

Dear UCSA members,

By the means of this letter I would like to announce my candidacy for the position of Chair of the 2009-2010 UCSA board.

My name is Oleg Büller and I am in my 5th semester at UCU. In the past two and a half years at University College Utrecht I have grown very fond of our little bubble. In those two and a half years I have been an active member of the UC community. As a member of HumCo and UNISUN and during my active involvement with SportsCo and the past two Introweeks, I became familiar with the workings and activities of the UCSA and all it has to offer to campus life. As the chair of the Beach Party Team, I further observed how the UCSA fostered and promoted all those activities that make our little bubble a unique and vibrant place, where students have the opportunity to evolve their talents, expand their horizons, and extend the possibilities for the future ahead.

Nonetheless, I believe that we are not fulfilling our potential. Our College is a young college and thus a College without many of the long standing traits and traditions that characterize older universities. However, our College's youth is in fact a virtue not a vice. UC is a fertile ground for innovation and growth, and as Chair that is exactly what I intend to promote.

1. Unity Week

Many of us will acknowledge that unit-life may sometimes be far from optimal. Often we barely know the people we live with. Often we hardly communicate with the person living next door, and too often it is only at the end of the semester that we find out that the person upstairs also listens to Celine Dion, shares the same passion for dolphins or even that they secretly loved Introduction to Academia. In order to improve life within and amongst units, I will set up an annual tournament with the aim of building unity within units and their neighbors. In the early weeks of every new academic year there will be free days on which the newly composed units will challenge each other in different activities ranging from football to beer pong, from painting to baking, and from karaoke to stand-up comedy. I have discussed this plan with the Dean and have received his full support and cooperation. Professor van der Vaart has pledged he will do everything within his power to arrange the necessary days off at the beginning of the new academic year. This way we will establish a new tradition, forming alliances and friendships, enriching unit life and enhancing campus unity.

2. UCTV

As UCSA chair I will oversee the formation of a new and key UC committee: UCTV. The aim of this innovative committee is to inform, educate and entertain. Alongside humorous campus-based shows that students host, film and edit themselves, such as *'Pimp My Unit'* or *'Dining Hell: The Student Cooking Show'*, UCTV will offer news coverage on events both on- and off-campus. The news program, UNN, will be run by students in close association with ACC 330 *International Journalism*. I am pleased to announce that I have the full cooperation of ACC 330 teacher Simon Cook on this undertaking, as well as an enthusiastic team of students ready to start work on making this idea a reality. UCTV will not only be a way for the UCSA board to communicate with its members about the events and challenges we have before us, but would also provide students interested in TV and journalism with a new way to express themselves, an opportunity to develop their skills and a means to achieve lasting fame.

3. Committees

The University College Student Association is unique in the Netherlands in terms of committees. Our committees host more lectures, performances and festivities than any other student association. They are the result of countless hours of work by hundreds of students and are an invaluable asset to campus. I believe that their blood, sweat and tears should be rewarded. To that end, in a joint effort with the newly elected ASIC members, I will work towards awarding course credits to the committee leaders of the larger and more active committees. Some committees already match many courses in terms of commitment and value. However, in order to meet the criteria of an academic course, we will need to introduce more rigorous standards for committee work. These standards will be set through negotiations between the UCSA Board, ASIC and College Hall and will serve to professionalize committees and provide their members with the necessary time, support and compensation to take their committees to a new level.

In conclusion I believe I have the plans, policies and vision to lead the UCSA, represent its members' interests, and enhance campus life. I have spoken to former and current board members about the responsibilities and burdens of a UCSA chair, I have discussed my plans with the Dean and College Hall staff, and I know what it takes to be a chair of the UCSA. I know I have what it takes to represent our association within these gates and beyond. Therefore I kindly ask you all to come to the upcoming General Assembly and allow me the chance to implement the plans I have; with your vote.

If you have any further inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Oleg E.H. Büller

O.E.H.Buller@students.uu.nl

0648773692

