

More off-campus activities plus a great communication between UCSA and its committees?

Vote Heike ten Den for CAO UCSA 2009-2010!

Dear members of UCSA, dear fellow UCU students,

My name is Heike ten Den and I am running for Committee Affairs Officer of next year's UCSA board. I am a second semester student and majoring in sociology, psychology and politics.

I believe one of UCU's strong points is the extraordinary range of committees we have on this campus, organized by a student population that consists of individuals with very diverse interests and backgrounds. These committees contribute greatly to the social life on campus, but also provide students with many possibilities to explore their interests. It is therefore of major importance that the plans and activities of all these committees are professionally coordinated by UCSA and especially by its CAO's.

As a member of a regional youth council during high school and currently as a member of SIFE UCU and a volunteer English teacher in the Anglia Project, I developed the qualities a CAO needs. During these activities I also gained experience in organizing projects and cooperating with various organisations.

I am very social and prepared to work hard. I can also listen well, I am flexible and efficient. I will do my uttermost to serve as a medium between the democratically chosen UCSA board, the committees and all the UCU students. I have the necessary qualities to both work independently with the committees based on the board's plans and principles, but also to work together with the other board members as a team. I am very excited to be able to contribute to the social life on campus and motivated to turn good plans into reality.

I believe first of all, that the board should always be aware of its approachability and accessibility. UCSA board members are there for the UCU students first and foremost. Furthermore, I would like to elaborate on the plans I have for next year.

- The possibilities of providing an office room for committees should be further explored. An office enables a committee to meet more easily, but also creates stability for the committee and a more professional appearance.
- Interaction between all UCU students, regardless of their nationalities or year, should be encouraged. The current board initiated many ideas, but activities can still be expanded. For instance, through cooperation between committees, interaction between all the students can be stimulated. Another example of how to expand current UCSA activities is to improve students' experience with Utrecht and other Dutch cities. This could be done with excursions facilitated by (Dutch) students. This can add to and improve the already existing Dutch buddy system for foreign students.



- I want to support and facilitate more activities off-campus, for students and also for committees as a whole. For some committees this idea might seem too ambitious, but with the help of UCSA this should be feasible.

I have had repeated discussions with non-UCU students, mostly members of my rugby team, about our college. These conversations initiated my wish to create a more positive image for UCU. Outsiders' comments are too often negative. This is caused by a lack of knowledge of what UCU is and who attend this college. In order to change this I think our strength can be found in our students and in the committees. They can represent UCU better than anything else and they should be able to do so off-campus.

Moreover, the experience of being active in a UCU committee will be even more useful and interesting when the activities also take place off-campus, in cooperation with non-UCU students.

- Next to this, UCSA's relations with other student associations and organisations should be sustained and preferably expanded. We should also consider establishing relationships with non-Dutch or worldwide organisations, since we all are internationally orientated.

Above all, I am very excited to cooperate with committees to work out all the good plans and ideas they themselves have for the coming board year!

Vote for Heike, she will tackle all problems!

Thank you and see you on April the 2nd,

Heike ten Den

If you have any questions, please come and talk to me or contact me otherwise!

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