



## Fact sheet

# Participation in decision-making

### How has participation in decision-making been organised?

UvA students and staff are consulted on decision-making at the UvA at three formal levels:

#### Central level

- Central Works Council (COR)
- Central Student Council (CSR)
- COR & CSR: Joint Meeting

#### Decentralised level

- Faculty Works Councils (ORs)
- Faculty Student Councils (FSRs)
- Joint Works Council for the Shared Service Units (GOR, for the Executive staff and central units)

#### Programme level

- Programme Committees (OCs)

### Composition of the councils

**COR: 16 members**



All ORs and the GOR delegate two members each

**CSR: 14 members**



7 elected directly  
7 from each of the FSRs

- The members of the Faculty ORs and the GOR are elected every three years.
- The members of the FSRs are elected annually.
- In the OCs there are equal numbers of students and staff. Members appointed following applications or elections.

### Consultative structure of the COR and the CSR

The Executive Board (CvB) regularly consults with the COR and the CSR in a variety of ways. Both formal and informal consultations take place between the Rector Magnificus and the CSR and between the president of the CvB and the COR. Joint consultative meetings with the Joint Meeting are held if an occasion demands it. The CSR and the COR consult with the Supervisory Board twice a year.

All formal consultative meetings are open to the public.

### What are the competences of the representative advisory bodies?

The Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) stipulates the university representative advisory bodies' right of approval and right to be consulted.

- **COR**  
The COR consults with the CvB on matters that affect the university as a whole or a majority of its faculties and services departments, such as accommodation projects. The agenda for the discussions between the COR and the CvB is determined by statutory regulations (the

Works Councils Act) and by the collective labour agreement for university staff (CAO-NU). The COR has the right to be consulted about the budget and the Policy and Management Covenants.

- **CSR**

The competences of the CSR have been laid down in a set of regulations. The CvB requires the CSR's approval regarding a number of matters, including the Students' Charter, the Profiling Fund, occupational health and safety regulations and student well-being. The CSR has the right to be consulted about such matters as the budget, the Policy and Management Covenants, the establishment of enrolment quotas, the binding study advice (BSA), the institutional tuition fee policy, accommodation plans and the Model Teaching and Examination Regulations.

- **Joint Meeting**

Some rights and competences of the representative advisory bodies have been conferred by law on the Joint Meeting of the COR and the CSR. Thanks to a weighting formula, both bodies control half of the votes in the Joint Meeting (when all members are present). The Joint Meeting has the right of approval with regard to the Strategic Plan, the Management and Administration Regulations, the key items in the budget and the structure of the quality assurance system. In addition, the Joint Meeting has the right to invite the CvB to a general consultative meeting twice a year. The right of approval with regard to the key items in the budget is a relatively new development.

- **ORs and FSRs**

The ORs deal with matters that affect the faculty or the shared service units, such as faculty budgets and compulsory days off. Depending on the issue, the OR has the right of approval, the right to be consulted or the right to be informed. The ORs have the competences conferred on them by the Works Councils Act. In addition, Article 40 of the Management and Administration Regulations confers on them the right of approval regarding amendments to the Faculty Regulations and the right to be consulted regarding certain appointments, the Policy and Management Covenant, the Teaching and Examination Regulations

and the research programmes. The right of initiative also allows the OR to place an item on the discussion agenda.

The FSRs hold discussions with the dean on faculty policy on behalf of the faculty's students. The faculties each have Faculty Regulations, which may include additional topics (not covered by legislation) regarding which the ORs or FSRs have the right of approval or to be consulted.

- **OCs**

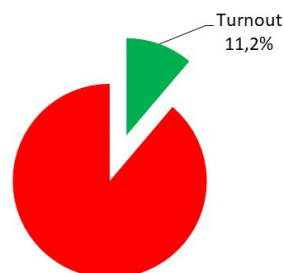
The OCs help set the course and the content of the degree programmes and have the important task of assuring the quality of teaching (and the teaching process). In addition to the tasks enshrined in the law, the UvA has expressly stipulated in the Management and Administration Regulations that the OCs have the additional task of providing advice regarding the quality of the degree programmes.

### Election turnout 2018

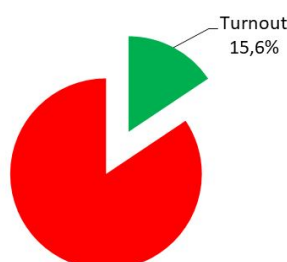
#### Works Council elections



#### CSR elections



#### FSRs elections



### **Other consultative and advisory bodies**

Local consultations are held between the CvB of the UvA and representative employee organisations, who meet with the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) at the national level to agree the CAO-NU. These representative employee organisations are FNV, AC/AFZ, CNV Publieke Zaak and VAWO/CMHF. They are represented collectively within the UvA in the University Local Consultative Committee (UCLO). Consultations address the application of the CAO-NU within the UvA, focusing primarily on terms of employment such as annual leave and the Terms of Employment Menu. The UCLO also makes agreements for the deployment of terms of employment funds.

The Rector Magnificus is in direct contact with a number of advisory committees, such as the University Committee on Research (UOC), the University Committee on Education (UCO), the Senate and the University of Amsterdam Ethics Committee (AIEC). The AIEC includes delegates from the COR and the CSR, whereas the UCO includes student delegates.

Each faculty also has advisory councils for its Colleges and Graduate Schools, whose members often include external experts. The research schools are represented in the faculty research councils.

Moreover, there are various opportunities for students and staff to join the debate and/or share their opinions, such as teaching evaluations, the National Student Survey (NSE), the CvB hour, policy task forces, Denkmeester.uva.nl, study associations and student assessors.

### **Contacting the representative advisory bodies**

Students and staff who want to raise questions, suggestions or issues can contact the members of the representative advisory bodies in person or by email. The email addresses of the various members can be found on the staff and student intranet sites in the A-Z list under 'participation in decision-making'.