

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

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The agenda for the first plenary meeting of the new University Council contained three informative topics:

- Reaction of the Executive Board on the plan of action for the follow-up of the participation conference;
- Process description investment policy;
- Roadmap development Twents Educational Model (TOM)

The University Council gave an unsolicited advice concerning the roadmap of which a report is in this newsletter. Then, Gert Brinkman reviews the University Council's involvement in the test visitation Institutional Audit Quality Assurance.

Studying with a (study) disability

Our first advice was about studying with a (study) disability. The council would like to have a document containing how the Executive Board wants to treat these circumstances. Furthermore, the council wants all involved (e.g. examination boards and study councilors) to be informed, since they execute the policy. To prevent redoing work, the board wants to collect bottom-up guide lines and the council wants the board to make sure it will be coordinated to collect these best practices. While the student satisfaction on this point is very good on the UT, the board notices indistinctness. The current module designs can be changed for disabled students if necessary. It of course is the intention not to do so, but in case it is the best solution for a student it should be possible. The UCO will be asked by the rector to write a process agreement and send this to all involved. This will be discussed in the next meeting and someone will be made responsible. Clear guidelines will be extracted after one year, if possible.

The second advice concerns a second evaluation of the second semester. Next year's program should be ready in April, but the third and fourth quarter aren't finished by then. Improvements can be implemented less efficient this way than the improvements to the first semester. Content related points can be noted and adjusted later, according to

the rector. This should definitely be done in the coming few years, because modules will run for the first time. Major changes after April possibly can changes plans and that can then be discussed in the decentralized participation. Therefore, the board does not want a second evaluation deadline, because it thinks plans can be ready in April and minor changes can still be made after the deadline. The council hopes for an evaluation evenly careful as the one for the first semester and improvements will be implemented in time.

Respond? Mail to:

carmen@ureka.utwente.nl



Educational planning

The Roadmap Development TOM contained information on the educational planning. The board's goal was to start the planning for the new academic year in March/April of the year before and the UC had some objections to this. Such an early deadline makes it difficult for teachers in the third and fourth quartile to improve things that could have been done better for the next year. They have to hand in next year's planning for their module before they even gave it this year.

We pointed this out to the board and mentioned the possibility of many requests for changes in the modules just after the summer, which leads to a lot of extra work for the schedulers. According to the UC, these problems could be prevented by a later deadline for second semester modules, e.g. in the summer.

The board did not want a second deadline, because this would complicate the planning unnecessary. However, they made the promise that major changes in the

planning of second semester modules would still be possible.

The UC regrets the decision of the board, because he sees many problems, like unnecessary hurried teachers and a lot of requests for changes, which could have been prevented.

Herewith, a call for all teachers of second semester modules: we would like to know if you encounter problems with the early deadline for your next year's module or the approval for a request for change. Your reaction can help us to inform the board about what is the best way of educational planning on the UT.

Respond? Mail to:

f.m.j.w.vandenberg@utwente.nl



[Test visitation Institutional Audit Quality Assurance](#)

On 24th October the NVAO will judge the UT during the Institutional Audit Quality Assurance in which the quality policy on education for the UT as a whole is the theme. Different forums will be talked with and a part of the UC is among them. This delegation consists of as many students as employees. As preparation the UT wrote a critical self-evaluation report and a test visitation has been organized on September 17.

In this cycle the UC was asked for advice on the [Critical Self-evaluation Institutional Audit Quality Assurance](#).

Comments on two earlier versions were related to:

- The level of self-criticism should be higher;
- Relation between OLD-OWD-deans-EB and UCO seems not clear enough as regards decision taking and powers;
- (not) formulated policy related to disabilities in TOM;
- The closure of the PDCA-cycle isn't showed (in the end we do not always write down clearly what we agree on).

The test visitation committee in general was very positive. However, they came to the same critical points as those mentioned above. The conversation with the UC was experienced very nice and constructive critical.

To respond? Send an e-mail to:

g.w.brinkman@utwente.nl



About the University Council

The UC is the central participation body of the UT and has regular meetings with the Executive Board. The UC has 18 members (9 students and 9 employees) and influences UT policy on central level.

Three parties are represented in the council: Campus Coalitie, UReka and PvdUT.

Currently the member of the UC are: Herbert Wormeester (Chairman), Gert Brinkman, Frank van den Berg, Victor de Graaff, Barend Köbben, 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 en Teun Lassche.

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