



To Dah Loo

PUBLISHED BY THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE
IN COOPERATION WITH THE STUDENT COUNCIL

This newspaper is all about the UvA-VU collaboration and other educational news

Especially made for UvA science students

April 2017

 **Facultaire Studentenraad**

Dear students,

Last month was a busy one. We advised against the relocation of the Information Sciences programmes to the NU-Building. The arguments for our advice concerned the risks we saw for the educational vision, interdisciplinarity, educational support, identity, flexibility in educational space, support from students and staff, the process and the future student councils. We also urged the dean to look for possibilities to move the VU physics and chemistry research groups to Science Park independently of the relocation of our information sciences research groups and programmes to the NU-Building, in order to unite education and research.

Ultimately, the Executive Board has decided against carrying out the housing plans altogether. In this To Dah Loo, you can read more about this decision. If you have any questions about this, we are happy to (try to) answer them.

Other than that, we distributed two questionnaires. The first one is about exam committees, and the second one is about policy around learning impediments (physical disabilities, dyslexia, etc). You can find both questionnaires on our website (studentenraad.nl/fnwi) and on our Facebook page (facebook.nl/StudentenraadFNWI). Please fill them in, so we can address the problems you experience on these subjects.

We are discussing changes in the Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER). Do you encounter problems with these regulations? Please tell us! You can reach us through fnwi@studentenraad.nl or every Tuesday and Thursday between 12:00 and 14:00 in person, in the central hall of the Science Park.

Yours sincerely,

The Faculty Student Council

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

Definitive decision on housing plans

The executive boards from UvA and VU Amsterdam have decided not to pursue the housing plans for the science collaboration. In the plans that were announced in February, informatics research and education from both universities would be clustered in the NU-building on the VU campus. VU physics groups would relocate to Science Park 904, where the joint degree programmes in Physics and Astronomy are already located.

Not enough support

However, consultation of the representative advisory bodies did not result in sufficient support. The joint meeting of the UvA representative advisory bodies did not give approval for the financial consequences of the plans. In addition, the Faculty of Science Student Council advised against the relocation of the Information Sciences programmes. Because in the short term a number of crucial

decisions needed to be made in the building process of the NU-Building, there is no more time to develop the proposed plans in alternative ways. The UvA and VU Executive Boards therefore decided not to pursue the plans further.

Potential of collaboration

Building plans at the VU Campus and the intended collaboration with SRON offered a unique opportunity to house groups together based on discipline. From a practical point of view, the relocation plans were connected: in order for one group to move in, another group had to move out. 'The fact that there is no basis to execute the housing plans is disappointing for all those who worked hard to make that happen,' says dean Peter van Tienderen, 'particularly because the potential of our collaboration with VU Amsterdam is still widely acknowledged, also by the representative advisory bodies.'

Geert ten Dam, President of the UvA Executive Board:

'We worked with the faculties as best we could to alleviate concerns among staff and students. Unfortunately, that did not result in a positive decision on their part. In the interest of inspiring and future-oriented education and research, we will be looking at how else the desired collaboration of the relevant research groups might be given shape.'

He emphasises that the collaboration with VU Amsterdam does not end with this decision. 'Collaboration with VU Amsterdam has always been about creating added value in research and education and we remain dedicated to realising the full potential of our partnership.'

UvA closed during spring holidays

During the spring holidays most UvA buildings, study centres and catering locations will be closed.

- Thursday, 27 April - King's Day
- Friday, 28 April - Collective day off
- Friday, 5 May - Liberation Day
- Thursday, 25 May - Ascension Day
- Friday, 26 May - Collective day off
- Monday, 5 June - Whit Monday

Exceptions

The Library Learning Centre at the Roeterseiland Campus will have adjusted opening hours during this period. The University Library at Singel will only be closed on 27 April for King's Day.



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Wednesday 26 April, 12:00-13:00,
BètaBreak in central hall SP904

Tuesday 2 May,
UvA fotoshoot in central hall SP904

Week 10-16 May,
Election student councils & Apply for the Board of Studies

For all events, check student.uva.nl

