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Dear members of the Academic Council,

Coming year one of the members of our council will be a non-Dutch speaker, his primary language in the Netherlands is English. Until now the main language of the university council is Dutch. Continuing this way will restrict the abilities of non-Dutch speakers to follow the work of the university council. Elected non-Dutch speakers are even limited in their ability to do their work as elected members. As UReka faction we would like to propose a new language guideline for the council and its documents.

As the university has stated in the past, the University of Twente has the ambition to be an international university. With the addition of the ITC as a sixth faculty, the international community has grown significantly. The main international language being in English, it should be the primary language for governing in the future. This way all students and employees can take notice of the decisions and policies being made.

The university council has yet to take steps to achieve the ambition of being an international council. The before stated case of a non-Dutch speaker as member of the council, can now be made

into an opportunity to increase the level of internationalisation in the council. The following proposals are thus based on the statement that everybody should be able to discuss freely in a common language.

For everybody to be able to take part in verbal discussions, English should be the primary spoken language for the council and its committees. However, if speakers have great difficulties with their English, they can ask their questions to the board in Dutch. These questions will be translated for non-Dutch speakers before being answered. Replies from the board to questions should always be in English.

Most likely there will not be a non-Dutch speaker in OOS and FVA. These committees have the opportunity to establish their own language guidelines. However they are strongly urged to use the council guidelines.

Next to verbal communication also written communication needs to be addressed. As long as the supporting staff writes her texts in Dutch, full English texts will not be likely to come to the council. To give non-Dutch speakers a basic understanding of these documents, the management summaries should be in English. Whenever possible, complete English texts are preferred. Certain legal texts can't be written in English and are thus exempt.

This guideline for management summaries also applies to the documents intended for the committees OOS and FVA. The management summaries will provide the basic knowledge needed to participate in council discussions. Regarding the written answers of the board, just like oral questions the answers should be in English.

We hope the members of the council and the supporting staff will support this pledge for the first step towards internationalisation of the council. For those who feel their English isn't quite up to standards, the language coordination point (TCP) is offering English courses from September, 27th. Feel free to join them!

Regards,

UReka faction