



# To Dah Loo

About the UvA-VU collaboration and other scientific stuff

Especially made for  
UvA Science Students

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## The Student Council: What do we do?

Dear students,

**In the previous To Dah Loo you were able to read what the Student Council is all about. In this edition we would like to talk to you about how the Student Council is involved in the process of the core teams and exploratory committees.**

The exploratory committees are made up of students, teachers and members from the faculty staff of both the UvA and the VU. There have been a few “generations” of these committees, each building on the findings of the previous committees. Not all of these committees included students, which meant the students were not represented. Now, the Student Council is assisting in finding student members for the committees, in order for students to contribute to shaping the future of their education.

Organised in domains of similar studies, they discuss the content of the programmes, the differences between them, and the things that could be done to improve these programmes in the future. When finished, the committees write a report (a “binder”) of their findings.

These binders contain all files associated with the core teams, which makes them quite an extensive read. Therefore, the Student Council summarises every binder and publishes the summaries online. This way, interested students with little time can also stay informed. The binders are publicly available on our website: <http://tinyurl.com/fnwibinders>



A second advantage of making the summaries is that the Student Council can keep track of the ideas that are forming and the role that students play in the formulation of these ideas, ensuring that the process is transparent and democratic. Given the fact that we are involved in deciding whether these ideas should be implemented, the Student Council is keen on ensuring a good process.

Chairman of the Student Council,  
Jonas Lodewegen

More information? Please visit room A1.26, send an email to [fnwi@studentenraad.nl](mailto:fnwi@studentenraad.nl) or go to [studentenraad.nl/fnwi](http://studentenraad.nl/fnwi)

## Exploration of collaboration in Earth, Ecology & Environment

**The Earth, Ecology & Environment exploratory committee has written a new draft report on programmes and courses offered jointly by the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and VU University Amsterdam (VU).**

‘The report describes how collaboration between the UvA and VU could improve programmes and courses in the fields of Earth, Ecology & Environment,’ explains Joeri Bordes, chair of the

Congo study association. He and more than 20 fellow committee members from various disciplines, including Biology and Earth Sciences, have spent the last months working on this draft report.

Among the committee’s recommendations is to organise more exchange between lecturing staff at the two universities, according to Bordes. ‘This would really benefit our programmes. One condition is that the educational ad-

ministration is well organized before the programmes themselves are merged, to keep things transparent for students. It is also important that all parties are informed about what is happening and when.’

Students and staff are most welcome to share their ideas, Bordes says. ‘We’re happy to receive tips!’

Interested? Get in touch via [voorzitter@congo.eu](mailto:voorzitter@congo.eu).



*Good luck during this last exam period of 2014  
I wish you all happy holidays  
and a wonderful 2015*

*On behalf of all staff at the  
Faculty of Science*

*Karen Maex  
Dean of the Faculty of Science*

## Anna’s Ruigte and Anna’s Tuin

**The area of land between the UvA Faculty Building and the ring road is about to get a makeover, into Anna’s Ruigte and Anna’s Tuin.**

Originally designated as a nature and water storage reserve, the land has much more to offer as a spot for urban wildlife and the Science Park community. A nature development plan has therefore been drawn up for the area by current and former students at the Faculty of Science, featuring a brushwood called Anna’s Ruigte and a garden called Anna’s Tuin. It proposes to develop the area into an appealing spot with plenty of space for plants and



wildlife, where local residents, staff, students and visitors can enjoy the green surroundings. A key element of the plans is the permaculture garden, Anna’s Tuin, where fruit and vegetables will be grown without depleting the local ecosys-

tem. Shovels are set to start digging in spring 2015.

Want to learn more? Visit [www.annastuin.blogspot.nl](http://www.annastuin.blogspot.nl).

