



Annual report 2021-2022

The University Council promotes the interests of all employees and students with the Executive board of Utrecht University. The council is a regular discussion partner for the Board on the topics of education, research, finances, staff and organization. This annual report provides an overview of the most important topics which have been addressed by the University Council in the past year.



STUDENT WELL-BEING

- Suggesting free spending of **grants for water sports associations** because of disconnection 'OlymPassen'.
- Active engagement with the spending of the funds from the **Nationaal Programma Onderwijs**
- Involvement with **new program student well-being** with focus on community building, prevention, peer-to-peer mentoring and involving students and staff.

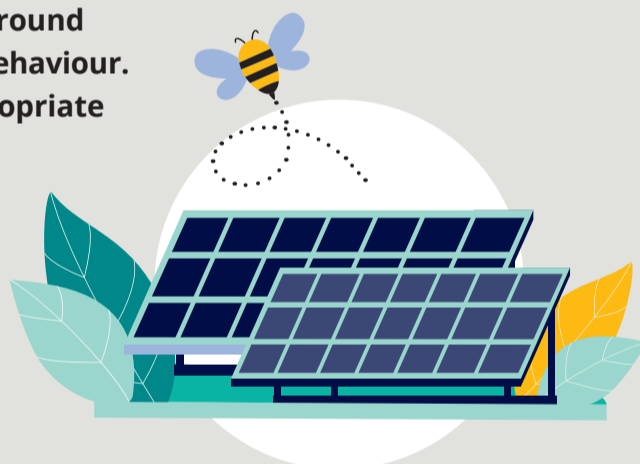
SOCIAL SAFETY

- Involvement of council members in university-wide working group which improves **regulation around complaints and reports of inappropriate behaviour**.
- Attention for **mental well-being** and **inappropriate behaviour**.
- Development of a **theatre performance about social safety** for students.



EDUCATION

- Suggesting more university-level and faculty-level **representation of students and staff in starting and ending degree programs**.
- Involvement with the improvement of the **awareness of and directions towards study spaces** on campus and in the city centre.
- Initiatives for **modifying the academic year** to relieve work pressure of students and staff.
- Initiation of a **redefinition of contact hours to educational hours** taking into account the didactic value and necessity of personal contact between students and teachers in relation to online teaching methods.
- Initiatives relating to the **strengthening of student and staff participation** at program level and **involvement of students** with participation generally.



SUSTAINABILITY

- Involvement with plans to improve the **biodiversity** in Utrecht Science Park.
- Suggesting exploring new options for windmills, solar panels on roofs and other forms of **sustainable energy**.



COVID-19

- Active in conversations with the Executive Board to ensure **a safe and healthy study and work environment**.
- Involvement with shaping **opportunities for students and associations** to repeat activities which could not happen because of COVID-19.

WORK AND STAFF

- Engaged with the practical implementation of the **"Guideline working alone"** for staff, students and associations.
- Attention for **lowering work pressure and heightening permanent contracts**: impulse of € 50 million over five years .
- Consideration of **learning and developing in the implementation of Arbo** and making company emergency response more attractive to employees.

INCLUSIVITY

- Suggesting the use of **gender-inclusive language** use on the website and in documents of UU and in education.
- Setting up pilot for **free menstrual products**.
- Initiation of **gender-inclusive dressing rooms** at Olympos sports centre.



WORK METHOD

- Changing between **online, hybrid and physical meetings**.
- New meeting cycle with **image forming, opinion forming and decision making** (BOB-model).
- Involvement with **new university distribution model** with more permanent financing and certainty for faculties.