Dear students,

With the fourth meeting with the dean coming up, the Council is preparing several letters of advice for the Faculty Board. One of these is about sustainability. We believe that the Faculty should be investing more in this and therefore propose a waste separation system and an active working group with the task to improve sustainability at the Faculty.

Another advice we are working on is on selective Master’s and especially the additional admission requirements. Within several Master’s programmes students sought to meet additional requirements to enter the programme, such as a higher GPA and mandatory courses. Although the latter seems reasonable, the Council sees the former as devaluation of Bachelor’s degrees. The value of a Master’s programme is defined by how much a student will develop, not by their GPA going in. Therefore, focus should be on the quality of the programmes, not the quality of the inflow.

Also related to the transition from Bachelor’s to Master’s programmes, the Council, in collaboration with study associations CONGO and GAOS, will organize a pilot version of a Master’s speed dating event with current Master’s students for the Life Sciences. The aim is to increase the amount of information about Master’s programmes based on personal experiences. Eighteen Life Sciences tracks will be represented and Bachelor’s students can sign up for free via the QR-code. The event will be on March 30, 7.30 - 9 pm at Polder. If successful, the event will be organized for other Bachelor’s programmes as well.

Kind regards,
The Faculty Student Council

More information? Please visit room A1.26, send an email to fnwi@studentenaad.nl or go to studentenaad.nl/fnwi

---

**Definitive decision on preparation of Collaborative Institutes**

The plans to start preparations for Collaborative Institutes in the domains Informatics, Physics & Astronomy and Earth, Ecology & Environment have been made definitive by the dean. The definitive decision incorporates the majority of recommendations made by the representative advisory bodies.

The decision stems from the wishes of the involved institutes and departments to intensify their collaboration and to prepare the foundation of a joint institute,’ says Gert Grift, director of the UvA-VU science collaboration. In November 2015, the intentions were submitted for advice to the representative advisory bodies of UvA and VU, including the Faculty Student Council. Based on the advice that was received, the decision has been revised on several points. Amongst other things, additional ways and moments where students, staff and representative bodies are involved with and informed about the decision making have been included, such as plenary debates for the staff and students of the institutes in question.

---

**New catering concept promises more variety**

A new catering concept will come to Science Park 904. As the contract with Farest expires at the end of this year, Facility Services plans to implement a model that provides students and staff with a wider range of options. Inspired by the popular ‘Foodhallen’ in Amsterdam West, a variety of food and drinks concepts will be offered in a so-called shop-in-shop setting.

Micha de Groot, chair of the Faculty Student Council, was invited to go on a campus tour around the country to see how this works in practice, for example at Erasmus University Rotterdam: ‘It definitely shows promise. For example, we could have more and tastier vegetarian options, which has long been a sticking point.’

To stay informed visit enjoytoday.amsterdam or follow on Facebook.

---

**Events**

Wednesday 16 March, 12:00 - 13:00, Central hall Science Park 904, BetaBreak

Wednesday 31 March, deadline registration Beta Career Event, in Casa400 at 13 April

Wednesday 6 April, 12:00, deadline submission UvA Thesis Prize

Tuesday 12 April, 13:00 - 17:45, Brainwave, Students’ Colloquium

For all events, check student.uva.nl

---

**Who is responsible for keeping the Science Park clean?**

- 2% Only the students and staff
- 3% Only the cleaners
- 95% The students, staff and cleaners

Results of the December Student Council survey in collaboration with UvACommunity. For more information, send an email to community.uva@gmail.com.

---

**BetaWeek**

SPORTS DAY, MARCH 7
LECTURE, MARCH 8
DRINKS, MARCH 8
BANDS NIGHT, MARCH 9
PARTY, MARCH 11

For more information check www.betaweek.nl

---

Comments or suggestions about the To Dah Loo? Please send an email: info-science@uva.nl