



university of
 groningen

campus fryslân

Opening Academic Year 2023-2024 September 2023 - Campus Fryslân, The Beurs, Leeuwarden

Amaranta Luna Arteaga – Manager Marketing & Recruitment and International Relations, on behalf of the Faculty Council

Dear students, colleagues and friends,

It is my honor to address you today and celebrate together the start of the academic year.

I stand here on behalf of the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council is an elected body that actively participates in the governance of the Faculty. Each year, students vote to elect their representatives, and every two years, staff members do the same. We are a team of six people working together to represent the voices, concerns and input of staff and students.

The participation of the Faculty Council, in the Opening of the Academic Year, is an opportunity to introduce the community to their representatives and thank former members of the Faculty Council for their great job.

I would like to start by thanking the former Faculty Council team. Last year, the faculty council was represented by three student members, Julia, Tim & Sunny, all students of the bachelor's programme Global Responsibility & Leadership and two staff members, Halim, a PhD staff and myself, a

professional staff member. Julia has graduated, Tim and Sunny are currently doing their minor abroad & Halim continues working on his PhD thesis (and I think he is here today, so Halim please stand up). On behalf of the Campus Fryslân community, I would like to thank Julia, Tim, Sunny and Halim for their commitment, vision, work and dedication to representing students and staff voices. Please, let's give them an applause (thanks, Halim, you can take a seat).

Now I would like to introduce the new Faculty Council team (faculty council members, if you are attending today, please stand up that people can see you). For the student faction, Johan, a student of the master's Sustainable Entrepreneurship & a graduate of Global Responsibility & Leadership, Anna, Ph.D. student at Campus Fryslân and Luisa, a student of the Global Responsibility & Leadership programme. For the staff faction, Maeve and Arianna, both assistant professors at Campus Fryslân and representing scientific staff and myself, Amaranta, representing professional staff. This is the team that will be representing the student and staff voices in the Faculty Council this year. Please join me in a round of applause to wish us good luck in our work as Faculty Council members. Personally, I look forward to working together with you. Thank you (please have a seat).

Many of you, new to this faculty, might be wondering right now what the Faculty Council is and what is the role of its members. As I mentioned before, the Faculty Council is an elected advisory body representing staff and students in the governance of our faculty. By the right of consent or advice, the Faculty Council guides and monitors issues such as educational programmes, research, finances, staff policy, health and safety regulations, organisational issues amongst others. Our main role is to ensure that the faculty plans and developments align with the needs and vision of the staff and students and work together with other governing bodies towards participatory and inclusive decision-making at our faculty.

As you can see, it is an important body that represents the voices of staff and students, your voice.

To give you an example, in the past years, the Faculty Council has brought to the attention of the Faculty Board issues such as mental health support on campus for students, social safety, representation & engagement of the staff and student communities in decision-making, for example, the drafting of the CF development agenda, workload of lecturers, HR policy, staff well-being and workload, organisational culture, amongst others. We did all this by collecting your thoughts, input and opinions through the student and staff forums and one-on-one interactions, and we'll continue to do so this year as our faculty is growing and entering its new development phase. I invite you to engage and participate in the forums or reach out to the Faculty Council members so that your input can be heard and represented.

And why should you get involved? There are already so many things on our to-do list. To answer this question, I would like to return to a year ago, during the Opening of the Academic Year, when Halim shared with us that Campus Fryslân reminded him of a Mesopotamian mosaic. He mentioned that a mosaic is the art of making beautiful and meaningful images using colourful stones, and it is through the diversity of colours and patterns that beautiful pictures are created. The year before, I compared Campus Fryslân to a jungle where ideas and people can grow wildly and beautifully, as the soil is rich and moist, and we have an abundance of backgrounds, visions, experiences, identities, expertise, cultures & approaches.

To keep creating that mosaic and growing the jungle, we need your collaboration and input so that all colours and diversity can be seen and represented in our faculty. We must keep working together to achieve the values and culture we have set for ourselves and the Faculty. The work starts at home, at Campus Fryslân. I hope you'll participate with us.

On behalf of the Faculty Council team, welcome to Campus Fryslân.

Thank you.