Dear Students,

How are you? The academic year is coming to its end, and so is our year as Faculty Student Council. The elections for the council are in full swing as I’m typing this, and hopefully we will get worthy successors.

Although a lot of our work was put on hold due to Covid-19, still some very important stuff happened. As you may have heard, our Faculty of Science representative and CSR-head has filed an injunction (in Dutch: kort geding) against the UvA. The CSR did this because of the way the university is handling proctoring during examinations, especially the way the Faculty for Economics and Business is handling proctoring. The CSR deemed the practice to be against the General Data Protection Regulation (in Dutch: AVG), as did their legal counsel. By filing this injunction, the CSR hopes to make UvA stop proctoring in its current form. As I am writing this column, the judge has yet to issue a verdict.

No conclusions yet, but exciting things in prospect. As soon as the judge has come to a verdict you will hear from the CSR and as soon as we have the results from the elections you will of course hear from us. Let’s hope for great results in both cases and we are looking forward to train and settle in our successors.

Kind regards,

Jasper Claessen
General member Faculty Student Council FNWI 19/20

Note from the editors: after submission of this column, the judge ruled that the UvA is allowed to use proctoring software. According to the ruling, the use of such software is necessary in carrying out the UvA’s statutory duty (conducting exams) under the circumstances and does not unlawfully infringe upon privacy.

More information? Send an email to fnwi@studentenraad.nl

Science4all: looking for projects to promote diversity

The Faculty of Science wants to be an inclusive community where every person, regardless of race, gender or cultural background, feels welcome and valued. To stimulate the diversity of our Faculty population we are looking for ideas. Do you have an idea to promote inclusiveness or increase diversity? Then apply now for financial support from the Faculty of Science in the grassroots project Science4All. You can ask for support for all kinds of activities, such as cultural activities, a web campaign or proposals that contribute to diversity and inclusivity in the context of the current online-faculty; surprise us! Per approved project we have between €500 and €3,000 available. A panel consisting of the Dean, the Faculty Diversity Officer and a student representative will evaluate all the proposals. Make sure you check www.uva.nl/science4all for more information on how to submit, and send your proposal before 22 September 2020.

Women in the Faculty now also for students

Women in the Faculty (Wif) is a platform that has focused on support, advice and coaching of female scientists at the Faculty of Science since 2007. As of May 2020 they’ve expanded to include a new chapter: Wif Students. The position of men and women in the academic field is still uneven and women are underrepresented in many study programmes at the Faculty of Science. Amongst other things, Wif Students wants to close the gender gap by mapping why women choose study programmes in science & technology and pursue academic careers less often than men.

Everyone interested in gender equality can stay informed of the activities of Wif Students through Facebook (wifstudents.uva), Instagram (@wif_students_uva) or Canvas, or leave your email address.

Astronomer Alex de Koter named Lecturer of the Year of the Faculty of Science

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