



University College Student Representatives of the Netherlands

Mission statement 2017 - 2018

Executive Board

For many years the UCSRN seemed to be searching for what exactly its role was going to be. Last year, this struggle seemed to have reached its conclusion, as on top of the already existing formal documentation, long term goals were drawn up with the members. We thus hope to continue this line taken by the previous year and only tweak where needed.

Minimalistic and supportive approach

Because the potential of cooperation between the Student Associations is so large, the UCSRN has gained ownership of an increasing amount of tasks. We will use this year to reflect on what is and is not working, and if it could work with small changes.

For a lot of tasks of the UCSRN we rely on SA members to do the work, which also required to continuously and critically assess whether our role in this actually improves the outcomes. If we are more ineffective than the SA's, we have no role in the task at hand. If everyone is better off with us as catalyst rather than responsible, we should take that role.

As a result of this vision we expect the EB to be slightly more busy than before. For the SA's, however, this should result in a slightly lower workload, whilst retaining optimal results.

Representation and public appearance

Both the board and the organization aims to be visible – formally, informally, internally, and externally. We want to visit the UC's and attend events important to the members when we are invited (ranging from graduations to constitutional drinks), attend university events and conferences, and be as visible as possible on social media.

Network of influence

The Executive Board of last year has worked hard to make the UCSRN the nationally recognized association for getting into contact with UC students. As a result, we have an elaborate network of influential contacts and partner organizations.

This process however is not finished yet. This year's board aims to expand this network greatly and set up internal processes which guide the board through whom to contact and how when a situation pops up. This has the end-goal of increasing our effectiveness when it comes to getting fulfilling the goals put forward to us by the SA's, with regards to, for example, creating or adapting legislation or generating media attention for perceived problems.

Transition

Whilst we are very satisfied with and grateful for the transition we have received, we aim to both standardize the process more to prevent board years in which a board has knowledge gaps, and to elaborate the transition process even further.



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Bottom-up approach

More than before, we want the UCSRN to be a bottom-up organization, where the member SA's and Academic bodies dictate what the board has to do. Initiative by the ourselves is not discouraged, as it is obviously essential to our functioning, but should always be communicated with the members. Before undertaking action we should always be asking ourselves, and logically the members, whether or not the actions are actually wanted.

Long-term goals and continuity

To generate continuity, we will hold the approved documents with goals very close, and test everything we do to these goals. As such, members will more easily know what to expect and continuity will be created.

Committees

Both the Academic and Social Committee are shifting their focus this year. Rather than organise events, they will now discuss event proposals by members and, together with the Treasurer, decide on subsidising events. Through the committees promotion of events will be done on all UCs, but they will not be involved with active organisation. The focus of the Committee meetings will therefore shift towards creating a platform for sharing of information, experiences, procedures and opinions on academic or social matters. The representatives can thus use each other's knowledge pools to gain inspiration for improvements and problem solutions. Additionally, the committees can direct questions and requests to the UCSRN Executive Board who could then direct their lobbying and network to benefit the search.

The result of this will be more efficiency with regards to events, whilst less work for the committee members. Furthermore, more time will be available for the representatives to learn from each other, instead of having to spend time checking to-do's and tasklists.

All of this closely follows the line set forward by goals set last year.