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Subject: English in the University Council
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Dear members of the University Council,

In September this year we discussed the language of the university council, as one of its members' primary language is not Dutch. We concluded to act pragmatic, speak English when council member George Ndungu is present and to request English management summaries from the board of directors. Now, a few months later, is a good time to look back and to reflect.

After our internal meeting in September George Ndungu had to leave to Indonesia for his study. As a result of the absence of George the discussion meeting of September, the committee meeting of SI and the internal meeting of the November cycle were in Dutch. The discussion meeting of November was despite the presence of George in Dutch as well. The choice for Dutch was defensible although George was present. All pieces were in Dutch and did not have English summaries, all preparation was done in Dutch and all concept decisions were written in Dutch.

This cycle is a repeat of previous cycles regarding English. None of the pieces are written in English nor are there any English summaries. Lastly most if not all concept decisions are written in Dutch. The main reason for Dutch being that George Ndungu cannot attend the discussion meeting in December because he celebrates Christmas with his wife in Kenya.

Despite of our good intentions English in the council went not as we agreed for various reasons. To give English in the council a fair chance, UReka would like the January cycle to be in accordance with our intentions from September. This will give us a reference for the University Council evaluation in February as George will be present the whole cycle.

During the January cycle we therefore urge every member of the council to express himself in English if he or she is confident with it. If speakers have great difficulties with their English, they can ask their questions to the board in Dutch. Questions get translated to English before being answered from the board. Secondly we urge the board to provide the council with English agenda forms of all pieces, so non-Dutch speaking members can adequately prepare themselves.

We hope the council will support this view and give English a deserved chance in January.

Kind regards,

UReka delegation