Collaborative Institutes aspire to excellence in research

On 19 November 2015 the UvA-VU core teams for Informatics, Physics & Astronomy and Earth, Ecology & Environment announced their intention to establish Collaborative Institutes in their respective fields. Although this development does not directly affect students at the Faculty of Science, they will likely see a positive influence according to Dean Karen Maex.

‘The core teams aspire to establish world leading centres of excellence,’ she says. ‘With our education being research-intensive as it is, students will naturally reap the benefits in the programmes we offer and in the recognition of their degree – here and abroad.’

The representative advisory bodies of the UvA and VU science faculties (including the Faculty Student Council) will have ample opportunity to give input on how the Collaborative Institutes take shape. ‘For me it’s very important to involve them from the start. I want to know where they foresee trouble, but also opportunities, so we can incorporate that in the process,’ says Maex.

10-point plan: Have Your Say!

In response to the UvA-wide 10-point plan, three working groups consisting of students and staff of the Faculty of Science have been working on a translation of the plan for our Faculty. In a debate on 18 January 2016, you will have the opportunity to give your input on their advice to the dean.

The working groups have been pondering general topics – such as quality of education and governance of the university – and more concrete questions like the pros and cons of the Binding Study Advice, and now they’d like to hear what you think! Read the concept reports (available in January) and come to the debate to have your say or listen in.