Dean Karen Maex leaving to become Rector Magnificus

On 18 April it was announced that Dean Karen Maex will be appointed Rector Magnificus of the University of Amsterdam effective 1 June 2016.

In a personal message to staff and students of the Faculty she expressed gratitude for the cooperation she experienced: ‘This is a special step for me, but also a step that sees me saying goodbye as dean of this faculty. In the past years, you have inspired me in many ways. I had the privilege to be a part of your plans, wishes and ambitions as well as the obstacles and difficult decisions to be taken. Together, we brought about many changes. Our joint goal to optimally give shape to science research and education in Amsterdam generated a shared ambition. I am proud of what we have accomplished in a short amount of time and grateful for the way we managed to achieve it: by not shying away from dialogue and making an effort to listen to one another.’

Dear students,

Spring is in the air! Many of the students are enjoying the warm, sunny days beneath the blossoming trees and blue sky. This also means that it is time for a big spring clean-up. We made this happen by moving to our new room: B0.112. You are always welcome to visit us!

Every spring, there are elections for the new Student Councils. Most UvA students are allowed to vote. On 10 May, there is a debate at Roetersseiland for the parties who participate in the University-wide elections. During this week on another day, there will be a debate in the central hall at Science Park for the Faculty’s elections. Keep a close eye on our Facebook page to stay informed.

One question of debate will be the appointment of a new dean. Karen Maex, our current dean, will become Rector Magnificus of the University. Although we are happy with the way that Karen Maex has fulfilled her function, together with the Faculty Works Council (Ondernemingsraad) we sent the Executive Board (CvB) a letter stating we aim to have a dean only for our own Faculty and not for the VU science faculties as well. The letter (in Dutch) can be found on our website.

The last hot topic that comes around every spring is the Teaching and Examination Regulations which make up the framework of your study programme. The Faculty Student Council has the right of approval on these and therefore we are digging through 40 of such documents. Feel free to give input!

Kind regards,
The Faculty Student Council

More information? Please visit room B0.112, send an email to fnwi@studentenraad.nl or go to studentenraad.nl/fnwi

Physics & Astronomy student meeting a ‘success’

On 14 April a meeting was organised for students of the Physics & Astronomy Bachelor’s and Master’s programmes in preparation of the joint UvA-VU institute for Physics & Astronomy. Michi Groot, chair of the Faculty Student Council: ‘We wanted to have this session to give students of the programmes the opportunity to share their opinions on the implications for teaching location.’ At the suggestion of Max Verweg, chair of the NSA study association, the purpose of the meeting was broadened to include a Q&A session regarding the joint degrees. With exception of some Master’s tracks, teaching of both programmes will move to Science Park. Groot and Verweg call the meeting a ‘success’. Verweg: ‘It was nice to see attendees jumping in to ask questions and give their opinion.’