

# NEWSLETTER UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

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## All discussed document can be downloaded here

The most important topic of the plenary meeting of February 12 was the merger between the School of Management and Governance and the Faculty of Behavioural Sciences. The council also discussed the plans of the Executive Board for the regulation 'Studiekeuzecheck' and the Academic Calendar 2014-2015. Furthermore, the UCouncil gave two unsolicited advises concerning 'Profileringsruimte in TOM' and 'Reflection Education'. This newsletter contains a report of these points. Abdul-Kadir Mumuni graduated, so his membership of the council is terminated. Marijn Horstman succeeds him.

The UC and OPUT introduced a [hotline](#) for employees of whom the position is affected by the ongoing reorganizations. The goal is to know what is going on in the organization and refer employees to the right persons for individual help. All information will be handled confidentially.

Registration for the UC elections is possible till April 9. There will be elections for both employees and students. You can participate with your own list, or join an existing party. Currently UReka, PvdUT and Campus Coalition (CC) are members of the council. See [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.

## Merger School of Management and Governance and Faculty of Behavioural Sciences

Concerning the merger the employees in the UCouncil have the right to consent and the student have the right to advise. The discussion started with the request of the EB to postpone the decision, which finally was agreed on by the council. Both involved faculty councils advised for this postponement. One reason was the unforeseen departure of Dean Karen van Oudenhoven and the appointment of interim-dean Ton Mouthaan. Nobody doubts the importance of the gamma sciences for the UT and everybody agrees on the profit of stronger research and a sharper profile. According to the EB this can't be achieved without a merger, but this isn't clear for employees of both

faculties and the UC, because it's unknown how this will be achieved after the merger. A document of Oudenhoven is withdrawn and interim-dean Mouthaan wants to use the postponement to convince the employees in general and the faculty councils in particular. However, he does not expect he will be able to give a clear picture of the new faculty within this period. It is the opinion of the UC that the extra budget of ME2 for enforcement of gamma research should be related to good plans and not to the consent with the merger.

The UC agreed on the postponement, although it always strives to quick decision-making.

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## Regulation 'Studiekeuzecheck'

The UT has drawn up a regulation on the 'Studiekeuzecheck' as a result of the new law "Kwaliteit in Verscheidenheid". This regulation is intended to show students already before the start of the academic year whether they will successfully complete the study.

Based on an activity, 'student for one day', an interview or something else an advice will be given. For students enrolling before May 1 the university may declare the advice binding.

At the UT the advice will not be binding, but the activities can be compulsory. Only for the study Creative Technology this activity will be required.

Programs may decide for themselves what the activity will be and what will be the corresponding time span. The EB doesn't want the 'Studiekeuzecheck' to take too much time. The students in the UC have the right to advise and agree on these starting points. The UC considers it important to make one regulation for the UT in the coming years, because this will be most efficient. However, differences are permitted if programs have good reasonable cause. The rector agrees that uniformity would be good and he will look into it. UC and EB agreed on the importance of a quick and good evaluation.

Both the UC and the rector have some questions regarding the moments in time the programs want to organize the activities. Is it realistic to have an activity in August when everybody is on vacation? Other programs decided to have the activities already before the end of May. The UC students advised to have the activities in June, so that prospective students subscribing after May 1 still will be able to attend the activity.

The term in which prospective students will be informed about the outcome isn't part of the regulation yet. The UC proposes to make this two weeks. It would also like to see activities quickly after, such that prospective student can change their mind and subscribe for a different program. Prospective students should be able to follow these activities within one month, according to the student in the UC.

To promote good communication to prospective students during the Information Days the UC students decided to advise positively, while taking into account the promises made by the EB.

*To respond, send an email to:*  
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### Academic calendar 2014-2015

The academic calendar is an regularly returning issue on the agenda of the Council. This time the calendar of 2014 - 2015 was discussed. The summer resits, again planned in week 30, is the most important point of concern of the UC. The rector did not receive any complaints regarding this point and made clear that he was not going to search for them, therefore the Council decided to investigate them itself. A lot of programs considered resits in week 30 as the only option to have the results for the binding study advice and 'Harde

Knip' in time. Other programs expect problems with the workload for staff and exam committees during these weeks. Several programs have taken other measures for the binding study advice and 'Harde Knip' and try to avoid week 30 for resits. The UC advised the EB to skip week 30 and let the programs decide for themselves, while taking into account the deadlines for the binding study advice and 'Harde Knip'. The dates for the resits should be known before January 1, because it is important for the students to know.

During the plenary meeting it became clear that the EB wants to keep a fixed week and not let the programs decide. However, another week then week 30 is allowed, if the Dean gives permission. The UC advised to explicitly communicate this option to the programs. The EB shares the opinion that the dates for the resits should be known in time and promised to look into that.

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### Current status TOM

What are the experiences with TOM in the first year? Do we have to believe the proponents or the negative rumors? Of course, the UC wants to have distinctness on this point, but the EB should provide the numbers. In December the UC asked the EB for the evaluation, but this information wasn't provided quickly, so a second letter was sent to demand it. This worked out and the information is available now. The EB promised to supply information better and quicker in the future. Both extreme views are nuanced in this evaluation. TOM is running well in several programs, but there are also programs with concerns regarding students esteem, success rates and dropouts. Gamma programs seem to have little more problems than beta programs. It is a point of discussion how serious the negative numbers should be taken. Success rates will increase in some programs, because resits and compensations will be arranged. Furthermore, one of the goals of TOM was to concentrate dropout in the beginning of the study. The UC asked the EB to monitor TOM and repair the confidence in TOM and the UT among first year students. Concrete measures have to be taken to prevent that also hard working students lose faith and quit. Next cycle the UC and EB will discuss other points that require attention. Examples are the requirement for 15 EC, workload for both students and teachers, necessity of 'weefregelingen' and the common math education.

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### **'Profileringsruimte' (elective modules) in TOM**

Recently the EB asked the UT-community to develop coherent sets of two TOM-modules for quarter 9 and 10 in TOM. These elective modules show much similarity to the current minor. The UC decided to give an unsolicited advice.

The first important point is the participation on these programs, because it can be unclear which program committee (OLC) and faculty council is involved. The arrangements made for the current minor can be an example for this.

The second point concerns the language. The EB wants all programs to be taught in English, but the UC isn't happy that students of Dutch programs are forced to attend English courses, so the Council asked to also design some Dutch programs. Students who design their own set of elective modules should be able to follow these in the language of their own program.

Finally, the option of different levels in these programs should be investigated. For example, a technical student can follow a technical program on a higher level than non-technical students and vice versa.

The EB will take these advices into account and the UC will keep monitoring this topic.

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### **Reflection education**

In December the EB decided that all programs should have 15 EC of 'reflectieonderwijs' of which 10 EC should be taught by the RESTS group. The financial means are arranged centrally. This caused fuss in several programs.

The UC has two objections. First, the EB is not allowed to give binding guidelines on this point, since it involves the content of the programs. According to the law it only is allowed that guidelines concern coordination and organization of the education. Second, having the introduction of TEM in mind the timing is not optimal.

The guideline will lead to redesign, because the first and second year are (almost) finished. This will cause extra work. In the meeting the EB said that programs are allowed to design the complete 15 EC themselves and the UC requested to explicitly communicated this to the programs. Also the finances should be adjusted accordingly. The EB confirmed this and the UC will keep monitoring this topic.

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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, Marijn Horstman, Willemijn van de Meent, Finn Sauër and Teun Lassche.

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