

**Jouke:**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Summer usually provides the inspiration for  
this speech at the opening of the Academic Year.

During the holidays, I was impressed by Haaland.

Not so much because of Norwegian football,  
but because of the Viking Row he performed with his team,  
the coaching staff and the supporters.

As you can see, it is a cheerful collaboration,  
a coordinated effort in which the audience is involved.

It is a metaphor for the type of governance we need.

Since you've all been sitting still for so long,

I'd love to perform this act with you, here in the church.

It's scientifically sound: there was one supporter who didn't take part.

According to him, the Vikings did not row, they sailed.

Science is doubt!

Ladies and gentlemen,

The University of Groningen is looking for a new president.

An advertisement for the position has been published.

This ad has attracted a great deal of attention,  
particularly due to its use of fashionable language.

The term '5th generation university' caused some surprise.

Naturally, I will not interfere in the selection of my successor...

but the following must happen:

The further development of the UG as a 5th generation university.

The 5th generation implies four previous generations.

These were conceived by Ronald Berger.

The 1st generation focused on education - the University of Bologna.

The 2nd generation combined teaching with research - Humboldt University.

The 3rd generation forged links with society and the business world - MIT.

The 4th generation made connections with the technical industry  
and created triple-helix partnerships -

the Eindhoven University of Technology and Brainport.

The University of Groningen aims to be a 5th generation university.

It embodies all previous generations and distinguishes itself through  
collaboration between the clusters of Science & Engineering,

Medical, and the Social Sciences & Humanities.

The UG has all these disciplines in-house.

By forging these links, the UG is increasingly becoming a comprehensive and technical university.

This is also how we will increasingly position ourselves: as a comprehensive and technical university.

Growing collaboration between the three clusters offers a potential solution to the legitimacy crisis facing social sciences and humanities worldwide, and to the strong rise of the technical sciences, with medical technology in between.

The 5th generation university is one that uses its strengths to connect with the business community and the government, operates more openly and collaboratively, and translates academic excellence into broad societal impact.

It is a resilient and connected network university.

It is not 11 faculties, but a single organisational space, in which a swarm of drones flies, able to react quickly to one another to form new coalitions.

It is an agile university.

Eindhoven has a comparative economic advantage, ASML, a world-leading company in the semiconductor industry.

The company has been propelled to great heights by Peter Wennink.

That is because he focuses on the long term, not the short term.

The North has no ASML.

The economy of the Northern Netherlands is dominated by small and medium-sized enterprises.

In this economy, there is a range of themes where we can achieve innovation and increase labour productivity.

In the coming years, these themes will need to serve as the starting point for developing innovation ecosystems.

The University of the North and Jakob Klompien are working hard on this: in shipbuilding, sustainable chemistry, the AI factory, biotechnology, medical technology, energy-efficient computers, on water and water technology.

But since technology by itself is not sufficient to bring about the major societal transitions, we need a substantively updated SSH cluster.

The social sciences and humanities need to think fundamentally about if they're on the right track right now.

To meet all challenges, we need a great deal of talent.

That is why we are in favour of attracting international talent and that is why we endorse the minister's Talent Strategy. Demographic trends are causing a shortage of people in the North. That's why the University of Groningen will remain an international university, regardless of what some politicians may think. Science, by definition, is international. We must also recognize that the world order is changing and that this is already evident in the university rankings: the East is on the rise and the South will follow suit. Luckily, Groningen and Utrecht are still in the top 100 of the world. Groningen takes the 84th spot: an incredible feat for a peripheral university. In our extensive international network, we wish to further strengthen our core presence in the North. By this I mean the Northern Netherlands and North-West Germany. We are collaborating ever more closely with two German universities: the University of Oldenburg and the University of Bremen. In addition, we wish to strengthen our collaboration with Hamburg and the universities in Scandinavia further. The Universities of Oldenburg and Bremen - President Ralph Brüder and Rector Jutta Günther - have recently gone out on a limb. Inspired by the University of the North, the North-West Alliance has been established in Germany. I hope that Berlin, as well as our Minister for Education, Culture and Science, will reward the highly inspiring 'Exzellenz' proposal from Oldenburg & Bremen, in which Groningen is participating. Fortunately, Haaland has also put the North back on the international map! "Row, University of Groningen, Row!"