



Annual report 2022–2023

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 WELLBEING

- Together with the **National Education Programme**, we ensured that the **Where Do You Draw The Line?** campaign (raising awareness about drug use) was **funded** by the university.
- In coordination with Bestuurlijk Actief Utrecht, we made a start on the **review** of the policy and assessment framework for **student organisations** in Utrecht.



INTERNATIONALISATION

- We spoke with the Executive Board about the ambition (not) to achieve further **growth**. **We also consulted** with **faculties** about their wishes.
- We were present at the **Warm Welcome** introduction week for **internationals**.
- We called for a stronger focus on **making Dutch language courses more affordable** and thus more **accessible**.
- From September 2023, it will be standard practice for policy memorandums to be provided in both **Dutch and English**.



SOCIAL SAFETY

- We shared ideas on the **2023-2025 Action Plan for Social Safety**
- We proposed to hang up **posters in toilets and buildings** explaining where you can turn to when undesirable behaviour occurs.
- We made proposals for improving the **communication** towards students about social safety.

DEMOCRATISATION

- We launched **consultations regarding decision-making** about sustainability, education and social safety.
- After four years, the **University Forum** has been put in place, where major topics are discussed with the university community. The first session was about the **collaboration between UU and the fossil fuel industry**. This was experienced as a valuable discussion and the Executive Board and University Council will organise more of these sessions.

EDUCATION

- **Anonymous assessment** will become standard practice for all digital tests, and this may be extended to tests with open-ended and multiple-choice questions.
- Following the end of the flexible study pilot, we ensured that UU students can **continue to use the option of flexible studying**.



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- We shared ideas on the **technical options** available to modernise and reduce the **registration of people's sex**.
- We advocated putting in place more **all-gender toilets** and improving communication about this.
- We initiated a special **scheme to support students** during their **transition**.
- We collaborated on the **evaluation** of the **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** programme, to ensure this is more embedded at the faculties.
- Six **quiet rooms** will be set aside at the university to enable people to find tranquillity and, for those who wish, to **pray**.
- We have been involved in plans to **make the University Hall more inclusive** in the upcoming renovation.



EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT REPRESENTATION

- For the first time in years, there was an **upswing in student turnout** in the **elections** for the University Council.
- **Allowances** for student members of the University Council have been **increased**.
- **Training programme** for all **employee and student representation bodies** will be extended.
- There will be more **communication support** for employee and student representation bodies with respect to events, newsletters and coffee campaigns.
- **Minimum time commitment** for Faculty Council members has been increased.
- Position of **PhD candidates** in student and employee participation bodies will be reinforced through **PROUT**, UU's PhD candidates network.