Draft Budget 2010

The University Council regards the Real-Estate Plan 2009-2014, the report by the Berger Committee and the EMB evaluation as a coherent whole. Shortly before the discussion meeting between the council and the Executive Board on 16 December, we learned that the Berger Committee report had not yet been released and that the Executive Board had made amendments to the draft budget. These reasons were sufficient to postpone discussion of the Berger Committee report, the Draft Budget 2010 and the Real-Estate Plan 2009-2014 until the January cycle of 2010.

For the 2010 -2014 budget, The Executive Board proposed using a sum of 25 million euros from the reserves. Following discussions with the Audit Committee of the Supervisory Board and the UMT, the Executive Board took the decision to reduce investment by 5 million euros per year in the first two years. The 10 million euros can be invested at a later date.

With this adjustment, the UT remains within reasonable solvability and liquidity ratios.

The above measure has consequences for the central services and faculties, whose budget will be generically reduced (1.5%). A number of support projects will be cancelled or postponed.

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j.degoeijen@utwente.nl



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Campus Coalition

The Campus Coalition (CC) is a party for students and staff, that takes a critical look at developments at the university. This cooperation between students and staff gives us the opportunity to share knowledge and form a picture of current issues at UT. This means that we can represent everyone on campus. We always consider the interest of UT as a whole and its stakeholders. In our view it is important to make appropriate decisions that are in the interest of everyone at UT.

We are the party of substance, the party that keeps the wider UT picture in view and does not act purely from pragmatism. We look at every plan we receive in order to establish the long-term consequences, and whether the ideas align with the general policy of UT. *University-council party CC – because it's about substance!*

o.bloemen@student.utwente.nl



Next UReka newsletter.

Real Estate Plan 2009-2014

The Real-Estate Plan will be discussed together with the Draft Budget 2010 in the January cycle of 2010. In the December cycle, the prioritization of intended projects for 2010 was discussed at the discussion meeting between the council and the Executive Board. The following projects are planned for 2010:

- 4th floor (Carré)
- Major maintenance (Zilverling)
- Expansion of M&B programme (Ravelijn)
- Flexible working at PAO (Spiegel)
- Exterior renovation (Vrijhof)
- Installation of mains services (Vrijhof) (consequence of Hogenkamp demolition)

Council's dissatisfaction with attitude of Executive Board

In a written invitation for questions, the University Council expressed its feelings of strong dissatisfaction and irritation with the Executive Board's approach to providing information to the council and upholding agreements. This was substantiated with a number of recent examples.

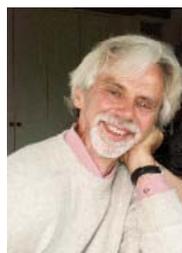
In its response, the Executive Board acknowledges the comments, takes responsibility for matters that have been less than satisfactory. The board regrets this, precisely because it views the council as a good, serious dialogue partner. The Executive Board gave its assurance that the comments will have an effect, particularly with regard to

Within the University Council there were still doubts as to the costs/benefits of the 'Flexplekken PAO' project. The Executive Board indicates that, now and in the future, there is a need for flexible working. PAO will serve as an example for flexible working. The introduction, at a later date, of flexible working on a UT-wide basis can have a cost-saving effect, among other things. The council were convinced by the above arguments, and agreed to the project, linked to an undertaking by the Executive Board to evaluate the project in December 2010.

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j.degoeijen@utwente.nl

upholding agreements (within a complex organization based on professional autonomy) and communicating with the council.

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f.l.lagendijk@utwente.nl



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The University Council

The University Council (URaad) is the central representative body of the UT and holds regular discussions with the Executive Board. The council has 18 members (nine staff members and nine students). The council has a say in UT policy at central level. Five parties are represented on the council: Campus Coalition and UReka, Pro-UT, Lijst Chairman and PvdUT.

The members of the University Council are:

Oscar Bloemen, Bouke de Loos, David Smits, André Veenendaal, Jan van Alsté, Frits Lagendijk, Laura Franco Garcia, Sandra Hackurtz, Mark Franken, Dick Meijer, Stas Verberkt, Silke Kücking, Jann van Benthem, Peter Prins, Marije Telgenkamp, Herman Poorthuis, Jan de Goeijen and Nick Leoné.