



# Annual Report 2016 Student Union

## Opening words from the board

Dear reader,

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In front of you lies the annual report of 2016 of the Student Union (SU) of the University of Twente(UT). In this annual report, we look back on the progress that was made last calendar year, based on the objectives from the annual plan for 2016<sup>1</sup>. The pillars of the report are the four ambitions detailed in the Strategic Plan 2016-2019, which was written to give direction to the policy of the SU during these four years. In 2016, being the first year covered by this Strategic Plan, we took the first steps to achieve the ambitions.

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During the course of 2016, a great deal has happened in many areas concerning the SU. The relations with the UT's employees were enhanced, steps were taken to facilitate internationalisation, and big plans were made to make the Bastille a vivid student life building once again. We have also supported students in several ways. For example, by offering financial support through FOBOS grants, by securing continued psychological support for students, and by helping active students make the most out of their board term through the Board Improvement Program. Founding a new umbrella for business-related associations, and launching a new website are only two of the other projects we completed during the past year. This annual report will give an overview of the multitude of other projects, and elaborate on those mentioned here.

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As the SU we are grateful not to operate in isolation, for we believe that our strength comes through unity. Therefore, we want to take the opportunity to thank all the students, associations, and umbrellas for their efforts to help us make the UT even better for students. We are also very thankful for the efforts of all university committees, employees, and services. We hope that we can continue our collaborations with all of them, and where possible extend them.

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The board of the foundation Student Union University of Twente,

### 2015-2016

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Anne Buningh	President, Policy and Strategy, Staff & Organisation
Rose Rorije	Communication, Internationalisation
Jelle Klein Teeselink	Finance, Accommodation, Enterprises
Eline van Hove	Sports & Culture (Performing Arts)
Annelotte Derkink	Academic Development, Education
Tim Wisse	External Affairs, Entrepreneurship

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### 2016-2017

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Hans David Wendt	President, Policy and Strategy, Staff & Organisation
Jasper ten Napel	Communication, Internationalisation
Niek ten Brinke	Finance, Accommodation, Enterprises
Nikki Leijnse	Sports & Culture (Performing Arts)
Annelotte Derkink	Academic Development, Education
Tim Wisse	External Affairs, Entrepreneurship

<sup>1</sup> See <https://su.utwente.nl/en/about-us/documents/annual-plan/>

## 50 **Ambition 1: The UT has a close community and brings students together**

### **Employees and students, working together**

#### **Practising sports and arts together**

55 In order to increase the contact between students and employees, the SU reached out to Overlegorgaan Personeelszaken UT (OPUT; "Consultation board Personnel Affairs UT") the payment of the association charge for employees. This was put into practice. Starting with the academic year of 2016-2017, UT employees no longer have to pay the €100 association charge. Instead OPUT pays the charge, so UT employees can become members of the sports and performing arts associations for free. This makes practicing sports and arts within associations, together with students, more accessible and has increased the number of employees that participate in the associations. It was agreed this policy will be continued in the academic year of 2017-2018.

#### **BMS festival for education quality**

65 In 2016 the SU has organised the BMS festival in the Bastille's Atrium. We received signals from gamma students that they felt their programmes received less attention in comparison with the beta programmes. The dean of the BMS faculty disagreed, but did suggest the quality of the education could be improved. Consequently, the BMS festival was organised in cooperation with Overleg Studieverenigingen ("Study Associations Consultative Council"), Henk Boer, and the dean. The festival was organised to facilitate discussions between in total 70 35 people, among which lecturers, programme directors, members of the faculty council, programme committees, students, and the dean. To prepare for the discussions, five different teams had been asked to review several set aspects of their study programme which were either excellent or lacking. They were also asked to think of solutions for encountered problems. This allowed for constructive discussions, which did not only focus on problems, 75 but also reviewed many solutions. One point that was particularly highlighted was how study programmes can improve their communication about what is done with the feedback received from students about how the education programme can be improved.

#### **Events**

80 The SU reviewed the event Create the UT of Tomorrow<sup>2</sup>, and worked to have its name changed to UTomorrow, in order to prevent ambiguity with its own Create Tomorrow Committee. Unfortunately, the event "Student voor de Klas<sup>3</sup>" had to be cancelled, due to prospects of a low attendance rate. Furthermore, the same message could be expressed through already existing events. Furthermore, the SU agreed with the Marketing & Communication (M&C) 85 department to be involved in the content planning of academic ceremonies. The SU's role will be to safeguard the employee's awareness of students and student activism, as well as to ensure that the event will remain interesting for students.

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<sup>2</sup> An event during which students and employees brainstorm about the strategy of the UT

<sup>3</sup> During this event the roles are swapped: the students give lectures on student-related topics to a classroom full of university lecturers and researchers.

90 **Employees and student activism**

The SU's Student Minds<sup>4</sup> platform gained increasing recognition and appreciation from UT employees. This resulted in students getting more easily involved in employees' projects, thus allowing discussions to arise about the project between the employees and students. This happened, for example, during the pre-stage of the tender for a new Learning Management System, which currently is Blackboard. Furthermore, the Vision Academic Development in Education, elaborated on later, functioned as input for discussions with employees on student activism. The development of an employee panel in 2016 wasn't given priority, causing the project to be indefinitely postponed.

## The campus as global village

100 **Vision Internationalisation**

In order to make the campus a global village, and to be better able to shape internationalisation of student activism at the UT, a vision Internationalisation was written in 2016. During the development stage, employees and students were involved, in order to establish a well-balanced vision. The general objective of the vision entails the following: The SU will facilitate and stimulate integration between students (and within student organisations) of different backgrounds. This in order to simplify and strengthen the internationalisation processes. We believe internationalisation and integration contribute to the personal and academic development of students. On the other hand, the SU will not force these processes on anyone. However, it is our opinion, that due to the increasing number of international students, student organisations have a need to keep accessibility for international students and the continuity of their organisation in mind. Based on the input from students and the drafted vision Internationalisation, an implementation advice was written, giving direction to the policy as described in this vision.

115 **Events in the Global Lounge**

Besides the vision, focus was also put on more practical matters. One of the ambitions was to increase the number of events and activities in the Global Lounge. After the opening of the Global Lounge in October 2015, a committee was put together to work on this. In the past year, around ten activities took place each month, and the room was used for meetings and projects frequently. Activities that were organised included the bi-weekly Country Presentations, an intercultural communication training, Dutch language cafés, and the Global Lounge Game Night. The Global Lounge Committee's highlight was the organisation of a Global Food Fair in and around the Global Lounge in the fall of 2016. This event attracted more than 450 people. Furthermore, the committee increased the awareness for its activities, for instance by giving away hot chocolate at the O&O Square.

### Improving cooperation

130 In 2016 UniTe's main function was changed in order to improve the cooperation between the different world associations and international committees. UniTe used to be a platform for international matters around the UT, but became the umbrella for the world associations instead, meaning they represent these associations' interests. Furthermore, the Buddy and Global Lounge committees have gotten more involved in this sector. For example, they joined UniTe's General Meetings, to increase the interest in possibilities for collaboration with the world associations.

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<sup>4</sup> A pool of students who are involved, at an early stage, in discussions about future university policy

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As UniTe discontinued functioning as platform for international matters, the Student Internationalisation Platform (SIP) was founded. This platform consists of a representative of each umbrella (in order to represent all associations), an international student, and the SU portfolio holder Internationalisation. The goal of the platform is to identify and solve UT-wide problems, as well as to coordinate internationalisation efforts between the different umbrellas. One of the more concrete actions of SIP was to compose an overview of the motivations and desires of international students. Additionally, a survey was sent to associations in order to analyse the current state of internationalisation processes within associations. Future plans for SIP include surveying international students, in order to find out how international students' participation in associations can be increased.

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### **International students in the UT organisation**

In 2016, the SU aimed for increased representation of international students within the UT organisation, by making the FOBOS grants more clear to associations from the world sector. These associations mainly consist of international students, who are less familiar with financial compensation for activism. By increasing the awareness of FOBOS within this group, they have gotten a stronger position.

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### **Housing international students**

During the past year the SU has put a lot of effort in improving housing for international students. On account of the current co-optation system, it is often hard for international students to find a room. However, the system offers a lot of advantages regarding the atmosphere in the houses. Based on the input coming from the (international) student community, the SU has advised the UT about student housing on multiple accounts. The SU also thought about scenarios to improve the position of international students. One example is a pilot of reversed co-optation, in which international students choose roommates from among Dutch students. Furthermore, through the consultation meetings for the vision Internationalisation, more problems regarding international housing came to light. For example, international students feel they pay much for furnished campus studios, and negative signals have been caught about housing in the ITC Hotel. This was taken into account while discussing the policy document with the UT service Strategy & Policy, which is being written at the moment.

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The SU decided not to mediate directly in the international students' processes of finding a room. However, in 2016, a new housing website was launched, and the whole SU is actively thinking and working along on the new housing-portal which includes all available rooms in Enschede. This topic will be elaborated on later.

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### **Room for sports and arts**

#### **Transitions within the UT Organisation**

At the beginning of the year, the UT Organisation started to investigate on the merger between the Facility Service Center<sup>5</sup> and Eenheid Campus<sup>6</sup>. The SU, alongside the University Council, had already protested against this idea in the summer of 2015, due to the danger of

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<sup>5</sup> Service department of the UT that is concerned with maintenance and management of the campus

<sup>6</sup> Part of UT service department General Affairs, which is concerned with sports, performing arts, events and the reservation office

180 negative effects on the innovation capacity of the UT, and the sports and performing arts sectors. Despite the objections, the plans of the UT to form a unified Service Campus, were moving forward. However, in 2016 the process of combining these services was put on hold, and in this pause the Living Smart Campus (LSC) programme was set. From January 2016 on, the SU took part in the steering committee of this programme.

185 Living Smart Campus is a programme aimed at composing plans for campus development, consisting of several projects, in which the Campus is used as living laboratory. These projects range from research and education projects, to supportive projects and student initiatives. In the period between February and May 2016, six projects were added to LSC. These projects were followed during those months, in order to investigate the trouble they experienced in their organisation, and to find out what went well, in order to come up with a proposal for the UT organisation. The programme did not result in a sufficient number of arguments either in  
190 favour or against the Service Campus.

195 After the LSC programme, an external company was contracted to investigate the possibilities for the organisation of both campus and housing, on behalf of the Executive Board. The SU was closely involved in this investigation. The outcome consisted of an advice for an integrally organised organisation. The SU gave a positive advice on this outcome. However, we also expressed our concerns on the position of sports and performing arts within this service, along with the innovating nature of Eenheid Campus. After the University Council gave a positive advice, the SU remained closely involved with subsequent parts. Furthermore, in 2017 it will  
200 be part of the steering group to give shape to the new organisation structure.

### Renovating sports facilities

205 In August 2015 the Facility Service Centre and the Sport Centre composed a multiannual plan in collaboration with the SU and the sports associations. This plan concerns the on-campus sports accommodations. In the past year we have worked to get this plan approved by the Executive Board, and ensured the realisation of the artificial turf soccer field that was planned for 2016. Both projects have been completed successfully. On top of that, a baseball field has been constructed that can be adapted to allow for playing korfbal. This enables the korfbal association Vakgericht to play outdoors as well.

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### Agreements Sport Centre, sports umbrella and SU

215 In April 2016, the Sport Centre, the Sportkoepel (sports umbrella), and the SU signed a document formalising agreements, concerning, amongst other things, the division of tasks amongst the different parties. The document includes formalised versions of existing practices, and new agreements. Examples are the explicit agreement that sports associations will be involved in the application process of new trainers, and the agreement about the allocation of the result of subsidies. Additionally, an IMA<sup>7</sup> emergency fund has been set up, which allows for incidental use by the sports associations. The purpose is to prevent problems after (financial) incidents, and in instances of unexpected growth of the number of members.  
220 This way the SU hopes to adapt the subsidy system for greater flexibility.

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<sup>7</sup> Instruction, Materials and Accommodation, the three pillars of the subsidising model for sports and performing arts

### Twente's students tackling social problems

225 During the past year the SU has promoted donation of blood and stem cells by highlighting these causes with a stimulating message underneath every e-mail. Additionally, the SU has provided three internships. Two of these internships were secretarial in nature, one at the mbo level 3 and one at mbo level 4. The third concerned a Saxion Small Business student studying the SU's internal organisation.

230 Through the Connecting Hands Committee the SU has made an effort to help refugees. The committee functions as a bridge between students and Refugee Center Azelo, and has organised activities like a computer class, joined ice-skating, and a joined soccer tournament. Each of these activities was a success, with a high turn-out on the side of both students and refugees (40 to 50 participants of each group), and enthusiasm from participants and others alike. As of the new academic year the committee has been expanded to fifteen students. This  
235 allowed for the creation of several sub-committees. Furthermore, the SU ensured the UT granted this committee a budget which they can spend according to their own discretion to realise an activity once per month.

## Ambition 2: The Student Union offers each student space to develop him/herself

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### Increasing financial activism support

To offer better support for student activism the FOBOS grants and Board Improvement Program (BIP) have seen an expanse in 2016. The awareness of their existence has also been improved. The number of FOBOS grants has been increased to 63 due to internationalisation, additional study associations (Ockham and Atlantis), and an expanse of the Green Team Twente. Aside from that, the possibilities for tuition free board terms have been thoroughly reviewed. To do so, a collaboration was sought with students in the University Council, and with national unions for students. The SU elaborated several scenarios detailing the use of tuition free board terms in combination with the current FOBOS grants, and discussed these with the Executive Board. Unfortunately, the Executive Board rejected the idea of tuition free board terms, as the investment per student into the Profiling Fund compared to other universities is already rather high. Consequently, the project has been put on hold until national developments, driven by national student organisations, allow it to move forward again.

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### 255 Strengthening the Board Improvement Program

The BIP has been expanded and strengthened for it to help make students' activism more efficient and educational for them. An additional board day has been scheduled for boards which start in February, and additional training months have been created whose primary focus is on part time boards. As it turns out, part time board membership is hard to combine with studying under Twente's Educational Model (TEM); a fact that became clear from, amongst other things, the activism monitor. For this reason the Skills trainings' month has been set up in collaboration with the counsellors of the UT, featuring ninety minute training sessions about time management, leadership, and conflict management. Due to success, this concept will be repeated. Additionally, a training element has been added to the board day, which formerly was only informative. This way, we inspired all starting boards to pay attention to their development opportunities during the year. The awareness about BIP has been improved by giving all boards a BIP-related gift at their constitution drinks, and by bringing the concept up more often. The communication strategy has also been evaluated, which led to giving BIP a prominent place on the SU website and promoting the programme during events.

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### 270 Student Union Network for associations

In 2016 a committee of eight student programmers started the Student Union Network (SUN)<sup>8</sup> project, based on written requirements from 2015. The UT supports the committee through LISA services, whose employees will check the written code and warrant the quality of privacy and security arrangements. Support regarding content and project management is provided by the professional software agency TRIMM. As of now, a pilot version with front- and backend is already up and running.

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<sup>8</sup> A platform for everything concerning administration of members for associations, which the SU develops

### Inviting the Minister of Education

280 Twente's students, compared to those in other cities, have a very entrepreneurial mind-set and Twente's student life is very well organised. An example of this is the unique presence of the SU at our university. To showcase this nationally, an attempt has been made to invite the Minister of Education. A letter has been composed wherein the SU board invites Jet Bussemaker (Minister of Education), and this letter has been discussed with the UT Marketing & Communication department. However, due to different priorities this letter has not been  
285 sent yet.

### University of More Than A Degree

For some time now, the SU has been using the slogan More Than A Degree. During the past year we have sought a collaboration with the UT to make this a unique selling point featured in the UT-campaign. During the Kick-In and the Open Days the SU and UT have been promoting  
290 the university as the University of More Than A Degree. During the Kick-In and the UT Zonnetje in Huis festival, banners have been put up on the Spiegel to increase the recognition of student activism. During SU presentations at the Open Days, University of More Than A Degree has been used as a starting point. Additionally, the concept has been given a permanent place at the UT's website through stories of students' More Than A Degree experiences. At a national  
295 level an interest has risen to provide students with an activism recognition – a concept that has already been implemented at the UT. The SU has provided the Landelijke Studentenvakbond (LSVb; "National Union for Students") with its own procedures surrounding activism recognition so they may use these in their country-wide lobby for activism recognition at other universities.

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### Student support

During the past year the SU has worked to create a better match between the support available to students, and the needs of the students and the active student world. This has been achieved through pleading for the best retention of support for students during re-  
305 organisations at UT service departments. Furthermore, a study advisor was asked to be present at the annual activism market, to provide students, on the spot, with information about being active next to their study. Finally, during the boards day, boards have been made aware of the option for students and student board members to take a counsellor as a confidential advisor.

### 310 Psychological support

In October 2015 it came to the SU's attention that the psychological support for students was being threatened due to a call for cost cut downs of a quarter million euros. As the SU defends student well-being, it took action immediately. The SU spread a survey amongst students, which came back with about 600 responses. The results confirmed the value of the  
315 psychologists. It also revealed some highly concerning facts. The waiting time to receive psychological support, for example, had become as long as ten weeks. Furthermore, half of the students said they would not seek treatment if they would have to do so externally or be asked to pay (part of) the fee themselves. To summarise, the mental well-being of students was in danger. Thus, the SU engaged in a dialogue with the psychologists and their department director – the director of the Centre of Educational Support (CES). Together with the students in the University Council the SU issued unprompted advice to the university, which resulted in a deliberation with the Executive Board about the cut backs. The matter was put to the University Educational Committee (UEC), which also disapproved of the proposed cut back. In  
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325 the end, the proposed cut back has been withdrawn. Consequently, a team has been put  
together to evaluate the entire study support chain with the goal to improve its quality,  
without minding the reduction of costs. The SU was also represented in this team. The team's  
final advice for optimisation of the chain took students' wishes into account. This has been  
330 achieved through drawing upon a SU survey which asked students' opinions on the different  
links in this support chain, the problems they encountered during their study period, and what  
they believed could be improved about the support chain.

## Academic development beyond Union participants

### Vision Education

To provide a direction for the SU activities in the educational sector a new vision has been  
written. In 2016 this vision started out as an education vision, but through many revisions  
335 grew into a vision focusing on academic development within education. This choice was made  
because the theme of the academic development within formal education is a better fit to the  
SU mission, had not been explicitly written down before, and underlines an aspect which at  
that point had unduly taken the back seat. The vision has been written and discussed with  
many UT parties, including its associations. The advice of these parties has been taken into  
340 account for the final version, which will be finished in early 2017.

### Preservation of side jobs for students

Through a new law Wet Werk & Zekerheid ("Law Employment & Security") the possibilities  
for students to hold side jobs at our university became endangered. The UT is the only  
university in the Netherlands which doesn't only employ student assistants, but also students  
345 as employees. Collective Labour Agreements (CLA) didn't include exceptions for these cases.  
15% of the students have a side job at the UT, a number which the SU wanted to preserve. For  
this purpose the SU and the UT's Human Resources department came up with a student-  
friendly arrangement, which allowed the preservation of side jobs for students. Furthermore,  
during a presentation for all the educational programmes' directors, the SU pled for an  
350 increase in possible side jobs for students within their educational programmes. These jobs  
were envisioned to not only improve students' financial situation, but also to stimulate their  
personal development.

### Centralised vacancies database

The SU was interested in cooperating with other relevant parties to create one centralised  
355 database for open vacancies. An important partner was Career Service Students, which will be  
elaborated under Ambition 4. Within Career Service Students the idea of the database will be  
worked out, which led to the choice of the SU not to set up a database ourselves.

## Entrepreneurship

### Unifying different parties

360 To improve the unity and coordination between different parties which are involved in  
stimulating student entrepreneurship the SU started a dialogue with them. The initial goal was  
to create a shared agenda, to allow student entrepreneurs to find their way more easily. As  
time went on, this turned out to be harder than it had at first appeared. However, a leaflet  
has been composed stating all the courses that can be followed, and all the events that can

365 be attended by those interested in entrepreneurship. Thus, steps have been taken in the right direction, but the facilitation of students interested in entrepreneurship still needs to be further optimised through providing a clearer overview of the possibilities.

### **Student initiatives**

370 Early in 2016 Hardstart Student Entrepreneurs<sup>9</sup> has been started. Additionally, around the same time the beginning of the Dutch Student Investment Fund<sup>10</sup> (DSIF) has been formalised through founding it officially. Both of these parties have been housed in the preliminary version of the Start-up Hub in the Bastille. This to facilitate a low threshold for them and other student entrepreneurs to work on their plans. A result has been an increase in events in the field of student entrepreneurship. In 2016 Hardstart organised a monthly Pitch that Bitch event. Furthermore, Hardstart and DSIF organised a Funding Nemo event twice. This latter event is based on the well-known TV show Dragons' Den, where entrepreneurs pitch their ideas to investors in the audience.

### **380 Incubator facilities on campus**

In 2016 a plan has been composed to renovate the Bastille. One part of this is the Start-up Hub, a plan that has been developed together with Kennispark. The Start-up Hub should function as a sort of "gym for entrepreneurs". The SU envisions the Start-up Hub as a community of entrepreneurs, which will be further connected through inspiring events, get-togethers and service providers which are partnered to this plan. The concept of the Start-up Hub has been received with enthusiasm by several different parties. This mainly because the region offers several facilities for entrepreneurs, but none of them are focused on student entrepreneurs in the early stages. Halfway through 2016 the SU started searching for subsidies and other external funding possibilities. Alongside with Kennispark and UT departments, partners were sought. By the end of 2016 it was agreed with the Executive Board to have an external party investigate the feasibility of the Start-up Hub.

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<sup>9</sup> An association for student entrepreneurs

<sup>10</sup>Investment fund, run by students, which invests in student run businesses.

## Ambition 3: All students look back on a nice student time, and by doing so they are also proud of Twente's student life

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### A lively campus

#### Organising events on campus

In 2016 the SU started a dialogue with the organisers of campus events. The goal was to simplify the process of organising an event. Included in this dialogue were the student houses, student organisations, and the event department of the UT. One of the most concrete weaknesses identified was the lack of information provision. It was often unclear for students where they can go for support, and information about rules and regulations. To facilitate this, the SU has proposed the idea of a(n online) Campus Guide: This guide is envisioned as a handbook for students, providing them with an overview of everything they will need to organise their event, and giving them information about how and where to arrange this. In the beginning of 2017 the SU will start working on this project, with the possibility of the UT Marketing & Communication department joining in later. Aside from that, 2016 saw the SU and the event department of the UT starting to write a joined vision on events. This project will be finished in 2017.

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The SU also started a dialogue with the UT and city council of Enschede to deregulate the campus, based on problems identified surrounding campus events. The goal was to transform the campus into *the* place where initiatives, both scientific and otherwise, can be realised with ease. Additionally, in 2016 the university itself requested clearer agreements with the city council about alcohol permits. The SU played an important role in representing students' interests in this. The negotiations will continue in 2017.

#### Renovating the Bastille

Ideally the Student Union would have the Bastille be *the* student building of the UT, placing it at the centre of the campus environment. In 2015 the SU concluded that this is not yet the case. Together with project employees from the Facility Service Centre (FSC) and Kennispark, a Business Case has been written to once again elevate the Bastille to be at the heart of activism. The starting point of the plan was an analysis of current short-comings of the Bastille. The focus points of the Business Case are renovating the Atrium and the above-mentioned Start-up Hub. Aside from that, the SU also started talks with the FSC and the Executive Board to assign the Student Union more responsibility for, and control over, the Bastille. If this plan were put to practice, the SU could have the entire Bastille at its disposal, allowing the possibility of using or renting spaces that are now empty.

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More in depth the renovation plans mean the SU intends to transform the Atrium into a study café. Currently, the Atrium is only used for a very small percentage of the available hours. During the orientation phase students brought forward that they are looking for a place where they can study in a somewhat more informal setting than the library or one of the education buildings. To comply with this specific request, the SU intends to turn the Atrium into a place where students can work in groups, or alone, in a café-like atmosphere. In 2016 a declaration of intend and a preliminary rental contract were signed by a contractor from the food and service industry, which is going to open its doors in the Atrium in 2017 if the renovation plans will be moved forward.

### **Appeal of the Boulevard**

440 The SU has also worked hard to improve the visual appeal of the Boulevard and the area surrounding it. One project completed in 2016 has been the realisation of permanent barbeque facilities at the square across the Bastille. Another has been the placement of association flags along the Boulevard and the Drienerlolaan. This not only to improve the visual appeal of the entire area, but also to increase the exposure of the associations, and

445 show the importance of activism at the UT to visitors. Additionally, the SU has pled to the UT for a LED-screen specifically to showcase student initiatives. The UT has taken to this idea, and in 2017 a large screen will be placed above the library entrance of the Vrijhof.

### **Proud of Twente together**

#### **Events to put the campus on the map**

450 To inspire a pride in everyone who is or was connected to the UT, the SU launched three new events during the past year. For the current student population several new and unique events were organised in 2016. For example, the SU organised the living room festival UT Zonnetje in Huis, which put the unique housing culture of Twente in the spotlight and attracted hundreds of participants. The SU also organised the More Than A Degree Awards, where active students

455 could win prizes in different categories for their efforts during the past year. Finally, the SU organised a large party in the Technohal under the name Ravelution. The party was in honour of the departing rector magnificus Ed Brinksma, and for many was a long cherished dream coming true. The party was a great success, and was thoroughly enjoyed by students and employees alike.

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#### **Collaboration city council**

In 2016 the SU became a driving force for a collaboration between the university and the City of Enschede. The SU pled for the city council hiring students for their student affairs department, to allow for more input from the students to the city council and realisation of

465 more initiatives benefitting students. This resulted in the city council taking on a student employee in January 2017.

Plans for an alumni buddy programme, guest lectures, a programme for international UT ambassadors, and a right to advise on recruitment of students have not been put into practice.

470 Throughout the year it was decided to prioritise other matters. However, the SU did actively contribute to the alumni day by attending as one of the speakers during the central programme and joining as a guest during a setting imitating a serious talk show.

### **Exercising mind and body**

#### **DMS-evaluation**

475 In December 2015 the ICT-system DMS, in which sports and performing arts associations keep their member administration, has been evaluated. This has led to some suggestions for improvement, which were put to the supplier. Unfortunately, the supplier largely ignored the suggestions in the update of the system. Therefore, other options have been explored, but no commitments have been made yet.

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#### **Overhaul sports subsidy system**

The current subsidy system for Instruction, Material and Accommodation (IMA) for sports associations has been found to spawn several problems: the budget needed for the 2016-2017

485 subsidies was greater than the available amount, the Sport Centre didn't have enough  
freedom to comply with guidelines, and the system didn't allow for any new associations to  
be added. An increase in budget was deemed impossible, which led to a complete revision of  
the subsidising model with new guidelines. This process was started through a brain storm  
490 session with all sports associations, to assess problems, think about possible solutions, and  
formulate requirements for the new guidelines. Based on this, the SU collaborated with the  
Sport Centre, the sports umbrella, and the UT service Financial and Economic Affairs on a draft  
plan – which was reviewed with the sports associations. In the second half of 2016, the SU  
deliberated with many relevant parties. In 2017 the plan will be developed further.

### **Other sport investments**

495 In 2016 investments have also been made in individual sporting opportunities. Group lessons  
have been expanded, and the SU facilitated the start of pole dancing lessons in 2017.  
Additionally, two sessions of “apenkooi” have been organised with Linea Recta. The SU also  
pled for a water tap near the outdoor fitness facilities, allowing sporting students to refill their  
water bottles on the spot – instead of returning to the Sport Centre or Bastille to do so. The  
500 water tap will be placed in spring 2017.

### **UnionCard**

During the past year the SU worked hard to improve the brand awareness and market share  
of the UnionCard. This has been achieved through several measures. First of all, a strategy was  
505 devised to increase the brand awareness, also focusing on international students. This  
strategy included the creation of standardised promotion material, and promoting the  
UnionCard during a multitude of events. Additionally, the use of the UnionCard was expanded,  
for example by adding discounts for tickets for FC Twente matches, free drinks at Concordia,  
and the opportunity to play pool at the Bastille. Another addition followed from a  
510 collaboration with the art school AKI, which, among other things, allows AKI students to hold  
expositions in the Vrijhof, in exchange for UnionCard holders being able to take art courses at  
AKI.

### **Performing arts in the spotlight**

515 In 2016 the SU put the performing arts sector in the spotlight through a broad spectrum of  
concrete action points. For example, the SU pled for the use of our own performing arts  
associations at UT events and activities. The SU itself invited Stubiba's Utmost Big Band to  
perform at its Participants' Council meeting. Alongside with the performing arts umbrella  
Apollo, the “Performance for Pay” – where performing arts associations provide performances  
520 or workshops if financially compensated – has been re-introduced. Furthermore, a tighter link  
between performances of associations and those of external parties will be sought. Finally,  
the number of performances of external parties has been reduced from 40 to 21 each year, to  
allow for higher quality performances.

## 525 **Ambition 4: Every student is familiar with the Student Union**

### **Professionalising umbrellas**

As an extension of the associations, umbrellas play an important role in Enschede's student life. During the past year the SU has been focused on the organisation of FACT, the Sportkoepel, and UniTe. The SU and the social associations collaboratively assessed how to professionalise FACT. This led to setting up a temporary board of two former board members of the social associations. Under this board FACT's responsibilities were reviewed, and possibilities for expanding these responsibilities were investigated. Another recommendation that the board worked on is to include former board members of the four associations located in the Pakkerij in FACT's day to day board. During the academic year of 2016-2017 this was partially realised. Finally, FACT received a temporary Union recognition as umbrella of the four social associations of the Pakkerij, with the potential for a permanent recognition.

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540 During the past year the focus in the sports sector wasn't on the sports umbrella. Once a new board had been found for this umbrella, the focus was shifted toward reforming the subsidy model. For UniTe a functional change occurred, which is mentioned before.

### **Umbrella business associations**

In early 2016 the SU conceived the idea of starting an umbrella for the business(-related) associations. After orientating conversations with all involved associations, a meeting for all parties was organised at the end of August. All associations agreed that an umbrella would have a positive impact on representing the association's interests. This resulted in setting up a one-year pilot for a business umbrella. The associations, guided by the SU, composed the goals for 2016-2017, which will be evaluated by the end of the pilot year. By early October three board members had been found for the umbrella that, by then, had been named Plato.

### **Intensified collaboration with UT**

In the past year the SU's year plan was discussed with the heads of all the service departments. Additionally, the new SU board members were introduced to these heads at the earliest opportunity. Furthermore, regular meetings were held with the heads of relevant service departments. This intensified the contact between the SU and the heads, allowing for collaborating more easily.

560 During the past year the SU has not reached out to separate deans and faculty directors, except Theo Toonen (BMS dean) for the purpose of discussing the quality of the gamma education programmes. However, the SU did have contact with the programme directors at the programme directors' day, where the SU gave a presentation about activism. Furthermore, the SU took part in the appointment advisory committee for the appointment of a new UT rector magnificus. This was the first time students had a voice in the appointment of a UT rector magnificus. After the appointment of the new rector, Thom Palstra, the SU worked to introduce him to Twente's student life, amongst other things by organising a constitution drink for him.

### **UnionDeals**

570 In 2016 Discounts & Benefits was transformed to UnionDeals. This became a platform with the best deals for students and student associations. The deals include an Escape Room deal, discounts on driving lessons, and discounts on bowling. The UnionDeals platform is also used

575 to showcase UnionCard and already launched UnionShop deals. Additionally, at the end of 2016 a new contract was entered into by Bleeker and the SU, which makes it even cheaper for students to rent a vehicle in 2017.

### **Events calendar**

580 In 2016 the SU worked on a new events calendar as part of her new website. This calendar was made in collaboration with UT's Culture & Events department. Although the new website is finished, the calendar is still under construction. The launch of the Campus App in 2016 also inspired an analysis of possibilities to integrate the SU calendar in this app. This project will be continued in 2017.

### **UnionShop**

585 The appearance of the UnionShop has not changed much in the course of 2016. The 2016 plans regarding the UnionShop have been postponed till 2017, when the UnionShop will benefit from the renovation of the Atrium. However, 2016 has been used to experiment with products sold through the UnionShop. For example, the supplier of the wines for the gift shop part has been altered, and new products like apparel of the student company Louter have  
590 been added to the UnionShop's inventory.

### **Student housing portal**

595 Additionally, in 2016 we worked on an integrated student housing portal. The SU, Saxion, UT, Stichting JongerenHuisvesting Twente, the city of Enschede, and the Veste worked together to compose a Requirements Plan. Furthermore, agreements were made about the visual design and the division of costs. Finally, a start was made with the development of the portal.

## **Making our efforts visible**

### **Launching a new website**

600 To provide better information to students and associations about the opportunities and support the SU offers, the SU launched a new website in 2016. The new website, including sub-pages for the UnionDeals and housing, has been made available. Due to a delay in the development process, some information still needs to be supplemented, and small kinks are still being ironed out. However, the majority of the website is finished and accessible to  
605 students and associations alike.

### **Visual communication**

610 Last spring, options were investigated to hire an intern to make vlogs for the SU's Youtube channel. However, no suitable candidates were found. Therefore, the idea of the vlogs was dismissed and the regular blogs have been continued. Additionally, we started a GO-pro challenge to showcase Twente's student life to a broader audience. This project did not turn out to be successful, and was therefore set aside.

### **Improved Participants' Council Meeting**

615 To improve the involvement of the Union participants, the SU changed the format of the Participants' Council Meetings (PCMs). The PCMs have been split up in a grand PCM and a financial PCM. At the first the annual plan and the annual report are presented. This event is of a formal nature; it is held at an elegant location and participants are expected to attend in

620 formal attire. With 140 attendants, the turn out for this event was higher than ever. The financial PCM on the other hand is devoted to the annual budget plan and annual financial account. It is intended to inform participants and allow them to ask questions. Finally, another PCM can be organised if a new member needs to be appointed to the SU's Supervisory Council.

#### **National attention for the SU-concept**

625 The SU has been in contact with the university councils of the University of Amsterdam and the University of Utrecht, to inform them in depth about the concept of the Student Union, and to brainstorm with them how they can implement the concept at their own universities. This way, the SU has brought attention to itself in other student cities, and allowed them to investigate possibilities for starting similar organisations.

#### 630 **Thinking about tomorrow, today**

##### **Internships**

To make it easier for students to do an internship is one of the points that has been taken up in the above mentioned vision on academic development within educational programmes. The execution of the action point to integrate internships in the curriculum will be conjoined with the implementation of the vision, which will start in 2017.

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##### **Career Service**

640 Since 2014 the SU has been involved in the creation of Career Service, to guarantee it will not duplicate the services currently provided by student associations. Since 2016 the development of Career Service has been placed under the SU and Student Affairs, Coaching & Counselling (SACC) department of the UT. Collectively a plan was written which after the summer gained the approval of both the Executive Board and the University Council. This was the starting signal for the SU and SACC to start creating the Career Service Students.

## 645 Awards and prizes

### Union Culture Award

Each year the Student Union provides one student, employee, association, organisation or project with the Union Culture Award. The award is used to draw special attention to the performing arts/culture section, and is awarded to those who have made a positive contribution to Culture at the UT. The award comes with a financial contribution to a subsequent activity organised by the winner to promote Culture. Last year the Chinese association ACCSE received the award, for organising the Chinese Spring Festival Gala. This event featured performances representing the many different cultures and nationalities of those who are part of our university. The goal was to connect all these people and cultures; an effort, we believe, which deserves to be rewarded.

### More Than A Degree - Awards

After granting the first year activism award for many years, the SU has chosen for a different, big set-up to reward more students for their contribution to student activism. Committees, part-time boards, full-time boards and senior students could be nominated for the More Than A Degree Awards, as well as first year students. For each category, more than eight nominations were received. The jury, consisting of Jerom van Geffen (former SU board member), Ed Brinksma (rector), Lotte Weedage (former winner first year activism award) and Mark Weirath (head Culture & Events/member reviewing committee activism recognition), selected the three best candidates per category based on a point rating system. These were presented through videos during the event. Together with a public vote, the jury decided who would become the winner. The winners were:

#### *Most active first year*

- |     |                    |                  |
|-----|--------------------|------------------|
| 670 | 1. Roos de Vries   | S.V.A.T. Asatine |
|     | 2. Tjerk Reintsema | S.V. Arago       |
|     | 3. Lotte Berkelaar | C.T.S.G. Alembic |

#### *Most active older student*

- |     |                   |                   |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|
| 675 | 1. Jorn Witteveen | S.V.A.T. Astatine |
|     | 2. Jeroen Minnema | S.V.A.T. Astatine |
|     | 3. Qiao Ren       | S.A. Atlantis     |

#### *Best part-time board/committee*

1. S.V.A.T. Astatine
2. S.A. Atlantis
3. Apollo

#### 680 *Best full-time board/committee*

1. Solar Team Twente
2. Kick-in Committee
3. C.T.S.G. Alembic

#### *Most innovative activity/committee*

- |     |                      |
|-----|----------------------|
| 685 | 1. Think Like Turing |
|     | 2. Connecting Hands  |
|     | 3. SiPa group        |

### Henk Zijm Award

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Each year the Student Union grants the Henk Zijm International Award. This award is given to a student, employee, association, organisation or someone else from the UT who has made a special contribution to the UT's internationalisation process. In 2016 the award was given to Yonas Nagesh for his efforts at the platform and umbrella for internationalisation UniTe for over two years, in which he contributed to the internationalisation of the UT.

695 **Epilogue of the supervisory board**

Dear reader,

We are glad to read the annual report in the new format. We hope that it has become more clear to you what the Student Union did in the past year. 2016 has been a year with a lot of  
700 (unexpected) developments, in which the SU was asked for input.

The annual report shows how important the SU is on – and for – the University of Twente. The SU is amongst others responsible for the policy for sports and performing arts for students and provides (uninvited) advice to the Executive Board on other fields, such as psychological support for students.  
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As supervisory board, we are proud on everything the board members of the Student Union together with their employees have achieved in the past year. In our opinion the SU and with that the UT have become better. Since it is always possible to improve, we would like to hear your opinion about the functioning of the SU on the participants' council meeting to make it possible for us to fulfil our duty. Outside of this meeting you can also come to us and tell us about the problems you experience or comments you would like to make.  
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We hope you enjoyed reading the annual report and would like to see you at the participants' council meeting.  
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The supervisory board

*Daan Egberts (chairman)*

720 *Marijn Horstman (substitute chairman)*

*Marc Venerius*

*Jelle Ferwerda*

*Ton Mouthaan*

*Rick Bergmans*

725 *Roel Hollander (former member)*

*Gilles Meijer (former member and chairman)*