



We deliver

a better UG

Election programme 2019-2020



Lijst **Calimero**

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Election Program Lijst Calimero 2019 - 2020

For 15 years, Lijst Calimero has been committed to ensuring high quality education at the University of Groningen (UG). Our party has been the most substantive, with a vision based on the idea that students come here to receive a challenging, interesting and thought-provoking education. This is a type of education that we want to ensure for all students, while being an inclusive and sustainable university.

Every student at the UG has the right to receive a valuable diploma and all the knowledge and skills needed to benefit from for the rest of their lives. In order to improve our quality of education, we have many ideas which we have divided in three themes. We strive to improve **where we study**, **how we study** and **what we study**.

In our first chapter, we explain how we want to improve the place **where you study**. The UG has to take its responsibility to take care of all students. We believe in a healthy study environment, where the mental wellbeing of students and teachers is of paramount importance. We believe that study and student associations are a vital part of student life. Therefore, the UG should support the development of extracurricular opportunities. Moreover, we believe the UG should provide the necessary facilities for all student. We also believe the UG should focus on professionalization of student representation. Finally, we believe the UG is for every student, regardless of their race, religion, gender, and physical ability. Ultimately, the University of Groningen should be the epitome in becoming sustainable for future generations.

In the second chapter, you will read on how we want to develop **what you study**. We believe that students who go to the UG have to learn and develop all skills which are essential for their future career, whether that is in academia or other endeavours. Furthermore, the future is interdisciplinary; students need to broaden the horizon of their expertise and be able to apply their knowledge in different ways. We believe in a balanced relationship between fundamental and applied science, where the UG is a center of research and exploration, not only for the academics but also for society as a whole.

In our last chapter, you will find how we want to advance the way **how you study**. We believe that digitalisation and internationalization can increase the quality and diversity of education if applied sensibly. We strongly foster small-scale education, where interaction and discussion are keys to the understanding of the subject.

We believe that quality education and research opportunities should be available for every student, not just for the high-performers.

But most of all, we believe in **you**. We believe that students make this university great, and that is why we are going to put our best efforts forward next year so we can keep improving the quality of education at our university. In order to represent your interests as a student, we need your vote during this year's elections!

We deliver a better UG. Choose Lijst Calimero.

The 15th candidate faction of Lijst Calimero

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Where we study

The main focus of the UG is delivering a high quality of education. But, in order for students to develop to their fullest potential, the university should do more than just facilitating a study. The UG should provide the optimal environment for students to develop themselves on an academic and personal level, whilst keeping their wellbeing in mind. With the contemporary internationalization of the UG, it should keep into account that all students shall receive the same chances for their personal development. The same goes for disabled students. Furthermore, the UG should set an example when it comes to a sustainable & inclusive community.

Internationalization

With the current globalization, the UG is becoming more international. Lijst Calimero finds that the UG should become a welcoming host to prospective students and offer an atmosphere in which they can feel at home and prosper. The UG should recognize its characteristic as an international university with many cultural differences, whilst also focusing on its regional role within the Northern Netherlands. The university should do its very best to achieve this, and otherwise, adapt their aims for internationalization. Furthermore, the marketing strategy should be proportionate towards both Dutch and international students. More importantly, the UG should always take into account the capacity of the city.

Housing

The UG is obliged to be an adequate host for both Dutch & international students and therefore has to keep on making an effort to tackle the problem. Lijst Calimero believes that the UG should take responsibility for the situation and should take the lead in trying to implement the promises made in the [Housing Covenant](#) along with the municipality, housing organizations and other organizations.

Lijst Calimero proposes the following measures:

1. Lijst Calimero wants the UG to decrease the amount of advertising to actively attract students until more student housing and working spaces for students are available in Groningen.
2. On the short term, money should be invested in emergency housing. On the long term, other options are necessary. Housing should become available on the

Zernike campus. To realize this, contacts with private investors and the municipality are key. The UG should take the lead in organizing these contacts.

3. Student housing organisations such as the SSH should stop the short-stay contracts, [as students are not short-stay](#). The UG has to take its responsibility and join active campaigns against the use of these contracts with all necessary means, including lawsuits.

Transnational education (TNE)

Lijst Calimero has opposed [the Yantai project in 2018](#) which resulted in that project being cancelled. Following the event, our warnings about public money being spent on the project resulted in an official investigation by the Inspectorate of Education. Our suspicions that many hours were not recorded properly were right. Approximately €670.000 of public funds were not recorded on the Yantai project, which was not allowed according to the Ministry of Education. Currently, there is another investigation going on into this project, which will be monitored closely by the University Council. Within the foreseeable future, Lijst Calimero does not think it is appropriate for the UG to look into new TNE projects since big mistakes have been made in the Yantai project. The UG should sort out problems with international students in Groningen first, such as housing & inclusion, before putting much effort in giving education abroad.

Student wellbeing

The UG carries the responsibility for the wellbeing of its students. Lijst Calimero wants to focus on helping students and creating preventive measures. Students often encounter social pressure and study stress. The stress that students cope with can influence their wellbeing and therefore influence their performances greatly. The university should put in enough effort to help students get through their studies without becoming mentally exhausted. The UG should actively raise awareness and inform students about early warning signs. We want to research the possibilities of a stress reducing, wellbeing improving intervention and a goal-setting programme.

Wellbeing Week

Lijst Calimero has initiated the [Wellbeing Week](#), a week to give more attention to the wellbeing of the students of the UG, focusing on having a sustainable healthy lifestyle. The Wellbeing Week is one of the ways Lijst Calimero has started breaking taboos surrounding mental and physical health issues. The Wellbeing Week should provide open discussions with health experts and/or experience experts. Lijst Calimero believes the UG should make it into an annual campaign and take the lead in creating a healthy student environment.

Student psychologists

No more waiting lists for student psychologists

It is unacceptable that students have had to wait between six and eight weeks to see a student psychologist. We have tackled this issue last year by appointing three additional student psychologists, which led to shorter waiting lists. However, if the waiting lists will not be resolved yet, we will ask for more student psychologists.

Encourage intercultural competence

The student population consist of students with various cultural backgrounds. This creates a challenging obstacle to approach them, especially those with special needs. Each background has their own needs and wants. Thus, it is fundamental to gain knowledge regarding intercultural competence for (student) psychologists to tackle this issue. Lijst Calimero therefore urges the UG to raise the quality of (student) psychologists with regard to intercultural competences.

Focus on prevention of mental health problems

Student psychologists should focus on prevention rather than treatment of mental health problems because this can already offer a lot of students the help they need. Hence, it is important to hire enough student psychologists, which creates extra time for prevention work.

Reflection spaces

Stress levels are high while being a student. Therefore, Lijst Calimero finds that the UG should offer reflection spaces for those who want to relax between studying or following courses. A pilot project in the UB is currently running. If the evaluation is positive, we will strive to make it permanent.

Lifestyle & dietary coaches

The UG has developed a [programme](#) for their staff members in which they can participate in certain sports, such as yoga, and courses on mindfulness and health checks. While Lijst Calimero recognizes that sports are already available to students at a low price at the ACLO, we would like the UG to explore the opportunities for the UG to offer dietary and lifestyle advice (related to e.g. stop smoking, drinking). We think that a lot of students could benefit from this programme, both physically and mentally.

A goal-setting programme

We want to reduce student stress and increase student well being. This is quite a task. Luckily the UG does not have to reinvent the wheel. [Successful goal-setting programmes](#) or interventions have been implemented at major universities such as the University of

Toronto (in Canada) and in the Netherlands at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. If these universities can successfully fight stress and dropout rates and increase mental wellbeing and average grades, then certainly our university can. We want to research to opportunity these programs provide for the UG.

Extracurricular activities

Lijst Calimero believes that quality of education should be the the main focus of the UG. On the other hand, it should be also allowed students to have time to develop themselves outside of their study and outside academia. Lijst Calimero wants to stimulate students to be involved in extracurricular activities to gain other, non-academic skills.

Support for study associations & international board members

Study associations are playing an essential part in following our programme. Lijst Calimero has made it possible for board members of study associations to get an official board year certificate. We think that the UG should provide them the support needed to perform the best they can. This is why we want to encourage students to do a board year, especially international students. Therefore, the [Profileringfonds](#) should be available for every student that is active as a board member, to make doing a board year more attractive. The tuition free board year should also be available to non-EEA (from outside of the EU) students.

Discount on tuition fees for board members

Study associations contribute to the development of students and are an important part of student life. They are an important part of studies and curricula. In addition to the regular board grant, there must also be an additional discount on tuition fees for board members of study associations to make studying next to a board year more accessible.

Extracurricular ECTS for board years

Doing a board year gives students much practical experience and knowledge that you do not learn during your studies. These skills you can apply both in your studies and on the labour market. This is why Lijst Calimero believes that extracurricular ECTS should be linked to a board year as an official recognition from the UG. For inclusion, it is important to encourage international students to do a board year since ECTS are internationally recognized. This way, international students are better embedded in student life.

Good study facilities

Every year, the UG is welcoming more students which increases facility problems. The current working spaces are insufficient for the amount of students of the UG. Therefore, the UG should provide sufficient, available workspaces as well as improving the existing facilities.

Available workspaces and the UB

Extended the opening hours

The university library Zernike and Central Medical Library should extend their opening hours until 12 pm and on Sunday. Additionally, Lijst Calimero observes that some students study optimally in different parts of the day. Therefore, we would like to do a pilot project which makes sure the University Library (UB) closes at 01:00 during the exam period.

Double Monitors on computers

As an addition, Lijst Calimero asks the UB to run a pilot which implements double monitors on computers, as [several studies show](#) this can improve productivity.

Offer more microwaves

For optimal evenings studying, we should recognize that some students prefer warm food at the UB. Lijst Calimero wants to ask the UG to provide (more) microwaves at the UB and other resting areas within study facilities/faculties.

Start to use the bicycle basement at the UB

Lastly, the UB has a well-known bike rack issue. The number of students who would like to study at the UB has been increasing significantly. Unfortunately, the library has problems preserving all the bikes of these motivated students. Therefore, we propose that the UB basement should be available for bikes.

Catering

Lijst Calimero aims to lower the prices of the food in the university cafeterias. A survey from Lijst Calimero has shown that students are highly dissatisfied with the high price of the catering. Therefore, Lijst Calimero wants to reduce the food prices in the university canteens as well as broaden the range of halal, vegan and vegetarian options. Lijst Calimero believes every student deserves a healthy and affordable meal.

Responsible treatment of students' data & personal information

Since privacy and personal data are fundamental rights, it is of the particular importance that the UG takes their students personal data into account. The UG should fully support the data officer, who keeps track on the flow of information. [Lijst Calimero believes](#) that the UG has a responsibility to treat student's data carefully.

The sustainable university

Lijst Calimero believes that the UG has to focus on sustainability, especially within their premises. Therefore, there should be a sustainability officer.

There should be effective communication between the municipality and the UG on sustainability, as policy on this topic often overlaps. The University of Groningen should actively focus on becoming the greenest & the most sustainable university in the Netherlands. Lijst Calimero wants to achieve this in several ways;

Energy officers

The University should allocate more budget to help faculties implementing the waste transition. To help with this transition, the UG should appoint energy officers who actively check all existing and new buildings for their energy levels. Furthermore, they should also have the necessary funding and manpower to improve the buildings. Additionally, these officers should help faculties in writing a faculty-specific development plan on sustainability by making plans of improvement and setting CO2-reduction targets. The funding can be reached through an [ESCo-construction](#), something which has previously been used at the Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Strive for an excellent energy level in buildings

Regarding sustainable energy, Lijst Calimero wants to encourage the UG to make the energy transition in their buildings. The Energy Officers Sustainability should be taken into account in existing and new UG buildings (such as the Aletta Jacobs Hall expansion, Feringa Building, Healthy-Ageing campus, etc.). We want to strive for a [BREAAAM-NL](#) level of at least 'Excellent', with the ambition to reach 'Outstanding'. For example, the further isolation of existing buildings should be explored, *i.e.* via radiator-foil and double glass. Spots for solar panels on all UG buildings should be actively explored, and placed if possible.

Reducing waste

Lijst Calimero believes that the UG should stimulate recycling measures by removing regular trash bins. They should be replaced with bins that allow for the separation of paper, plastic and other items.

Coffee discount for own cups

Lijst Calimero believes good behaviour should be rewarded. Hence, the catering company should be encouraged by the UG to provide a discount for students and employees who bring their own coffee cups.

Role of sustainability in education

Lijst Calimero also believes that skills and intellect on sustainability should be available through education. Existing minors on sustainability should be actively promoted to all students. Alternatively, a masterclass open to everyone (Massive Open Online Course) regarding sustainability should be an option.

Decision-making in the university

As a university council party, we discuss and thus form opinions on the way the board of directors pursues policies within the university. Lijst Calimero strives to have a bottom-up approach in representing students. We appreciate the views of students from different backgrounds & cultures, and try to integrate these in our policies. Hence, we organize several Think-Tanks each year to give students and other student representatives from faculties the opportunity to help us form opinions and policy. In decision-making in the UG, Lijst Calimero strives to do the following:

Professionalization of the student representation

Lijst Calimero believes that student representation is of the utmost importance for a proper functioning of the UG. In recent years, the roles of the faculty councils and the program committees have changed through implementation of new laws. With the increasing decentralization, there is an increased responsibility for these committees. In order to properly train members of these committees, Lijst Calimero proposes to organize a central day which prepares University Council, faculty council and program committee members for their function.

No policy based solely on lists, rankings, and surveys

The UG has to focus on providing a high quality of education. Lists, ranking and surveys give insight on the comparability with other universities UG. However, Lijst Calimero finds it is essential that these measures do not constitute the main objective and that no policy is based solely on these measures. Measuring the quality of the UG should be done in various ways, such as direct experiences of students, not just with numbers and percentages. The UG should critically assess the role and validity of the National Student Enquiry (NSE) as well.

Appointing new central board members

Lijst Calimero [does not believe in the election of board members of the UG](#). Lijst Calimero believes that a majority of students is not adequately engaged to make an informed decision regarding this topic. Also, there is a risk attached to having open elections, as everyone, even those who are severely underqualified for the job, may be elected. Additionally, with a low turnout the new board may have inadequate support to govern the UG if the group voters is not representative of the whole academic population.

Faculty councils should be involved in application process of faculty boards

Lijst Calimero believes that for a proper collaboration between faculty boards and faculty councils it's imperative that faculty councils & students are part of the *benoemingsadviescommissie (BAC)*. They are tasked with the application process of new deans of faculties. We believe *at least* 1 member of the faculty council should be in the BAC, as well as *at least* 1 student.

An inclusive university

Over the years, the benefits of providing an inclusive education have been shown. It fosters a culture of respect and provides the opportunity to learn about and accept individual differences. Thus, it is important that students with limited performance are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability. The current University of Groningen policy plan for students with a performance disability dates back to 2004. However, we found that the implementation of this plan has been inadequate. Lijst Calimero aims for a better enjoyment of education for everyone and urges the UG to set up a new policy plan.

Currently, there is a general feeling of separation within international student groups from Dutch students, and vice-versa. Lijst Calimero believes students should be encouraged to integrate with students from different countries, cultures, and backgrounds. We recognize that this can only be done if both sides are willing to integrate. In order to tackle this issue, every actor of the UG should actively cooperate. Together with the University and student associations, Lijst Calimero calls upon further integration by promoting equality and social integration through sports and cultural activities.

Facilities for disabled students

The UG has to fulfill its obligations by providing information on studying with disabilities in English, considering the international culture of the UG. Thus, it is necessary to establish a comprehensive and accessible guide for students with disabilities. For example, the UG website should also more clearly include the information regarding

studying with limited performance and should be accessible to prospective students as well. Lastly, all existing and new UG buildings should have facilities and be accessible for students with disabilities without undue delay.

Sign language

Lijst Calimero believes that it would be valuable to arrange an extra course on sign language. This can be integrated with the Language center and developed into Linguistic department. We believe this can be valuable not only for students to acquire new skills, but also to achieve further integration with the deaf community.

Building for international student associations

Lijst Calimero believes that for optimal support of international students, the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) should be entitled to their own building in which they could organize activities among with other international student associations. Current activities are done all over the city, with some committee meetings even occurring in the UB. Lijst Calimero considers this suboptimal, and therefore encourages the UG to recognize the invaluable role owning a building means to these associations. It should be funded by any means.

Support for Campus Fryslân

Students who study at the University of Groningen, but are housed in a different city, are entitled to use the Student Facilities that the University of Groningen makes available. Because this is not always accessible due to the distance, we want the university to take care of this by:

- Offering the possibility for student psychologists to go to locations outside of Groningen for parts of a day.
- Creating coherence between the students in Groningen and the locations outside the city by organizing exchanges and events in collaboration with various organizations.
- We think that students of Campus Fryslân who want to make use of UG services, should get optimal support to so.

What we study

Lijst Calimero is of the opinion that the main responsibility of the UG is providing high-quality education. This is because the content of your study determines the value of your diploma. This value contains more than just academic and scientific skills, but also a sense of personal development is highly important. When this is achieved, students can leave the university for the labour market confidently.

Employability

The world is changing rapidly and so is the labour market. The university has to prepare students for this by teaching them relevant knowledge and skills. We believe that the university has to take on an active role in employability in order to build the bridge to the future of students.

Career Services

We would like better communication of Career Services with study associations in order to get the best career service for every student. We think Career Services should take a more supporting role towards study associations. They should work together, and not compete with each other. Moreover, Career Services should be decentralized. In this way, we will make Career Services more faculty-specific by combining it with the network, experience, and accessibility from study associations to tailor the services to the needs of students.

Internships in every bachelor's programme

In order to be ready for the labour market and ensure the active development of students, more professional opportunities should be facilitated to extend their knowledge and skills. Lijst Calimero believes that students of every bachelor's programme should be able to get a [career minor](#) opportunity, or the opportunity for an internship for a reasonable amount of credits. The UG should provide this because internships play a vital role in your development to become a well-oriented graduate.

Include experts from the work field into the curriculum

While the University of Groningen prepares students for life in academia & research, it should also prepare students for the labour market outside of the academic community because most of the people will use their expertise to work in the labour market. Lijst Calimero encourages study programs to have contact with the working field and allow the needs from the labour market to be represented in the curriculum.

We could, for example, create a university wide Young Alumni Network (YAN) where students have the opportunity to find a mentor. Additionally, an advising body should be appointed that consists of members from the working field to ensure that study programmes facilitate what it takes to stand out at the labour market. The advising body should meet on a regular basis. However, the independent and critical role of the UG should be preserved while in contact with the working field.

Interdisciplinarity

In a globalised world in which work fields become more and more intertwined, it would be ignorant for a university to hold onto a 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 future and stimulate creative thinking. Of course, there should be a limitation so specific disciplines will not disappear. Thus, instead of changing content of studies, interdisciplinarity can be achieved by minors. Also, opportunities should be explored to enlarge the learning communities project from the FEB into a university-wide plan, which offers interdisciplinary education for all students interested.

Minor in Rhetorics

A prime example of interdisciplinarity achieved through minors is the minor Retorica, which has been [successfully proposed](#) by Lijst Calimero last year. We are proud to have developed this minor and we think this minor, as well as other interdisciplinary minors, are invaluable for student development.

Role of research in studies

The UG characterizes itself as a leading research university, carrying out excellent basic science and socially relevant research. In this way, the UG contributes to our society. This aspect of our university should be cherished by protecting independent research. Besides, we believe that all students should be educated to become independent and critical thinkers on an academic level. This means enough attention for academic skills in the bachelor and master. Additionally, basic reasoning and logic skills should be taught at the bachelor's level.

Balance fundamental & market-driven research

It is of great importance that fundamental research remains being financed by the UG. However, market driven research should not be phased out. The fundamental research stands at the core of education and research, while market-driven research is important to keep up with the current interest of society. The university should keep a broad interest in their research fields.

Basic research skills: logic and reasoning

Many research skills are study specific while some skills are general. Your lab experience in Physics is different from that in Biology or Medicine. We want these skills to be decentralized in their teaching and we trust the program committees to ensure they are taught to students. General skills are, for example, reasoning skills. They are very important in every field of scholarship and science. We want all students to be able to judge information consistency and scope. Basic training in reasoning and logic should be a part of all bachelor's programs. A general skill all students should master is how to speak and write well. We have made this part of your development possible by creating a minor in rhetoric.

Increased promotion for research masters

We recognize that the admission requirements for the research masters are quite strict. Lijst Calimero believes that students should not solely be accepted because of a high grade; the motivation, written reports and references should also be duly taken into account. Admission based on special merits should be possible, such as published scholarly articles. The research masters should also be more actively promoted to students during Open Days to increase their visibility and excite more students to become active in their field of research.

Studievoorschotmiddelen

From this year on, the UG will receive extra resources every year to improve the quality of education. This has been introduced since the study grants were abolished in 2015. The money has been saved by this measure will flow back into our education. Lijst Calimero wants this money to be spent wisely, so we will keep an close eye on the spending the coming years. The quality agreements made are first and foremost to increase the quality of education, and not to fill in the gaps of budget cuts by the government.

Supervise expenditure of the Quality Agreements of 2018 and onwards

In the past year, a framework has been drawn for the investments in the quality of education. In the future, Lijst Calimero will monitor whether the money is actually spent on the set of focal points of active learning, a personalized education, improved feedback, a stronger connection with the labour market, student supports and educational infrastructure.

We believe a part of the money should be spent on improving the student-staff ratio, with a focus on academic staff. Students have been asking for more time and support from professors and we want to make that possible.

Our top priority stays with good quality of education and so should that be of the UG when spending this money. It should be invested in students and their education. Lijst Calimero believes that at least once a year, faculties should report to their faculty councils regarding the progress of this spending. Lijst Calimero encourages faculties & students to engage in this process, and advises Faculty Councils to take part in steering committees tasked with the division of the Quality Agreements from 2019 onwards.

How we study

In order to let students function at their fullest potential, the structure of education should be of high quality. The needs of the individual students should be the main focus of a degree program. There should be more awareness amongst students about what they can influence when it comes to their degrees. Lijst Calimero wants to improve the structure of education by pursuing small-scale education and interactive education. This encourages students to think critically and develop themselves on a more personal level. Detailed feedback by teachers and peers is thereby important. Additionally, the UG needs to adapt to recent developments and should make use digital possibilities in order to innovate its education.

Digitalisation

Digital innovation provides opportunities that improve the quality of our education.

Digitized testing

Lijst Calimero wants the UG to reap the benefits of digitized examination. It can reduce the use of paper, decrease the work pressure and increase quick response rates. The UG has to optimize the possibility to issue more digital exams with the current reconstruction of the Aletta Jacobshal. However, it should be considered that digital testing does not work for all courses and programs. Therefore, program committees should have a say whether digital testing is possible.

Online lectures

For students, it is helpful to be able to use online lectures in their learning process. We therefore think they should be introduced as much as possible, as long as it does not go at the expense of active participation in studying. In order to facilitate online lectures, the university has to create a main framework which can help with the implementation and create easy access if the program finds it necessary to record their lectures. The final choice of using video- or audio-lectures shall be decided by the lecturer, preferably in consultation with the faculty. Nevertheless, Lijst Calimero sees the benefits of using online lectures and would strive for the full optimization of opportunities online lectures can bring towards students. Lastly, the availability of online lectures should be set out clearly in Ocasys.

Educational software

Students are more and more digitized and the University has to keep up with the current technological developments. Lijst Calimero supports the use of new software, such as Perusall and Peerceptiv, if proven they give added value to courses after extensive evaluation. Lijst Calimero sees the benefits, but we are also aware of its shortcomings. Therefore, we only want to implement new software if we see a clear added value. It can for example lead to better interaction and thus, small-scale education.

Anonymous testing

Lijst Calimero also supports anonymous testing, which is available if more exams are taken digitally. Everyone, including teachers, has a certain amount of bias, which we would like to diminish through anonymous testing which can make the process of grading more fair towards students.

Website of the UG

Lijst Calimero notices that the current [website of the University of Groningen](#) is suboptimal, often a few clicks result in redirections or error notifications. This is a problem, as the general website is the business card of the university, and often the first portal of information for all visitors, including prospective students, researchers and private entities. Therefore, Lijst Calimero wants to see a thorough evaluation & change of the current website.

Google maps

Finding your way around the university is sometimes quite difficult. Lijst Calimero finds it should be made easier for newly arriving students to find their way around. Lijst Calimero want the UG to join the VSNU pilot for incorporating indoor Google Maps of the university in the software.

Grading statistics

Once receiving a grade, students should have the possibility to view the average result of other students on their exams. With the current change to the use of the grading centre, Lijst Calimero wants to make it available there. A proposal has been sent by Lijst Calimero to create statistics from the results of the exam in the grading centre.

Small-scale education

Small-scale education has been the focus point of Lijst Calimero throughout our 15 years of existence. The interaction, discussion, and feedback are the best means to understand and grasp a subject. The focus of this university should be on working groups, seminars, and personal feedbacks by tutors. Small seminar groups encourage active participation and can create more personal and fitting education, which are invaluable.

Learning Communities

Learning Communities are an excellent way to practice small-scale education. These communities learn students to work together, share their expertise with each other, and entrepreneurship in an interdisciplinary and small-scale manner. These skills are mostly not taught in the BA and MA programs but are highly demanded on the labor market. The Faculty of Economic and Business is currently running successful learning communities, something that should be actively promoted amongst all students.

More teachers

In order to pursue small-scale education, more teachers and more student assistants need to be hired. Teachers and student assistants play a vital role in a student's study career. More teachers means more attention per individual student as well as less working pressure for the teachers themselves. Last year, Lijst Calimero has managed to avail [5 million euros](#) structurally, available to be spent on lowering the workload and also attracting more teachers. We are going to oversee where the money actually is being spent on this.

Student assistants

In order to reduce the work pressure of teachers, Lijst Calimero sees value in the use of student assistants. They can support teachers and decrease their workload, while student assistants gain valuable experience. The quality of student assistants needs to be high, therefore we want to implement better training for beginning student assistants.

Examining through feedback

Students should learn courses, not exams. However, the assessment is an integral part of the study program for students. By adopting a diversifying blend of assessment methods like essays, presentations, practicals or midterms, it can make a positive and significant impact on students. The diversification method may allow a broader range of students to show their abilities. To put this into practice, Lijst Calimero wants to evaluate and use online methods such as *Peerceptiv*, if proven it raises the quality of their education, which gives students the ability to give feedback on each other.

Furthermore, there should always be the opportunity for students to get an elaboration on the feedback they have received from teachers, by for example visiting them in office hours.

Internationalization in education

In a globalized world, students should be prepared to work in an international and intercultural environment. The university should adapt and integrate different scholars, students, schools of thought and ways of research in its curricula in a way that improves the quality of education. Internationalizing has many aspects, and is always a means, never an end.

English courses and programmes

The UG is becoming an international university where diverse classrooms and the proficient use of English have become the norm. There has been a recent trend on “Anglicised” education, however, Lijst Calimero finds that not all courses at the UG could be translated to English. A careful assessment should be applied in the transition to the English language. The process of internationalizing a course should only be implemented if it increases the quality of the course. If there is no clear benefit, faculty councils, in conjunction with programme committees, should have the option to appeal against the anglicisation of a study.

English level of teachers

In order to give efficient classes, all teachers should have an appropriate level of English. The University is obliged to deliver good quality, which also covers the English level of the teachers. All classes taught in English should be given by a teacher who has a proficient level of English fluency, at least a C1, or more preferably C2 level. For the teachers who have not accomplished this level yet, the University of Groningen should maintain free English courses for teachers to reach C1 level, preferably C2 level, by 2022.

International classroom

The diversification of the UG can bring tremendous benefits for students. An intercultural discussion and incorporating different schools of thought can increase the quality of education. Lijst Calimero sees many benefits in the internationalization of a classroom, while also supporting the International Classroom project, if applicable to the programme.

Free Language Courses

In order to achieve integration between Dutch and International students, Lijst Calimero believes that internationals should receive the opportunity to follow free Dutch courses until at least the B2 level. Additionally, this provides internationals with the opportunity to find a job in the Netherlands in the future and it keeps academic expertise in the Netherlands.

Accessible education

A good degree and quality education should be available for everyone. It is absurd that certain courses or (master-) programmes are not available for students who are not high-performers. Lijst Calimero believes the admission requirements for excellence education should be focused on the student's motivation.

Honours Programme

The fact that students can enjoy an interdisciplinary education with the Honours Programme is an extraordinary opportunity. Unfortunately, the dropout rate of the programme is significantly high. Therefore, the Honours Programme should be critically assessed and restructured according to the feedback received. We believe the programme should be challenging and should add value to students' career. The opportunity to enjoy interdisciplinary extracurricular education should be open for everybody who is motivated. We propose to restructure the Honours College Programme as a program for all motivated students instead of students who receive high grades during their courses. Lijst Calimero believes it should be easy accessible interdisciplinary education for every student for extra ECTS who is interested

Open bachelor courses to master students

Current master students are limited in the number of interdisciplinary courses, fitted to their curriculum, they can take. Even though masters are guiding students towards a particular specialization, they should be able to take courses at other faculties. The work field is becoming more diverse and the university should provide students with the possibility to grow outside of their field. Lijst Calimero wants to strive for more opportunities to expand your interest, even if you are in a master programme. Lijst Calimero proposes to open all bachelor courses to master students to let them diversify in their interests, next to following their master programme.

Bursary student experiment

Bursary students are introduced to increase the research output and reach the labour market with extra research capabilities. In return, these students were not obliged to give lectures and start researching in a topic of their interest. As seen in the evaluation, many of these students are dissatisfied with their role in the university since they do not have any freedom to write their own research proposals and demand more social security and training in educational activities. Since the objectives of this bursary experiment are not met, Lijst Calimero does not see added value in this experiment. therefor, we will vote to discontinue this project.

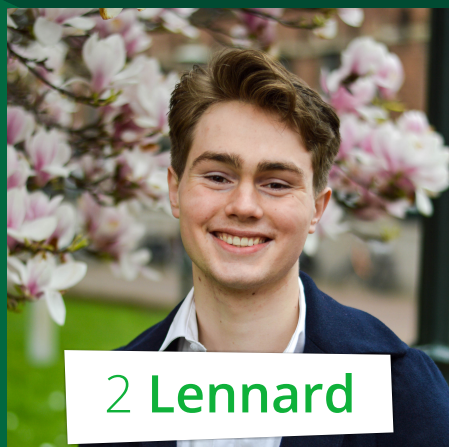
The implications of the Committee-van Rijn

The committee-van Rijn is responsible for revising the financing of our higher education. The committee has a plan to give more money to the Technical Universities, which means the budget of broad universities, like the UG, will suffer high budget cuts. The majority of these cuts will be in the alpha: arts, law, philosophy, behavioural sciences, theology, economics & business, & gamma faculties: medical sciences, spatial sciences, which already suffer from slim budgets and high working pressure.

Lijst Calimero therefore believes that the University of Groningen should speak out against cuts in these faculties and recognize other means in which these faculties could be supported in case these budget-cuts become clear at the end of April/the beginning of May 2019. Additionally, the whole academic community should unite to ask for additional funding instead of allocated funding. We should not have to divide poverty.



1 Floor



2 Lennard



3 Vera



4 Bagus



5 Fleur



6 Matthias



7 Hilde-Marije



8 Shanira

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