

Annual Report 2023-2024

The University Council consults with the Executive Board on policies for education, research, finance, staff and organisation to represent staff and students' interests. This annual report provides an overview of the most important matters the University Council dealt with this year.

STUDENT LIFE

The University Council has:

- Improved the policy and assessment framework for the allocation of grants for participating in management activities.
- Submitted a memorandum for the **indexation of grants** for participating in management activities meant for student leaders.
- Lobbied for a year schedule which provides space for **international students** to travel home.
- Arranged for a 40% discount at **Peakz Padel** for Olympos members.
- Taken the initiative for a **mural** in Utrecht Science Park (USP).
- Lobbied for **more affordable food on campus**, including a lunch deal.
- Advised the EB on **Dutch language courses** for international students.



EDUCATION & RESEARCH

The University Council has:

- Spoken out in favour of **more long-term employments for lecturers** who only provide education.
- Lobbied for a bigger range of **sustainability-related themes** within education.
- Worked on a good **matching activity for international students**.
- Had brainstorming sessions with the EB on **internationalisation, academic freedom in education, research and student involvement**.



ACCOMMODATION

The University Council has:

- Written a plan to expand **public transport to USP** to the nights and the weekends.
- Talked with the EB and the SSH on the future of the **Tuindorp-West Complex**.
- Lobbied on a national level for **more classical student residences** instead of studio apartments and for the preservation of student residences in the inner city.
- Monitored the status of **area development in USP** and the **campus in the inner city**.



WELL-BEING AND SOCIAL SAFETY

The University Council has:

- Continuously asked for attention for a **safe work environment** and a **reduction of work pressure**.
- Worked on a better **chain of supervision** for students with a focus on mental well-being.
- Brought the theme of **social safety** to the attention of student organisations, sports clubs and student associations.
- Collaborated on a **staff symposium on student well-being**.
- Made preparations for a **culture-appreciation week** in the new academic year.

UU and the conflict between Gaza and Israel

The University Council has been an active player in the improvement of the dialogue on the conflict between Gaza and Israel within our community. In conversations with the EB, the University Council has represented students and staff members' perspectives and ideas, and has spoken out in favour of transparency and a clear assessment framework for collaborations.



PARTICIPATION BODY

The University Council has:

- Ensured that the participation of **international members in the University Council** has improved.
- Increased the **visibility of the Participation Body**. This has resulted in an increase of almost 30% in the election attendance.
- Written a **manifest** for the improvement of the **position of Participation Bodies** together with other Utrecht-based educational institutions.
- **Enhanced the collaboration with Faculty Councils**, including in the field of social safety.



SUSTAINABILITY

The University Council has:

- Spoken out in favour of **tightening the framework** for the collaboration with the **fossil industry**.
- Drafted KPIs to make the **sustainability goals** of the university measurable.
- Taken the initiative for more ambitious goals for staff members' **sustainable travel behaviour**.
- Made a design for **greening up the inner square of the UBB**.