

# Annual Report University Council 2024-2025

The University Council is the university's central participation body, working with the Board of the University on policy. As a regular discussion partner of the Executive Board, the council makes an important contribution to the direction of the university and the course of university affairs. With twenty-four democratically elected members - twelve students and twelve staff members - it represents the interests of our academic community by critically monitoring the Board of the University. The UC has the right to give consent and advice on major changes, and can also give unsolicited advice. This annual report is a reflection of the major issues that have come along in the past year.



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The 2024-2025 University Council and the BoU

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# Students



## Student wellbeing (June 2025)

The UC agreed with the recommendations to promote student wellbeing: include student wellbeing as part of the new strategic plan; embed personal and professional development in education and education policy; learn from each other; subsidy scheme student initiatives to raise awareness; strengthen inclusive education, including the professionalization of teachers; continuous attention to this topic.

## Onboarding (international) students (February 2025)

Following research by SOG, recommendations were made from this group to improve the onboarding of (international) students, particularly by expanding digital information for students.

## Renters' Rights Workshop (April 2025)

In response to questions from Lijst Calimero, the UG will facilitate and promote a webinar on renters' rights to prospective students; this can help improve student onboarding. A workshop will also be set up in collaboration with the Communications Department, ESN and Steunpunt Huren. Both initiatives will take place as pilots.

## Numerus Fixus (May/June 2025).

The student section of the UC issued a positive opinion on the numerus fixi for the coming academic year. They were very critical of the procedure of the English-language Psychology track, which will be changed with effect from the 2026-2027 academic year after consultation between the students and the faculty board.

## Student and Northern labour market (June 2025)

Support by the UG of the initiative to increase the opportunities of UG students on the Northern labour market and to make students better acquainted with those opportunities in order to create better matching between UG students and Northern labour market.

# Participation



## Covenant UC - BoU (October 2025).

The covenant from 2011 regarding the harmony model has been updated on the basis of current relationships, establishing that in addition to formal duties and powers, the BoU and UC exchange views on matters over which the UC is not formally granted powers. The harmony model constructively promotes cooperation between the BoU and the UC, focused on support. Fruitful cooperation is the starting point.

## Rules of Procedure of the University Council (June 2025).

The Rules of Procedure have been tightened in the area of compliance with the codes of conduct and the meeting order: as of 2025-2026, upon accepting their seat in the UC, UC members will declare that they will comply with the codes of conduct Integrity, (Sexual) Harassment, Aggression, Violence and Discrimination applicable within the UG, the University Council Regulations and the University Council Rules of Procedure. The Chair of the UC will have broader powers to ensure the order of the meetings.

## Strengthening official support for participation (May 2025)

The official support of the participation councils at the decentralized level will be strengthened and an official secretary network will be established. The aim is to provide uniform support for all faculties and service councils and to ensure a quality boost in official support through joint training; the strengthening of decentralized participation is also in accordance with the advice of the NVAO assessment in the context of the ITK study.

## Powers UC privacy UG-wide systems (February 2025)

After an extensive discussion, it was agreed with the BoU that the UC will have the right of consent on privacy matters in UG-wide systems; The right of consent extends to regulations regarding university privacy policy and the introduction of systems that process personal data (cf. article 27 paragraph 1 sub k and I Works Councils Act (WOR)).

## Student compensation and indexation Student Support Fund (Profileringsfonds) (December 2024 - June 2025)

The allowances of students in the participation council, i.e. University Council and Faculty Councils, are increased to the minimum of the range set by UNL. These fees including those for student members of governing bodies, student administrators and top athletes will henceforth be indexed annually by the same percentage as the statutory tuition fee.

## Internal policies



### Hats

In response to questions from the UC staff group, the new promotion regulations are being amended. They no longer distinguish between male and female professors, and now states that everyone takes off the hat if applicable, not just men, with the exception when the professor has serious objections to taking off the hat.

### Diversity & Inclusion programme evaluation

Position the ongoing program closer to the BoU by placing the Programme Manager under the US management. Continue the role of Chief Diversity Officer after Feb. 1, 2025; take over and embed D&I office duties in the line organization after end of 2025. Recommendations from January 1, 2026: work out the structure and process for explicitly embedding D&I UG-wide through the D&I Committee; explicitly include D&I as part of the new strategic plan; strengthen visibility and effectiveness of the D&I programme. The UC has expressed explicit concern about dissolving the D&I office and embedding the focus area 'in the line'. The UC feels that a separate office is indispensable to keep the subject under constant attention.

### Policy and DPIA Camera Surveillance (May 2025)

The UC approved the renewed camera surveillance policy. The new policy sets out the cases in which camera surveillance can be used, including the use of hidden cameras. When making such a decision, a proper balance is always made between protecting the privacy of those involved and the interests of the UG. Provisions are included regarding retention periods and who has access to recordings and when.

# The University and the World



## Knowledge Security and Sensitive Partnerships Advisory Team (June 2025).

The UC agrees to the establishment of an advisory team on Knowledge Security and Sensitive Partnerships, which will advise the BoU on matters relating to the prevention of undesirable knowledge exports, covert influence by state actors and the misuse of research by repressive regimes, as well as issues of cooperation with government, industry and broader ethical dilemmas in (international) cooperation.

## Digital sovereignty

The UC and BoU held a strategic discussion on digital sovereignty. In what ways can the university become less dependent on Big Tech?

## Budget cuts HLA / WIB

The UC was periodically informed about the progress of the budget cuts, partly as a result of various legislative measures from the government, including the Internationalization in Balance Act (WIB).

## Governance – 5<sup>th</sup> generation university

In a rapidly changing context, the UG wants to be agile and remain meaningful for its immediate environment and for society as a whole; the UG is on its way to becoming a 5th generation university, i.e. a network organization that works in an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary manner even more than it does now; this requires an appropriate governance organizational model in which the three domains of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Medical and the Beta Technology optimally interconnect and can work together; a process is currently underway led by an external process supervisor who will advise the BoU on an appropriate governance organizational model.