



# To Dah Loo

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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

## SPECIAL EDITION



# 'I would definitely urge everyone to vote!'

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

You can vote from 23 November to 11 December using the link you will receive by email.

You will be asked to speak out on three subjects:

### 1. An inclusive Senate:

The committee proposes to install a new senate, consisting of people from all layers of the university, which will advise on UvA's long term policies. UvA's current Senate consists of 12 professors.

► Yes/No

### 2. A charter:

The committee proposes the adoption of a charter which postulates the values that will serve as a touchstone for assessing (future) UvA policy. In its proposal, the committee defines eight values.

► Yes/No on a charter

► You can give your opinion on the predefined values and propose other values

### 3. Governance model:

Should the UvA adopt principles for a governance model with more autonomy and authority for students and staff?

► You will be asked to rate several governance principles

► You will be asked for your preference of a governance model

In response to the Maagdenhuis occupation in the spring of 2015, the committee Democratisation & Decentralisation was formed and tasked by the Executive Board (CvB) to come up with proposals that should make governance at the UvA more democratic and less centralized. These proposals are now subject of an advisory referendum for all UvA students and staff.

'It's not necessary to read the whole report from beginning to end, there is a summary available. At almost all faculties, events are organised to inform people about the proposals and give them the opportunity to discuss. The referendum campaign committee also visits the campuses to inform students and staff. This way, we hope everyone is well prepared for the referendum.'

committee's advice as well as comments coming from the academic community. This is a real chance to influence the way the UvA is governed, therefore I would definitely urge everyone to vote!

**Esther de Boer**

(Chair Faculty Student Council):

'After reading the report I discussed the committee's proposals with different people at several occasions. Discussing the ideas is a good way to form an opinion, and I would advise everyone to attend discussion meetings, like the one on 23 November or on 7 December with Jet Bussemaker.'

Kyah Smaal, Master's student Logic at the Faculty of Science, is member of the D&D committee. She answers some questions we had about the referendum.

**Pim van Helvoirt**

(Member Faculty Student Council):

'What I suggest is to read the extract of the D&D report and to study the flyer. I like to be informed before I cast my vote. Far too often people don't know what they are talking about and still proclaim their opinion.'

**Jacobijn Sandberg**

(programme director Information Studies):

'The report released by the committee is rather large and I find it difficult to really grasp the implications of the different governance models. I do think now that the referendum is here, everyone should take the opportunity to vote.'

Questions are based on the committee's proposals made in a 188-page report. How vital is it to read the report prior to taking part in the referendum?

The outcome is said to be binding, provided it is clear and within the law. Who defines what 'clear' is in this case, the committee or the Executive Board?

The committee's interpretation will play a major role, but the Executive Board ultimately makes the decisions. They will commit to the interpretation they give, based on the

Some people are concerned about the representation of different stakeholders in the referendum outcome. There are far more students than staff at the UvA. Will this be taken into account?

'Every vote counts equally, but student to staff ratio will be taken into account. Results will also be differentiated for faculty or service unit. For example, if there's a faculty that shows a clear preference for a certain model, that faculty could start with a pilot for that model.'



**DISCUSSION SESSIONS on the Democratisation referendum**

**Wednesday 23 November 12:00-13:00 central hall Science Park 904**

**Renée van Amerongen**

(associate professor Biomedical Sciences):

'Redesigning the entire governance model is very complex. I certainly have some questions about that. We've seen recently what can happen when we vote based on sentiment rather than fact. Therefore I wholeheartedly support having a discussion about this matter. Let's put all questions and concerns about the proposed governance models on the table.'

