University Student Council
Policy plan 2020-2021
Preface

Here is the policy plan of the University Student Council (USR) of the Vrije Universiteit (VU) for the academic year 2020-2021. This year, the USR consists of eleven student members, who together form the representative body that represents the interests of all students at the VU. This policy plan provides an insight into how we as the USR will operate in the coming year.

We hope you enjoy reading it. Signed:

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Introduction

Education at the Vrije Universiteit is constantly changing. These changes are not only brought about by developments in society, politics and the needs of students, but also due to the Covid-19 crisis in which we currently find ourselves. It is up to the VU to be resilient, determined and resolute in tackling the issues and challenges caused by this epidemic. As the University Student Council (USR), it is our job to represent the interests of students and translate our opinions into policy. This year, the council consists of a diverse body of eleven students who will do their utmost to assert this representation.

This Policy Plan functions as a blue-print, in which the USR formulates its intended goals for the academic year. This includes various themes such as student well-being, community building, internationalisation, online communication, sustainability and the quality agreements. We hope to be able to bring these topics to light, taking into account the situation in which we are currently being challenged.

The USR tackles these topics within three committees: Education and Research (O&O), Organisation and Finance (O&F) and Communication (Com). Collectively, the three committees work to safeguard the quality of education, students’ rights and the involvement of students. Many issues overlap within different portfolios and are therefore considered from different angles. Conform to the USR’s inner structure, this Policy Plan is divided into three main parts. Each part will present the objectives of its committee within different themes. In addition, after each theme you will find the spearheads that are taking priority within those topics. Finally, you will find an overview of the council members and their contact information.

We look forward to a challenging and productive year in which we can make our fellow students’ voices heard.
Safeguarding the quality of our education has never been more crucial. Although the process of digitalisation has already been going on for some time, due to the sudden impact of Covid-19, it was accelerated to such a degree that there was no time to prepare for this sudden jump into digital education. That is why it is now our duty to be critical of the steps taken, as well as the direction our higher education is going to take.

Not only education, but seemingly all aspects of student life are being translated or moved to a digital field. Students are dealing with an array of problems due to this continuous transition, including their personal well-being. This issue is even bigger for internationals who do not have the support systems and government services available to Dutch students, as well as first-year students who have not been able to form a community within the VU or fellow students. Great emphasis has therefore gone into improving all facets of the students’ experience for the objectives of the O&O committee.

The portfolios falling under the committee of Education and Research are Quality of Education, Internationalisation, Student-Orientated Support, Self-Development, and Selection and Accessibility. According to those, our main themes this coming year will be the quality of education, internationalisation, student-orientated support, as well as transitioning and matching during Covid-19.

Quality of Education

The quality of digital education and examinations will be our priority this year, since the ongoing regulations and the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic is making hybrid education extremely difficult. However, the necessity of having at least some physical classes can be observed in conversations with students. Online education oftentimes translates to pre-recorded lectures, leaving no room for interaction with the subject matter, teachers, or peers. Thus, under the regulations provided by the government, we will do our best to create solid alternatives for every programme. In regards to examination, the USR will pay close attention to the usage of Online Proctoring, as well as exploring alternative examination methods. With the help of the Faculty Student Councils and input from students all over the VU, we hope to find the best examination method for all students.

The pace of digitalisation has also created a burden for many teachers who are not as well-versed with recent technological developments. Due to this, we will collaborate with services that supply support for the academic staff who are experiencing issues. Moreover, for the first-year students who are new to the systems of the VU (e.g. Canvas, VUnet, the six-period system, etc.) we will create informative instructions which students can use anytime they need it, especially for internationals who are, beyond that, struggling with manuals or emails formulated in Dutch.

Another crucial point this year is to not forget about the enormous effort academic staff is continuously putting into change and adaptation. This effort must be recognised and appreciated by students and other parties as to uplift teachers who are making a difference
by e.g. promoting interaction between students and making the most out of the situation. Furthermore, the appreciation of this effort will also lead to more positivity, motivation and better quality of education.

- Improving the quality of digital education whilst safeguarding student’s rights and privacy (e.g. Proctorio)
- Increasing the availability and opportunity of safe physical education and examination
- Informing every student extensively regarding updates on the education system of the VU

Internationalisation
Just as in previous years, the internationalisation of the VU is taking an increasing precedent, as currently around 20% of the students are internationals. Especially the support of international students at the university will be an important objective this coming year but, simultaneously, the acclimatisation of the university to internationalisation has to be put into focus. Even more so, due to the current situation off-campus and online, the well-being of internationals and their study progress should be closely monitored. For many students in general, the restrictions and regulations during Covid-19 have meant a change of settings regarding their study, as well as their social lives as students. Especially, internationals are suffering from the loss of social contact as a consequence of digital education since they do not have the support system Dutch students have, such as family and friends in the Netherlands.

Furthermore, internationals are experiencing more struggles than usual, as the question of staying in Amsterdam or abroad at home has now become pressing, and the dissociative aspect of digital education is taking a greater toll on international students’ mental health and, thus, their study progress. The USR is aiming at creating a platform in collaboration with the International Office and student psychologists to offer internationals alternatives for what is lacking due to the current Covid-19 measures. We want to increase and improve the flow of information for internationals, and between the academic staff, VU employees and students. By working together closely with the student councils on a decentral level and the faculties’ study associations, we want to enable not only internationals to come together in the current online setting, but all students. Regarding the students’ social engagement, the USR will also cooperate with SRVU, ESN, the Diversity Office and VUPride.

“VUnited! The VU Internationalisation Team” will replace last year’s Internationalisation Task Force, and will be a joint effort of the above-mentioned services and student participation bodies, led and chaired by the USR. The VUnited! team aims to represent international students, mediating their questions and problems to policy workers of the VU. We wish to create clear and accessible overviews for internationals of where to find information or whom to contact about certain issues through having insight into the
planned launching of TOLL, the combination of VUnet and vu.nl.

- Increasing communication between (international) students and the university/staff/acclimatisation of university through VUnited!
- Creating accessible overviews of contact points and manuals regarding VU logistics for international students
- Closing the gap between international and national students

**Student-Orientated Support**

*Student-Orientated Support* is a very broad portfolio that entails student guidance, student well-being, and support for studying with a disability. Since the Covid-19 pandemic has changed many facets of student life, this has given a different meaning or form to each of these topics. Apart from working on these topics, we have some additional plans we would like to pay special attention to this year.

One of our main concerns in light of the Covid-19 pandemic is student well-being. Apart from facing difficulties with the current hybrid form of education, students are also dealing with the fading of their community, structure, social life and, in some cases, have brought about financial difficulties. In addition to facing the uncertainty of what is to come, as well as struggling with personal issues (e.g. moving to another time zone), student well-being is more important than ever before. All around the world we are facing the issue of students experiencing mental health issues in the current climate, numbers that are expected to only rise during fall and winter. This is why the USR wants to work on a central (digital) platform for students, to connect with the right people during these difficult times.

We want to make full use of the VU’s mental health support systems that are already present, and help boost them to their full abilities by making them more accessible and approachable to students in need. This will not only include working together with services such as the VU student psychologists, but also with services that can provide free training and courses for students to make positive changes themselves. Furthermore, the platform will also function to highlight the issue of growing mental health issues amongst students whilst increasing the visibility of the important work being done by the VU’s student psychologists, counsellors and advisors. Additionally, the platform will offer the opportunity to talk to other students, as well as teachers, employees, and us as USR, directly. There is no better way for us to represent students than to hear from them directly what their needs are.

Finally, in light of last year’s goals we would like to continue the work of our predecessors on Health Week. The execution, however, will be different from the originally intended plan, as it will be altered in order to be more suitable for the current Covid-19 climate.

- Working on a central (digital) platform for students to connect during these isolating times
Highlighting the issue of growing mental health issues amongst students and increasing the visibility of student psychologists, councillors, and advisors

Continuation and alteration of the previous plans for Health Week

Self Development

It is important for students to develop themselves outside their curriculum. As USR we want to make sure students are provided with these opportunities from the broad range of facilities the VU offers. For example, talented students can take part in the VU Honours Programme, which we as USR collaborate with to constantly improve the programme.

Some of these facilities, such as the A Broader Mind programme, have already been functioning in an online setting for some time. Others, however, such as the Health Week and the Honours Programme, need to be adapted to our current form of hybrid education. Since we already have a focus on improving digital education as well as having better contact with students at the VU, we want to use this for our collaborations with these platforms so that we can ensure the quality of each of these programmes. Additionally, we want to make sure students are still aware of these opportunities, despite the altered form in which these programmes now function during Covid-19.

Stimulating personal development of students through extracurricular programmes

Collaborating with extracurricular programmes that are still transitioning to a digital format to ensure their accessibility and quality to students

Matching & Transitioning during Covid-19

The selection of study programmes offered by the VU is enormous and this makes it difficult for students to make the right choice. The percentage of students terminating their studies before the start of their second year is between 30-35%. It is therefore important that students choose a study programme that suits them well, because making the wrong decision can have a detrimental financial impact.

In addition to the VU website, social media platforms, information days and more in-depth activities, the VU Matching system plays an important role in making a good study choice. However, we have noticed that the VU Matching system only looks at whether your expectations, interests and capacities match the programme for which you have applied. Most of the matching activities also take place after signing up, since a VUnet account is necessary to be able to participate in the first place. Since it will be more difficult for students to participate in physical matching activities this year, due to most physical activities being cancelled, we advocate for updating the VU Matching system. We want students to receive much more detailed advice from the university to see which other programmes within the same university could match their expectations, interests and abilities. In addition to that,
we also want a more user-friendly interface, taking into account that for most students (especially internationals) the only matching activity available to them is online.

Furthermore, students benefit from good preparation for their new role as university students, because the transition from pre-university education to higher education is not self-evident. Especially in this time of the pandemic, secondary school students finished their exam year very early this year. Moreover, after this odd ending of their secondary education they did not have the opportunity to experience a physical introduction at university. Due to this it is of extra importance that first year bachelor and (pre-)master students receive extra supervision. The USR believes it is important that these students receive the right guidance to ensure a smooth transition into their VU study programmes.

Making sure students are offered the best transition possible, in light of gaps caused by Covid-19 (e.g. secondary school-Ba and Ba-Ma)

Overhaul of the VU Matching system
Organisation and Finance

The Organisation and Finance committee is working persistently to make sure all requirements for education, research, communication, students and staff at the VU are met. This committee also reviews the annual budget plan of the VU, to the contents of which the USR has the right to consent. Organisation and Finance is all about how the USR can contribute to the interests of our students within the facilities and services of the VU. Facilitating our faculty councils, monitoring the provision of information, stepping up for the creation of more study spots and contributing to updating student regulations and by-laws are only some examples of the things we are working on. The Organisation and Finance committee gives our students a voice in what ways the money of the VU is spent, how the transformation of our campus will take place, and what the legal rights and duties of the VU and our students are.

The portfolios falling under the committee of Organisation and Finance are Financial and Economic Affairs (FEZ), Legal Matters, Information Technology (IT), Campus Development, and Training, Development and Professionalisation (TOP). According to those, our main themes this coming year will be IT, campus development, sustainability, TOP, legal matters (including profile fund and flexible study), as well as student professionalisation.

IT

Information Technology is one of the most important and largest facilities of the VU. A clear flow of information will contribute to educational quality and student support. In the current situation, with digital education being the main facility, it is important that students receive up-to-date information about their studies and other general regulations at campus. We see that most of the information is shared through VUnet, which does not always run smoothly or without problems. We, therefore, want the accessibility of information and this portal in general to be improved.

It is in these times that we hope for the completion of TOLL (Toekomstig Online Landschap), the online landscape of VU, which will replace and merge the current VUnet with VU.nl. It has been a huge project which has been going on for some years now and is finally in the end stages of production. With the sudden shift to digital education, it will be a priority to push for the completion of the project this year. As USR we want to be involved in the final phase of the development of this platform, so that the website is tailored to the needs of the student. TOLL must be more accessible and inclusive than VUnet, aiming to give students access to all files, moving towards increased transparency of the VU. We therefore want to see how this platform can best be matched to the interests and questions of the student, so that supply and demand are better aligned. International students often encounter the problem that information is not available in English. We will see to it that, with TOLL, the page automatically switches to the desired language.

The move to digital education amidst Covid-19 has brought forth a new privacy concern. Online Proctoring, digital surveillance, and processing personal data are important topics we have serious concern for, which we would like to address and actively defend in
favour of the students. It is also time for the university to think of all possible future investments in teaching aids and necessary training and assistance that would be needed for optimal usage of these technologies.

We are looking forward to the implementation of the coming Participation Council Portal. Here, we can keep students informed of developments and we hope that this will also help students to find us better. Social media plays an increasingly important role, it is important that there is a clear link between our social media platforms and the new Portal.

- Active involvement in the final phases of TOLL, providing feedback and input from students to ensure better provision of online information
- Ensuring the visibility and accessibility of activities, facilities and regulations on VUnet and the future TOLL
- Establishing the formation/creation of a diversity portal where different organisations, initiatives and facilities can be found
- Securing the digital surveillance under the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

**Campus Development**

The VU is immense and its campus should not only be viewed as a place where students enrich themselves academically, but also socially. Our aim is to provide the students with a lively campus, where they feel safe and engage themselves with sports and cultural activities. It is very important that students are provided with an overview of the availability of study spots along with a system for reserving these study spots. The USR wants to make sure these facilities are provided and that these spots have the proper amenities, comfortable furniture and inspiring surroundings.

The academic year began with hybrid education, which for most students meant a schedule full of Zoom meetings. Not all students have the luxury or privacy to stay home and, thus, it is important that students are provided with rooms for attending their Zoom lectures or meetings on campus. Since the working groups are also online, alternate options of renting out rooms to conduct these sessions should be considered, prioritising only sessions which need to be conducted physically and in small numbers. In addition to this, alternate solutions should be provided for students who do not have access to the university, such as students continuing their education from a different country with a different time zone.

Furthermore, we want to be involved in the reorganisation of the campus square and the development of new buildings to ensure the room and possibilities of the above-mentioned goals. Finally, we strive for a campus that is accessible to all students, whilst working on being more sustainable, comfortable, and welcoming.

- Increasing the number of study spots, as well as providing separate rooms with proper amenities for students to attend Zoom lectures or meetings on campus
- Better utilisation of campus space to facilitate safe community building activities
Investigating whether quiet rooms are sufficient, or if there is a need for more space for the accommodation of larger groups of students

Initiating student participation in the Masterplan VU Campus by allowing students to present feedback (e.g. information evenings)

**Sustainability**

Sustainability is an integral part of the ambitions the VU has as an academic organisation. The USR wants to continue their support to make the VU campus greener and more sustainable by collaborating with the Green Office and the Botanische Tuin Zuidas (formerly Hortus Botanicus Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam). By implementing more sustainable alternatives for certain processes and products it is possible to make that step into a green future. Combined efforts of staff, students and the organisation can bring our university closer to achieving a neutral carbon footprint. Where sustainability is possible it should be the norm.

- Collaborating with the Green Office and Botanische Tuin Zuidas on upcoming projects on sustainability
- Continuing to be an active part in the sustainable developments on campus, whilst actively involving more students

**TOP**

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced the VU community to deal with themes like digitalisation, efficient reorganisation of educational spaces and general crisis management in a very swift way. It is incredible to have witnessed how fast students and staff can adapt to these changes and hardships. With the continuous changes of regulations and policies, one of the USR’s priorities is to keep every branch of student participation at the VU up-to-date on these changes. Bringing central and decentral branches of student participation together during these times is important because together we stand strong. Without proper student participation the VU organisation cannot act to its fullest capacity, and we would lack the voices and innovative ideas we need right now.

Additionally, the USR wants to become a strategic partner of the SRVU student union on topics that involve the lives of students on and off campus. Meeting on a regular basis will form the foundation of this partnership.

- Professionalisation of student participation
- Organising more sessions for the USR and FSRs to prepare and train them for their roles in student participation
- Strengthening the connection with the student union SRVU
Legal Matters

Profile Fund
When a student struggles with a study delay, for example due to a disability, chronic illness, or a board year, students have the possibility to appeal to the Student Facilities Regulation. The VU offers financial compensation to these students because it is important that students are supported under extenuating circumstances. For example, currently, there is no transition phase for association boards that are working hard for (re-)recognition. This means that a board that makes the immense effort to find enough members for (re-)recognition does not receive a scholarship, but makes this only possible for their successors. The USR wants to investigate whether there is a possibility to make new regulations for such exceptional situations.

VU organisations that submit an application for recognition must also be guaranteed with retroactive effect for the boards that applied for the fund

Flexible Study
In 2023, it will be possible to pay per course instead of the full tuition fee. We as USR want to be involved early in the process and think along with the student population about the interpretation and effects of this. Which rights and obligations will change in regards to the current situation?

We want to aim for the opportunity of flex studying whilst making sure this happens on the proper terms and conditions

FEZ
Financial and Economic Affairs (FEZ) is a broad, challenging and insightful portfolio, in which we are focusing on financial matters within the VU. Because of the reform of student grants, there has been an annual flow of money for higher education since 2018. This flow of money also known as the “kwaliteitsgelden,” are intended to maintain and improve the quality of higher education. The student loan funds must benefit the quality of education and the general academic environment of the VU. As these funds come from the ‘pockets’ of our students, close monitoring by the USR and FSRs is necessary. The distribution of the advance funds is determined each year through the Quality Agreements. It is therefore important to monitor how and what these funds are spent on.

Monitoring how the VU has made an inventory of the study advances via the Quality Agreements and examine which investments are essential for qualitative education in the coming years

Due to the negative assessment of the most recent Quality Plan and the subsequent necessary submission of a new version, the council will critically monitor this process
Student Professionalisation

It is becoming increasingly difficult for recent graduates to find work as young professionals. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it might take even more time and effort for recent graduates to find a job. Therefore, it is of great importance that students receive career guidance during their studies in order to be able to work on their future prospects.

- Identifying which career services the faculties currently offer and trying to join forces to optimise these services
- Improving the connection between the transition from university to business by offering VU-wide career service platforms to students
- Stimulating entrepreneurship amongst students
Communication

The Communication Committee concerns itself with communication between the Student Council and the students. The portfolios within this committee are: Internal Relations, National Student Participation, Public Relations, Culture and Diversity, External Platforms and Recruitment and Elections. The points we want to focus on this year can be placed under three main themes: community building, visibility, and contact with students.

A topic that is of high importance is visibility. It is not only the starting point to receive input from students directly to be able to represent them more accurately when it comes to the VU’s policy, it is also important to find successors to carry on the work of the council the next academic year. Besides increasing our physical and online presence, we want to organise a day to promote all student councils.

Contact with students can be divided into several sections. The communication between the FSRs and the USR is crucial. This year, we started with extending the Presidium by adding committee meetings to go into more detail regarding important topics. Apart from the FSRs, we want to have input from other students directly as well. Due to Covid-19, some platforms like the coffee mornings or the Student Panel, where the USR used to receive input, now need safe alternatives. We want to increase the face-to-face contact the USR has with students. In these times, it is valuable to share best practices with other student councils, so that we can learn from each other and come up with new ideas together.

Last but not least, community building is becoming even more important in these times. We want to stimulate safe physical contact and bonding moments between students, facilitated by the associations or the faculties. We want to provide more information on all the activities students can do besides studying from home, even in times of this pandemic. We want to host gatherings, in collaboration with VU services, where students from different disciplines and backgrounds can meet. Furthermore, we want to have an online platform where students can meet and converse with one another.

Community Building

Community building has always been a crucial topic for the USR, such as making the campus livelier, but now in times of Covid-19 it is even more vital. It is important for students to be in contact with one another, especially now that student life happens mainly online. This includes working together with the FSRs, study associations and services within the VU. Thus, the visibility of certain student bodies and the communication between executive bodies and students is something we want to improve. Moreover, the reported identity loss of students and the dissocialising aspect of digital education should be recognised and solutions for this problem must be found. Especially students in unconventional situations now require our utmost support. We wish to facilitate the unification of students, who share interests, in a safe physical setting as much as possible.

Simultaneously, we want to support the establishment of a community at the VU that includes all students, combining all disciplines and diverse backgrounds.
Every faculty should be encouraged to apply physical education as much as possible within Covid-19 regulations, in order to enable students to re-enter campus life. Associations should also be stimulated to organise activities for students on campus in the rooms that are available to them.

Another matter in relation to the building of community is, of course, inclusivity. At the VU, we aim to receive everyone with open arms, and that necessitates the celebration of diversity. The university already initiated the concept of the ‘Mixed Classroom,’ and through collaborations with services like the Diversity Office or VUPride, the USR wishes to make the campus grounds and the online platforms in use now a safe space for everybody.

- Stimulating and facilitating the organisation of bonding activities for students in times of Covid-19 by encouraging associations and faculties to utilise room on campus
- Creating a USR social media platform where people with shared interests can meet (online)
- Increasing information about club activities and other student activities

Visibility
Visibility is an important topic in various ways. It is important that students know we exist, so that they can reach out to us. It also works the other way around, when students know what we do as a council, we can get input from them more easily. In short, visibility is a starting point to engaging students in conversations. By speaking to them directly, we can represent the students better as a university council. We want to increase our visibility by improving our physical presence, which is even more challenging in these times. Especially now, it is vital that students know we are still here for them. We want to increase our social media presence and not only show what we do as a council, but also show what the university is doing for its students. We want to shed more light on what is going on ‘behind the scenes,’ in the organisation itself, but also in other student bodies.

Besides engaging in conversations, it is also important that more students know what the USR does, to increase interest in joining a student participation body like the USR or the FSRs. After evaluating last April’s elections, it became clear that the central and decentral branches of ‘medezeggenschap’ (participation) of the VU are experiencing a lack of attention and participation within the VU community. The number of applications for the elections is decreasing every year. With improving our visibility, we can show that joining a council can be an experience to learn from, add to your skill set and resume, broaden your perspective, make new connections or even make friends.

- Hosting an event to increase interest in and draw attention to participation bodies
- Increasing our physical presence to show students we are still here for them
Expanding our social media presence and improving the information flow of ongoing topics the VU and the Student Council are working on by implementing a new PR strategy.

Contact with Students

Contact on (digital) Campus
Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it is not possible to get in contact with large groups of students on campus. Our council wants to promote the whereabouts and existence of student representation at the VU in a different way this academic year. This will lay a foundation to gather more direct input from students. Improving contact with students serves our goal to represent all students of VU. Normally, students would be drawn to us during Coffee Mornings and other promotional events or meetings, but now we will bring the USR to the students themselves. We want to create safe alternatives to these platforms, so that we can make sure every student is heard. We want to continue the coffee mornings and Student Panel in different manners to adjust to the measures we are facing.

Without close contact with students, their faculty representatives, the student unions, and all study and student associations, the USR will be like a rebel without a cause. Adjusting our communication methods to the current circumstances will be key to create positive memories of this academic year and make the best of these difficult times that we, as the VU community, are facing.

Contact beyond the Campus
Whilst keeping in touch with the VU community, it is also important to look over the walls of Amsterdam and work together with other universities by sharing experiences and information with their Student Councils. The ISO (Interstedelijk Studenten Overleg) can play a huge part in gathering these experiences and information. Besides Covid-19 related issues, keeping a close contact with councils throughout the Netherlands will be vital to stay on top of occurring problems and difficulties other councils and universities might be facing. By being aware of these matters we as USR will be prepared on possible similar issues arising at the VU.

On a European level we as USR can fulfill this goal by staying in good contact with the student councils of universities in the Aurora network. Needless to say, this cooperation is essential especially in times of crisis. Together with the student-representatives of the Netherlands and other countries we can form one front and make sure the high level of academic education in our country will be maintained.

Increasing collaboration with different student bodies within and beyond the VU

Reinforcing face-to-face contact with students, so that we can gather input regarding ongoing topics through a safe alternative to the ‘Coffee Mornings’
Having a central (online) platform to gather students’ input about policy proposals, to actively involve students
Epilogue

As the USR we look forward to turning the aforementioned plans into deeds.

Because of Covid-19, our university has to adapt to new situations every day. With this thought in mind, it is without a doubt that new focus points will arise and new themes will need to be addressed throughout the academic year. Though not everything has been mentioned in this Policy Plan and its points of action, we will put in our efforts every single day to serve our students. To represent our fellow students the best that we can, it is necessary that we are up-to-date about current affairs. We cannot do it alone, that is why we need the input of the Faculty Student Councils, Education Committees, study and student associations, and individual students. “We are all in this together.”

We are the 22nd University Student Council of the VU. This long-standing tradition has resulted in plenty of experience and knowledge, which we build on as a council. We will continue the work that our predecessors have delivered, who have worked hard every day for the past year; which is something to be incredibly proud of. We want to end the epilogue by showing our gratitude to all the previous councillors, especially to our predecessors who prepared us for our year in the council: thank you to David Palm, Veerle Groenendijk, Soukaina Abouhssen, Nanne Duijnkerke, Megan Terpstra, Pieter van Rossum, Nadia Ait Hammou, Edwin Chen and Alyssa Termaat.
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