

We deliver

a better UG

Election programme 2018-2019



Lijst **Calimero**

We deliver a better UG

For the last 13 years, Lijst Calimero has had a clear vision: students come to the UG for challenging, interesting and thought-provoking education. That is the type of education we want for all UG students, because that is what they all deserve. In this election programme, you can see how we hope to improve the quality of education next study year. Our vision is based on three themes: we want to improve **what you study**, **how you study** and **where you study**.

In the first chapter, you will read on how we want to improve **what you study**. We believe that our university is an academic institution where ideas are taught, examined and challenged. In an ever-changing world, our university has to adapt to change as well. We believe that the future is interdisciplinary, and that students have to develop skills that are necessary for their future career. We believe in a healthy relationship between fundamental and applied sciences, where the university is a centre of research and exploration.

In the second chapter, you can find what we want to improve with regard to **how you study**. We believe in small-scale education, where interaction and discussion are the key to understanding a subject. We believe that study programmes shouldn't exist as bundles of isolated courses, but as combinations of coherent fields of studies. We believe that digitalization and internationalization can increase the quality and diversity of education, if applied sensibly. We believe that knowledge should be tested in different ways than just prepping for one big exam.

In the final chapter, we explain how we want to improve **where you study**. We believe in a healthy study environment, where the mental well-being of students and teachers is paramount. We believe that our university has a duty of care towards our international students that goes beyond education. We believe that study associations are a vital part of student life and that the university should support these associations, while, at the same time, respecting their independence.

The upcoming elections will determine how students are represented in the next academic year. For the past 13 years, Lijst Calimero has been a constructive and critical partner in the University Council. We have delivered on countless topics, from housing to small-scale education. That is what makes Lijst Calimero the best option for you: **We deliver a better UG.**

The 14th candidate faction of Lijst Calimero

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Key Points

Theme 1: what you study

- Stimulate implementation of research courses at bachelor level
- Install safeguards for the quality and independence of research
- Set up more interdisciplinary minors
- Promote interdisciplinary learning communities
- Focus on the development of relevant skills for your career
- Abolish the fees for Career Services
- Change the role of Career Services
- Supervise the expenditure of the extra government funds

Theme 2: how you study

- Invest in small-scale interaction
- Diversify the way of examination
- Anonymize exams
- Excellent education for all students
- No evening and weekend exams
- More digital testing
- All lectures should be available online
- Careful implementation of Perusall
- Ensure the privacy of students
- Careful internationalization of studies
- Teachers should be qualified to teach in English
- More capacity for free Dutch and English Courses
- Create an introductory workshop for international students
- 'No' to Yantai

Theme 3: where you study

- Spend the same amount on housing for internationals as on marketing for internationals
- Encourage landlords to reserve rooms for international students
- Appoint a confidential advisor especially for internationals
- Make the Well-being Week into an annual campaign
- Expand the capacity of the Student Service Centre
- Introduce reflection spaces
- Ensure formal recognition of small boards
- Continue the support for study associations
- Ensure respect for student organizations
- Make more workspaces available and traceable
- Create more information and guidance for disabled students
- Make indoor maps of UG buildings available
- Strive for affordable hot meals in UG cafeterias

Theme 1: what you study

According to Lijst Calimero, it is the main task of the UG to provide its students with high quality education. Therefore, the content of your university degree programme is essential for the value of your diploma.

Role of research in studies

The UG characterises itself as a leading research university, carrying out socially relevant research. This way, the UG contributes to our society. This aspect of our university should be cherished by protecting independent research. Furthermore, we want to ensure that all students are entitled to take part in research.

- **Stimulate implementation of research courses at bachelor level**
A research course is a great way to get prepared for writing your bachelor thesis. To get more attention for research in the bachelor, Lijst Calimero wants to stimulate faculties to implement small-scale research courses in the bachelor.
- **Install safeguards for the quality and independence of research**
To guarantee the quality of research, as well as to keep the balance between independent and market-driven research, Lijst Calimero pleads for independent (third party) safeguards at every faculty that will evaluate the independence and quality of research proposals.

Interdisciplinarity

In a globalised world, where workfields become more and more intertwined, it would be ignorant for the university to hold onto static curricula within scientific fields. In order to stay up to date, the UG should invest in interdisciplinary education to prepare its students for their work later on and stimulate soft skills like negotiation, teamwork and creative thinking.

- **Set up more interdisciplinary minors**
Lijst Calimero strongly advocates the implementation of interdisciplinary minors. As an example, we raised the idea of the rhetoric minor, in which you learn the art of public speaking. With students from other faculties, you receive input and knowledge from different perspectives.
- **Promote interdisciplinary learning communities**
In interdisciplinary learning communities, people from different studies and backgrounds work together to tackle interdisciplinary problems. By doing so, students learn from one another. Lijst Calimero wants more learning communities and believes that they should be available to all students.

Employability

The world is changing rapidly, and so is the labour market. The university has to prepare students by teaching them relevant knowledge and skills. We believe that the university has to take on an active role in employability, in order to help them bridge the gap between university and the labour market.

- **Focus on the development of relevant skills for your career**
In today's world, it becomes more and more important to possess a broad set of knowledge, skills, work habits, and character traits. In order to prepare students for their future career, the UG needs to acknowledge this demand and thus incorporate it into the curricula at the UG.
- **Abolish the fees for Career Services**
Lijst Calimero thinks that students should be able to attend all the trainings of Career Services free of charge. To prevent a no-show, a deposit system, such as what ACLO is already using, should be installed.
- **Change the role of Career Services**
Lijst Calimero wants to make Career Services a better fit for students by changing the structure. Every faculty demands a different approach, so Lijst Calimero suggests that the focus of Career Services shifts to a bottom-up approach. In doing so, employability will be improved together with study programmes and study associations themselves.

Studievoorschotmiddelen

As a compensation for the abolishment of student grants, universities receive extra financial resources. The University Council has a large say in determining how these resources will be used. For Lijst Calimero, our priority is to ensure that all students benefit from it by investing in high quality and small-scale education.

- **Supervise the expenditure of extra government funds**
Lijst Calimero wants to closely monitor if the money is truly invested in small-scale education, university-wide minors that are accessible for all students, and personalised learning.

Theme 2: how you study

The structure of education has a large impact on its quality. Students should always be the centre of learning. Furthermore, the UG needs to adapt to recent developments and should be innovative in its education.

Small-scale and quality education

Small-scale education has been the focus point of Lijst Calimero throughout our existence. This will continue to be one of our top priorities regarding education.

- **Invest in small-scale interaction**

Interaction, discussion and feedback are the best ways to understand and grasp a subject. The focus of the university should be on working groups, seminars and practicals. To achieve this, we want the university to invest in means that support small-scale education, such as expanding teaching staff.

- **Diversify the way of examination**

Knowledge needs to be tested in different ways. One big exam at the end of weeks of lectures is an inadequate way of examining whether a student grasps the subject. Programmes should diversify their way of testing: smaller mid-term exams, essays, papers and practicals where feedback and improvement are given are better ways of measuring knowledge.

- **Anonymize exams**

Your grade should not be decided by your background, culture or a personal beef with your professor. Therefore, we propose that all exams be anonymized before checked.

- **Excellent education for all students**

All highly-motivated students should be able to apply for additional programmes and courses: A good degree and quality education should be available to everyone. At the moment, certain courses and programmes are not available for students who are not performing well enough. We will strive to ensure access to quality education for all students.

- **No evening and weekend exams**

Lijst Calimero opposes evening and weekend exams. Instead of making students responsible for the lack of exam halls, the university needs to take action. Students should be free to pursue their own activities in the evenings and weekends. The UG should find temporary locations for exams while the capacity is expanded.

Digitization

Digital innovation provides opportunities that can improve the quality of education. Next to investing in new digital innovations, people need to be taught how to use it.

- **More digital testing**
The university should aim to increase the amount of digital exams, since this way of examining is user friendly, honest and demands less from staff and students.
- **All lectures should be available online**
Lectures should be recorded and made available online for everyone. This way, students with overlap between courses can continue both, and the focus in courses can shift from lectures to small-scale working groups or seminars.
- **Careful implementation of Perusall**
We have consistently championed feedback in education over the past years. Students should receive feedback, because through it we learn from our mistakes. An example of how students can get more feedback is Perusall, an online platform through which students are able to receive more feedback from teachers. However, the university should make sure that there are enough safeguards regarding privacy and the use of IT. Furthermore, we shouldn't allow algorithms to automatically grade students.
- **Ensure the privacy of students**
As our digital infrastructure expands, more resources should be invested in the protection of data. Furthermore, we want the university to give students a clear overview of which data are collected with their consent.

Internationalization in education

In a globalised world, students should be prepared to work in an international, intercultural environment. The university should adapt to this change and integrate internationalization in a way that improves the quality of education.

- **Careful internationalization of studies**
Making courses available in English attracts international students, which could benefit our university. However, changing the language of studies can also decrease the quality of education. Transitioning to English should only be done when it contributes to the quality. Furthermore, only changing the language isn't enough. The UG should invest in changing the curricula so that they stimulate inclusion of internationals.
- **Teachers should be qualified to teach in English**
Students learn most when they can communicate effectively with their teachers. An often heard complaint is the 'Dunglish' spoken by teachers who have trouble communicating in English. Therefore, the university should take measures to

ensure that all teachers who give their classes in English have at least a C1 qualification by offering them English courses within working hours.

- **More capacity for free Dutch and English courses**

As our university is becoming more international, we should enable all students and staff members to communicate without barriers. In order to do so, we propose that both Dutch and English courses should remain free. Furthermore, as the rising demand can be foreseen, the available capacity should be expanded.

- **Create an introductory workshop for international students**

There is a large lack of useful knowledge among international students. An information session that covers study associations, exam preparation, practicing exam questions, and any other matters related to successfully study here should be provided for internationals in the first study week.

- **'No' to Yantai**

The faction of the year 2017/2018 gave a very clear 'No' to the plans for a branch campus in China. We fully support them in their choice and will continue to oppose a branch campus in Yantai. Yantai was a threat to the quality of education, there were no significant advantages and there was a risk to academic freedom. We want a new internationalization strategy which is supported by programmes and faculties. A branch campus is a project that the university currently cannot manage. We should focus on internationalization in Groningen before we invest in a large transnational project.

Theme 3: where you study

Students should be able to not only gain knowledge from their studies at the UG, but also develop themselves personally. We believe that students can only do so in an environment in which challenges and relaxation are balanced. Furthermore, in a quickly changing landscape where internationalization and diversity are becoming important topics, the UG should make sure it is a good host to all incoming students.

Internationalization

With an ambitious strategy on internationalization, the number of international students at the UG is increasing rapidly. However, internationalization doesn't only mean changing your default language, it also entails a thorough shift in mentality. The university should do its very best to achieve this. If not, the UG should adjust its aims in their internationalization policy.

- **Spend the same amount on housing for internationals as on marketing for internationals**

At the moment, the UG spends way more on marketing for internationals than it does on housing for internationals. If the UG is willing to attract internationals to study in Groningen, it should also be willing to shoulder the costs of the housing problem that is created as a result. Therefore, we believe that every euro spent on international marketing should find its equivalence in expenditure on housing for internationals.

- **Encourage landlords to reserve rooms for international students**

The housing market in Groningen is dominated by landlords. A solution for the housing problem should therefore aim at a cooperation with them. Landlords should be asked to set a number of rooms apart for international students. A subsidy for allocating these rooms could be installed as an encouragement.

- **Appoint a confidential advisor especially for internationals**

Internationals have to deal with very different problems than Dutch students. Therefore we propose that the university creates a position for a confidential advisor who focuses on creating a safe environment for international students.

Mental health

The pressure to finish your study quickly with above-average results, while building an outstanding resume, is too much for many students. The university should put in effort to help students get through their studies without becoming mentally exhausted.

- **Make the Well-being Week into an annual campaign**
The Well-being Week is an initiative of Lijst Calimero, which we have developed with the university and the Student Service Centre. In mid-April, a pilot version of this campaign has taken place. We will do our best to ensure that, starting fall 2018, this campaign week will be held annually.
- **Expand the capacity of the Student Service Centre**
The Board of the University has acknowledged the need for extra student psychologists. We are glad with the promise of the Board to invest in more capacity, but we want to keep track of the situation at the Student Service Centre. We want student psychologists to be more visible among students and capable of meeting the demand of students.
- **Introduce reflection spaces**
For those students who want to just have a moment to reflect on their thoughts and feelings in between studying, the university should offer spaces to do so. Everyone should feel comfortable within the university. A reflection space in the UB, a common place where all students are welcome, would be a stepping stone to creating a hospitable environment.

Extracurricular activities

Student life also takes place outside of the walls of the university. Students may be actively involved with student organizations besides their curriculum. We believe that the main focus of the university should be the provision of education, but it should also encourage students to undertake extracurricular activities.

- **Ensure formal recognition of small boards**
The mere fact that some associations are too small to receive a grant from the Financial Support Fund, should not deprive those board members of official recognition for their efforts. Therefore, we will strive for official recognition for small boards.
- **Continue the support for study associations**
The university is showing more and more respect for the role that study associations have within our university, as can be seen in the recent decision to increase the amount of money available for board grants for study associations. Bearing the importance of study associations in mind, the university should continue to support study associations in performing their best.

- **Ensure respect for student organizations**

Student organizations form a large part of student life in Groningen. The university should support and respect these organizations. We therefore oppose regulations that allow the university to financially punish associations or their boards that don't behave the way the university wants them to, as this creates fear and insecurity among student organizations.

Pleasant study facilities

As a party that cares about the needs of students, we recognise how fundamental good working places are to students. Therefore, we call upon the UG to improve and expand the number and quality of workspaces.

- **Make more workspaces available and traceable**

In order for students to comfortably study, we believe that the UG should provide enough workspaces. If the capacity of the UB falls short, the UG should make other workplaces more widely available. To help students in finding a study place, a digital system that shows the workplace capacity of buildings and the taken capacity should be installed.

- **Create more information and guidance for disabled students**

Students with a disability, visible or not-visible, should be able to enjoy high quality education at the UG. We cannot allow a lack of proper facilities or communication to hold them back. Therefore, we urge the UG to strive to provide adequate facilities and sufficient information about such facilities.

- **Make indoor maps of UG buildings available**

We are in favour of mapping all facilities of the UG in an Indoor Maps application, as it would help students, staff and guests find their way in our buildings. The joint Dutch universities are currently researching the possibilities for such an application. We hope to speed up the process as much as possible next year.

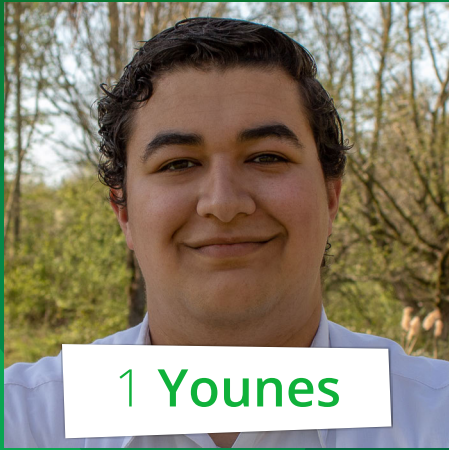
- **Strive for affordable hot meals in UG-cafeterias**

We believe students should be able to get quality food at an affordable price. Therefore we want to lower the prices at the cafeterias of the UG, especially with regard to hot meals.

Transparency in governance

We believe that transparency, accountability and respect for democracy are fundamental to an effective University Council.

- **Ensure a transparent, democratic and accountable university**
The University Council makes the university a better place by giving feedback and proposing new ideas. In order to do so effectively, it is important that the University Council is actively involved in the policy making process. Doing so will create a more transparent and democratic university, which will incentivize students to become involved with decision-making.
- **Give full accountability for our choices**
We believe in accountability and transparency at the university, which also includes our faction. In the coming year a lot of choices will be made. We guarantee that all difficult decisions will be explained in full. Furthermore, we are always open to questions regarding our decisions.



1 Younes



2 Henrieke



3 Reinier



4 Emma



5 Stan



6 Hylke



7 Crystal



8 Wafia



9 Marwa

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