University College Student Representatives of the Netherlands

Mission statement 2016 - 2017

Executive Board

Over the last years, the UCSRN has formed the basis for the exchange of knowledge and ideas between University Colleges. Considering the finalization of the Policy Manual and Statutes by the last Executive Board, the UCSRN has officially become an established organisation. Therefore, the time has come to set new goals and to shape the future of the UCSRN. This UCSRN year we will focus on the following aspects:

Promotion

The UCSRN is relatively young and in the past years has mainly focused on the form and structure of the organization. It is therefore that the UCSRN is relatively new, and unknown among established organisations, such as the Dutch Ministry of Education, the ISO and the LSVb. To improve the UCSRN's position and ability to effectively reach its academic and social goals, we believe that external relations should become one of our main priorities.

Firstly, the UCSRN should establish contacts with other representative organisations and interest groups. Sending out emails and attending 'borrels' will raise awareness of our name and pave the way for lobbying. Secondly, we will strive to improve our promotion. In order to be accessible to external partners and to UC students, the UCSRN website will be completed as soon as possible. It should contain all the necessary information about the organization including but not limited to the budget, activities, GA agendas, minutes and so on. Another way to improve our visibility is through continuing to send out the newsletter to students regularly. We would like to keep our UC students informed about what is currently going on in the UCSRN and what activities they can look forward to. In order to achieve this, apart from sending out the newsletter, we would like to remain active on Facebook. The UCSRN could attract more attention to its Facebook page through give-aways, promotional videos and sponsored Facebook posts.

Representation

Our ultimate goal is to represent the University College students in the Netherlands. We would like to make the UCSRN more representative of its students through the following steps. Firstly, we would like to attract more people to the GAs. This can be achieved by combining the GA with a social activity afterwards or by organizing a GA weekend for example. Secondly, we would like to improve awareness of the UCSRN elections. This can be done through notifying students sufficiently far in advance about their possibility to become part of the UCSRN, through active promotion and clear information on what a year in the UCSRN entails. By having more people run for Executive Board positions, the UCSRN will become a better reflection of its students. As a goal for next year, the Executive Board plans on coming into contact with its students directly. This means that the Executive Board aims to visit certain events of its members and hold office hours at individual UCs.

Professionalization

In order to become a recognizable organization on a national level, the UCSRN must strive to be perceived as professional as possible. In the first place this comes down to continuity. Which entails not only picking up the projects of the former board, but also holding on the form and structure of the UCSRN. All communication to external partners wil be written in formal English, events and meetings will be visited in the appropriate attire and the communication channels, like the facebook page and the website, will be professionalised where needed. When it comes to professionalisation it is important that we remain informal and approachable to our members. In other words, the newsletter, for instance, will still be written in a modern and appealing way.

Academic Committee

Increasing the value of UC LAS education to graduate schools and employers

An important role of the Academic Committee in the early stages of the UCSRN is to ensure outside organisations recognise the value added by a University College and Liberal Arts and Sciences education. UC students benefit from many distinct advantages over regular degree students, it is the role of the AC to further this perspective.

Providing a platform for students at UCs to share passions and engage in discourse

For students currently studying at UCs, the AC should provide a platform to share academic passions, as well as to engage in academic discourse on varied topics. One of the means to achieve this is a yearly conference, centered around a topic. At the conference, speakers will be invited for lectures and workshops that further the interest and knowledge of participating UC students.

Role of the Academic Committee with respect to the UCSRN

While the ACs primary duties are outlined above, it is important to remember the UCSRN consists of three main bodies, of which the AC is one. The Executive Board can be used to further the academic goals through lobbying and networking, which are not in the AC's task description. Lobbying and networking are powerful tools for change, and it is possible to take advantage of this to further the interests of the AC, especially increasing the value of UC LAS education to outside parties. The EB also has expectations towards the AC, and thus the AC has a responsibility towards the EB as well. The AC and the Social Committee both organise UCSRN events. To ensure the amount and timing of events fit the overall vision of all three bodies, it is important that all events planned are coordinated with both the SC and the EB.

Social Committee

Open learning platform

Social Struggles – The Social Committee (SC) is in our opinion an ideal place to discuss social struggles that each University College (UC) has to deal with. We could therefore act as an open platform for UC's where we could all grow and learn from each other. Considering

that every UC is different, we function in different ways and are all unique. Therefore the SC aims to become an open learning platform between UCs.

Committee Communication – One of the aspects the SC would like to enhance is committee communication. Larger and older UC's have many different developed committees from which younger and smaller UC's could take an example from. The SC would like to therefore enable smoother communication between committees in different UCs through updating last year's committee database and through promoting at each of our UCs the possibility to get into contact with committees all over the Netherlands.

Events

As the SC, one of our main goals is also to plan great and exciting events. This year, we are not necessarily striving for a larger quantity of events, but ideally for better quality and more attended ones. Ideally the SC strives to have three or four events this academic year, two of which for sure will be the Spotlight and the UCSRN tournament. It is important for the SC that we organize events that people will enjoy and recall in a positive manner.

Sense of unity

The SC also strives to achieve a sense of unity within the UCSRN between different UCs. We think that through for example events, we could integrate UCs and create a UCSRN spirit alongside the individual UC one. Although this is a difficult task and we are aware it might take longer than just a year, we think that it is important to take up this task. It would be great to see events during which UC's become closer, befriend each other and know they can rely on each other.

Promotion

As mentioned in the overall EB vision, it is also important for the SC that the UCSRN is greatly promoted this year. In a year time, we would like to see that students know what our organization deals with, how it is structured and how students can make use of it. The SC also aims to show how UCSRN can contribute to UCs. This year in the SC we dedicated one position for a PR strategist. He will help develop a PR strategy that pushes uniform, professional content to all UCs via the central UCSRN Facebook page. We would also like to see an increased usage of the UCSRN Facebook page and a fully developed website.