



# To Dah Loo

About the UvA-VU collaboration and other scientific stuff

Especially made for UvA Science Students

Published by the Faculty of Science in cooperation with the Student Council

November 2015

 **Facultaire Studentenraad**

Dear students,

Congratulations on surviving the first study period of 2015-2016! You probably already received all your marks on tests, papers and presentations, and we hope you can look back with pride. In the meantime, we have been busy as well, and would like to share some of the things we are working on.

The task group Academic Community and Facilities is responsible for staying connected with you, the student community, and for a pleasant study environment. In order to get input from students, the group organises a monthly consultation with the study associations. In these meetings we discuss, among other things, the subjects and the format of the Students' Colloquium. What are interesting subjects? How often should the Colloquium be organised?

In addition, the task group PR, with help from the study associations, is setting up frequent drinks where you can meet the Council members in person. Keep a close look at our Facebook page and posters in the room of your association to stay informed.

Another issue currently under discussion is the Bring Your Own Device regulation. The Council is trying to find out what the advantages and downsides are. Laptops are quite expensive and we would like to know your opinion about the mandatory laptops. In addition, the University of Amsterdam is investigating the possibilities and constraints of digital forms of education. Are online lectures or assignments an enrichment or a deterioration? Please fill in the questionnaire via this QR-code to let us know your opinion!

Kind regards,

The Faculty Student Council



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)

## Bring your own device

In the past two years, the Faculty improved WiFi-signal and added extra outlets in classrooms and study areas – all to facilitate its Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy. But why was the Faculty so intent on introducing this policy?

One major advantage, according to Director of Education Michel Haring: 'We need less computer rooms, which take up valuable space and are not very energy efficient.' In addition, BYOD opens a up a lot of new possibilities such as interactive quizzes or web-based assignments during class.

A familiar way of working for Fokke Dekker, Bachelor's student of Information Stud-



© Photography: Liesbeth Dingemans

ies. 'For us, bringing our own laptop to class is as natural as Biology students bringing their knife set to a dissection practicum,' he says. Although he does think even more could be done to improve facilities for BYOD: 'There are still a few WiFi dead zones.'

**What do you think about BYOD?**

Take the Student Council's survey.



## Going 'To-Dah-Loo' for fertilizer

Can your toilet visit at Science Park benefit fertilizer production? Three Natural and Social Sciences Bachelor's students are researching this possibility. Student Lot Hartman explains: 'Crops need fertilizer with phosphate for growth. However, phosphate is a limited resource.'

Usually mined from rock, phosphate can also be won from urine in the form of struvite. The students want to know if it's feasible to make fertilizer with the phosphate from urine produced here.

'We will focus on the urinals in the men's room, where it won't be necessary to separate urine from other, ehm... output,' Lot adds.

Starting 16 November, the number of visitors to the ground floor urinals will be registered with motion sensors. Subsequently, the students can estimate potential phosphate production.

So drink up gentlemen, and water the plants!

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**ES**

Wednesday 18 Nov, 12:00-13:00, Central hall Science Park 904, BetaBreak

**VT**

Wednesday 25 Nov, 20:00-21:30, Spui 25, FNWI Collegetour ([www.spui25.nl](http://www.spui25.nl))

**EN**

Wed. and Thurs. 2 & 3 Dec, 11:00-14:00, Central hall, Sinterklaas campaign

Tuesday 8 Dec, 17:00-17:45, Brainwave, Students' Colloquium

For all events, check [student.uva.nl](http://student.uva.nl).

**UvA and VU publish vision on education**

The science faculties of the University of Amsterdam and VU Amsterdam have published their joint vision on education. Students and teaching staff were invited to give input in several feedback sessions. Intensified collaboration between the two universities called for a shared perspective, to ensure the quality of existing (joint) programmes and clear the way for future joint initiatives in education.

Open the QR-code and download the pdf of the Statement.

