



Lijst **Calimero**

Policy Plan 2020-2021

Faction 16

Final Version

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Preface

Dear reader,

Welcome to the Policy Plan of the 16th Faction of Lijst Calimero. This document is designed to provide us with a policy framework to work off for the upcoming year. We will use it to show you our plans and goals, while also giving you the opportunity to keep track of them. This year will, of course, be considerably different from others due to the crisis caused by the novel coronavirus. The corona crisis has drastically altered the educational landscape at our University, and, at the moment of writing this document, it is difficult to make concrete, long-term plans due to the changing nature of the virus and accompanying restrictions. Nevertheless, we will continue to adapt to this changing environment and in doing so, we will use guiding principles to ensure that you, our fellow students, receive the best quality of education possible.

One of our principal concerns for the upcoming year is ensuring that the quality of education and research remains at a high level. The quality of education has always been at the core of Lijst Calimero's vision and will take an even more prominent role this year. Although the University and the provision of education have been restructured to ensure that staff and students are safe, adequate and ample scrutiny must take place to ensure that this new online or hybrid education is at the highest standard possible. That is the core mission of Lijst Calimero this year, and it is what drives our Council members in their work and their interactions with the Board of the University. In doing so, we will work constructively with the Board of the University, but all the while critically engaging with their policies. Although lessons are to be learned from digitalising our University—ones which can be carried on into the future—we believe that there must be a return to physical education. However, until this is possible in a safe way again, your health and wellbeing as students will always be our primary concern.

As already mentioned, it is of utmost importance that the quality of education takes centre-stage at our University. In achieving this, Lijst Calimero will be guided by three overarching pillars: student wellbeing, small-scale education, and inclusivity through accessibility. Above all, Lijst Calimero believes that the ability to study effectively, perform well in exams and lead a rich social life depends on the mental and physical wellbeing of

students. What were once cracks in our University's approach to student wellbeing have been exposed as chasms during the corona crisis. Protecting student wellbeing has therefore become a matter of urgency. Many of our policies, from support to study associations and demands for better psychological services at our University, are rooted in a belief that happier students and staff leads to better quality education. Secondly, the quality of education is also increased when students and staff have ample time and space to interact. This is why we advocate for small-scale education. With the pandemic digitalising our University, the ability to have meaningful interactions with lecturers has decreased significantly. The Quality Agreements between our University and the Government set out plans for improving the student to staff ratio, however, much of these funds have now been directed to improving the University's digital infrastructure. While this was necessary at the time, Lijst Calimero will campaign for more staff to be hired, both to benefit students and the workload of staff. Thirdly, the coronavirus has exposed deep inequality within society, and this is true of our academic community too. As we now work from home, some students lack reliable WiFi, quiet study spots and support resources needed by students with a disability. We believe that the quality of education suffers as a result. That is why we advocate for inclusivity through accessibility, to enable students to make use of UG's facilities in more innovative ways.

In this Policy Plan we will flesh out these themes through concrete policy. We will detail the structure of our organisation and topics that are key to realising our vision, as well as elaborating on the steps we plan on taking to achieve this. We will also set out our approach to the next campaign and candidates and how we envisage representation within the UG.

We thank you for your interest and hope you enjoy our Policy Plan!

Warm regards,

The 16th faction of Lijst Calimero

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Table of Contents

Preface	1
Table of Contents	3
1. Organization	5
1.1 External Organization	5
Communication strategy	5
Social media and website	5
Events	6
Constitutional drinks	6
Lustrum	6
Other factions	7
Student Representatives	7
Updates	7
1.2 Internal Organization	8
Board tasks	8
Working groups	9
Audit Committee	9
Advisory Board	10
Faction holidays	10
The office	10
Compensation	10
2. Politics	12
2.1 How we study	12
Digitalisation	12
Internationalisation in education	13
Small scale and quality education	13
2.2 What we study	14
Role of research in education	14
Employability	14
Interdisciplinarity	15
Quality assurance	15

Training for representatives	16
2.3 Where we study	16
Internationalisation (Housing)	16
International Associations	17
An inclusive university	17
Wellbeing	18
Sustainability	19
Strategic plan of the UG	20
Graduation fund	20
National politics	21
Loan system	21
Coalitie Y	21
3. Campaign and candidates	22
3.1 Candidates	22
3.2 Support list	22
3.3 Transfer, election program ...	22
4. Student representation	24
4.1 Structure	24
4.2 Active approach from UG and representatives	24
4.3 Training for representatives	24

1. Organization

1.1 External Organization

Communication strategy

A lot happens during a year in the University Council. There will be developments that are directly or indirectly relevant to the students at the University and we will make sure that after every council meeting we have an update ready that we can send to them. In this update, the changes will be described in what they entail for students and what role we have played in making them happen. In addition to a summary from the council, we also hope to clearly reflect changes that took place outside the council, so that students are as aware as possible of the relevant events within the UG. Just as in previous years, we want to put these developments all together in a monthly update document that we will send around to our contact persons. Next to them, the updates will also be sent to students who subscribe for them or have in any other way displayed interest in receiving them. Because one's email can easily overflow, we hope to make the updates as concise and to the point as possible. We intend to advertise the possibility to subscribe for this newsletter at the start of the year so that all students, including first years, know about this possibility. We believe that this will be useful for students, as we will also give corona related updates through this document. In order to keep our external communication as clear and inclusive as possible, we will standardise English as the main language for Social Media and first contact. In some cases we might share a Dutch post, but we will include English translations wherever we can. This of course goes both ways, and we will also have Dutch translations of our messages or documents for anybody who prefers to read them in Dutch.

Social media and website

The University Council discusses a wide array of topics. Some topics are more relevant for students than others, as the council also covers issues that are more aimed towards staff or internal discussions. We believe that students should be able to easily find out what the university is up to and what the most recent changes are regarding e.g. the rules and regulations of COVID-19. We hope that we can be a clear channel of not only information, but also communication, so that students have a central point where they can get their information and give their comments. We believe that this is going to be more useful and applicable during the upcoming year, as corona is vastly changing from week to week. We intend to use our social media to update the students on the most recent discussions in the

council, to gain input from students, and to announce Lijst Calimero events which are interesting to students.

Events

In the past years, Lijst Calimero has organised a small variety of events, ranging from the well-being week to the yearly constitutional drink. However, the upcoming year might be very different from the past years, due to the coronavirus. We attempt to organise an event every six weeks, but we need to look at the restrictions that limit the activities before each and every one of them. However, we will keep actively thinking about what we can organise and how to do that. We are, for example, planning to organise an online workshop on communication and we are also looking at how the think tanks could best be done. The think tanks will this year be used as platforms to allow students to discuss amongst themselves, and as such also as platforms where we can pick up on these discussions to see what the main concerns, values and ideas of students are.

Constitutional drinks

As mentioned before, it is unsure if social events are allowed. However, we do think that constitutional drinks are an excellent opportunity to meet members of other association boards. It is always very useful throughout the year to have made acquaintances with other student representatives, as you can always ask others for help or advice on certain topics that you might be stuck on. This is why we believe that constitutional drinks are a very effective platform, and we would be happy to organise one ourselves as well. If the measures surrounding the coronavirus do not allow us and other boards to organise such an event, we will look into other possibilities to keep in contact with board members, next to the coffee meetings that we already have.

Lustrum

We intend to organise a Lustrum of Lijst Calimero somewhere in May 2021. The intention was to have this Lustrum last year, when Faction 15 was the organiser, but due to Corona that could not go on. If the circumstances allow us, we hope to be able to organise the third Lustrum of Lijst Calimero. We intend to at least organise our Lustrum for the current, previous and and at that point also candidate Factions of Lijst Calimero. Furthermore, we will also organise a Lustrum activity that is open for all students of the UG. An event like a gala would seem most in line with the nature of this celebration, so an attempt will be made for that.

Other factions

Lijst Calimero is not the only student party in the Council. This year we are in the council with four parties in total. Our colleagues are the DAG, DVS and the SOG. We will not always have the same opinions, but we will attempt to collaborate as much as possible. Talking through everybody's points of view will allow all parties to get new perspectives which in the end can be used to come up with a better solution. We should do this in order to make the voice of all students more heard in the council. If all student parties agree, the voice of the students is fully represented. We also want to make sure there will be room for open discussion between the factions so that we can discuss each other's opinion, so that we can form a collective front that can steer the council more strongly.

Student Representatives

In all faculties of the University there are tonnes of student representatives to be found. Of course you have the Study Associations, but also the Faculty Council, Programme Committees and Student Assessors play large roles. Every faculty has at least one faction member of Lijst Calimero assigned for the communication, so that the opinions, complaints and also wishes can be communicated to a central level in a route that is as short as possible.

Updates

As previously mentioned in communication strategy, we intend to be as open as possible towards students about the council. We will do this through our social media channels, but even more so in updates we will send out. These updates will contain the essential changes for students, and will be sent after every University Council meeting. The official updates will be in English, but translations will naturally also be available for students who prefer Dutch. Every student can subscribe for this update, so that people who have a general interest in student politics, or are interested in changes within university policy that affect them, are able to see what is going on.

1.2 Internal Organization

Board tasks

- **Rozemarijn Gierkink** will function as the External Chair. She will be a member of the Praesidium, keeps in contact with the other factions and external parties and is the spokesperson for Calimero in the media. Her portfolios consist of Employability, the Strategic Plan and National Politics. Next to that, she will be in contact with the Faculty of Arts, the Christian organizations and Ganymedes
- **Freddy Cawthorne-Nugent** will take on the task of Internal Chair. She will be responsible for the inner workings of the faction and making sure everyone does what they say they will do and what they are supposed to do. Furthermore, she is responsible for the Quality Assurance, Student Representation and Wellbeing portfolios. She will keep in contact with the FEB and FSS.
- **Naila Loudini** will take on the task of Secretary. She will be responsible for external communication and internal planning. Her portfolios include Internationalization & Inclusion, Digitalization and Research. She will be in contact with the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, Campus Fryslân, PNN and DEEN.
- **Eoin Raftery** will be this year's Campaign Leader and Treasurer. He will be responsible both for the financial organisation of the faction as well as for the logistical planning and running of the election campaign in 2021. His portfolios consist of Finance & Housing, National Politics and Facilities. His contactpersons are the international law associations, FSE, the Faculty of Philosophy and the Umbrella associations.
- **Lisa van der Panne** will be functioning as Commissioner of Public Relations during the coming academic year. She will be responsible for all social media. Next to this, she will be responsible for the portfolios of Wellbeing, Sustainability, Employability and the Graduation Fund. She is the contact person for the FBSS, the Faculty of Law (Dutch associations), Contractus and the ACLO.
- **Nirva Portugal** will be the Internationalisation Officer. She will keep in contact with the International organisations. Her portfolios are Internationalization and Inclusion, and Sustainability.
- **Arne Hefting** is going to be the Activities Officer of the upcoming year. He will be responsible for any events that are organised within the faction. Besides fulfilling this function, he will also work as a member of the support faction, which means he shall help the faction members out wherever he can.

- **Dion Theodoridis** will be part of Calimero's support faction. He will take on the newly introduced function of Digital Officer. As Digital Officer, Dion will deal with all digital matters, such as the website and other digital processes. Additionally, he will help Lisa with PR-related matters and have the Digitalisation portfolio holder, which means he will engage with digitalisation matters within the University Council of the University of Groningen.

Working groups

Because Lijst Calimero is not an association but a foundation, there is no possibility to become a member. This makes it more difficult for students that are interested in university politics or becoming active within Lijst Calimero. It turns out that there are people who would like to be involved, without immediately becoming a faction member. Therefore this year we will start with working groups. These will be connected to the different portfolios, but can also depend on the interests of the participants. The working groups will assist in doing research, writing memos and other activities that will support the work of Lijst Calimero. The External Chair will be responsible for the coordination of the working groups. Portfolios that seem suitable for working groups are well-being, sustainability, national politics, employability, internationalisation and inclusion. However, if there are people that are interested in another subject it is always an option to start another working group. Next to that, the idea is to start a working group that thinks about education in general. When a group of people has been gathered for a subject, the external chair and the faction members that work on the subject will together with the group decide on the goal. Recruitment will happen by sending the support listers of the last two years an invitation, promotion in the updates and newsletters, on social media and by informing the contact persons about it. Finally we will look into ways of connecting the working groups, so they can present their work to each other and to create a community around Lijst Calimero.

Audit Committee

The Treasurer intends to put together the Audit Committee at the start of the year. This is in order to increase the treasurer's control and to keep the knowledge gained longer on board. This will also give people an opportunity to be involved in Lijst Calimero, without this being a very heavy burden. An Audit Committee is customary with student organisations and citizens' associations as this gives extra guarantees for the responsible spending of funds.

Advisory Board

The members of the Advisory Board of Lijst Calimero are determined by the Advisory Board of the previous Faction. The people who will be in the AB this year are: Matthias Luijks, Fleur Renkema, Wybrand van der Meulen, Jeppe de Vries and Reinier Alberts. The function of the Advisory Board is to discuss and give advice on topics that are brought up in the University Council. Next to this, the current faction can consult them for Calimero related matters that take place outside of the Council, if they feel the need to do so. It is the responsibility of the current faction to organise meetings with the AB and to deliver them the documents they want to see discussed. The Internal Chair is responsible for contacting the Advisory Board when a meeting needs to be planned. The Faction members and the Advisory Board together are in charge of what is put on the agendas and delivering the respective documents. These meetings have been organised like this for the past couple of years, and we see no reason to change this.

Faction holidays

In Corona times, it is more difficult to meet with the team you work with, and this can affect the bonding you have within this team. We are looking for options to improve on the bonding and we believe we can improve in this regard if we went on a holiday with the entire faction. Next to this, we will try to plan a small number of breaks for members at times where they can. It is important to be able to relax and take a break from all the Lijst Calimero work, so that after this Faction members can go on with renewed energy.

The office

In the past years, Lijst Calimero had free access to their office at Muurstraat 16. Having a shared working space has proven to be useful for effective meetings and a more productive working environment. We hope to have the office at Muurstraat 16 available throughout the year, but it might be the case that this will close due to Corona. This is why we will try to find a space where as many people as possible can work whilst still keeping all corona regulations in mind. It would be best if we can have the same space throughout the year, but if we need to move once or twice in order to be able to have this working environment, then that will undoubtedly be worth it.

Compensation

At the end of the year, the faction members will receive a board grant from the University. However, the support faction will also play a role within the group this year, and they will

occupy themselves with matters relating to the Council in a similar manner, albeit less intensively. Because the work is in many ways the same, but the working hours are not, the board grant will be split up amongst all faction and support faction members. The amount every member gets will be dependent on the amount of hours they put in working on Lijst Calimero work, and these hours are approximated at the start of the year. Halfway through the year a new approximation will be made, with a reason that everybody will have different courses and people might need to spend less hours than in the first half year to achieve the same as they did in the first year. The board grant will be fully distributed at the end of the year.

2. Politics:

2.1 How we study

Digitalisation

We want lectures to be recorded and made available for all students online. However, if it would only be possible to do this for a limited number of courses, for example because of financial reasons, then priority should be given to ones with as many students as possible. Furthermore, for smaller classrooms there are more possibilities to have discussions, which would be lost upon recording. How the lecturer decides to do this should be stated clearly within Ocasys and the course guide so that students know what they can expect. We are going to look into ways of implementing this system in collaboration with the lecturers to actually do this.

For a lot of programmes, online exams were implemented at the end of last academic year due to corona. Therefore, the process of digital examination of the previous and current academic year should be evaluated. Furthermore, digital exams should be made available in the future for students who can not attend the exam. We want the UG to evaluate per programme their students' stance towards digitised exams and if these turn out to be positive, then try to implement them within their programme. This evaluation shouldn't solely be aimed at students' opinions but also at the legal aspects of e.g. proctoring, as it's still not clear if the UG was allowed to force these measures upon the students.

The Student Portal is currently undergoing a number of changes, and we want to monitor and evaluate this process. As the Student Portal is 'under construction', we want to use this as an opportunity to let the UG also improve her public website, as finding the right information still proves to be quite a task. We want the UG to improve the website in two aspects, one being the way students can navigate through the website itself and the other being that when accessing the website from another page, for example Google, you can find what you are looking for.

The student portal would be an excellent place to offer personal digital exercises that convey students' progress with the course material. We want to explore the possibilities for implementing these forms of exercises.

Internationalisation in education

The University of Groningen is an international university, and more than a few programmes are being taught in English here. However, in some courses, the level of English of the professors is poor, making the content of the course all the more difficult to follow. As such, English courses should be more accessible to students and teachers at the University. Since many international students are interested in learning the Dutch language, there should be more spots within the B1 level. A subsidy system should also be thought of and implemented for international students motivated to learn Dutch starting from B2 level. The planning of the courses should also be re-evaluated.

Small scale and quality education

The vision of Lijst Calimero has always focussed on the quality of education, and this year will be no different.

We think that it is valuable to hire more teachers and student assistants. More money should be made available to keep improving the student-staff ratio. Especially now that professors and other teachers have a lot of work on their plate. This makes it of utmost importance to focus on at least maintaining the levels of education, and improve where possible. Many faculties are currently looking at using the Quality Agreements money to fund technological tools because of the current demand for online education. However this will not improve the workload of staff members nor necessarily the quality of education. Therefore, the Board should encourage faculties to use the Quality Agreements money for additional staff and student assistants as soon as possible.

Furthermore, a short training should be offered to the student assistants before starting the course, so that they can benefit both students and lecturers fully.

Additionally, it is important to diversify the assessments methods in programmes. This will have a positive effect on students as this will more accurately show the level a student has attained.

We encourage more programmes to offer, where possible and effective, Learning Communities as this allows students to work together in groups on one small research project. This way students get the chance to combine the knowledge acquired from different subjects and thus focus on interdisciplinarity within the programme. These smaller groups

also make for more personalised education and students will get the opportunity to start doing research early on in their education.

2.2 What we study

Role of research in education

We think that students should get a clear overview of research opportunities in their faculties. We suggest a pilot project where a module or a platform would be available on Nestor: here, all students would be able to search current research projects, including the requirements easily. We envisage that this will encourage research participation from students and more engagement from professors.

We want to make sure that every faculty has the right balance between fundamental and market-driven research by evaluating staff members' and students' views. We would like the Programme Committees to take an active role in this. We will also look into the PhD-bursary experiment and take actions if necessary.

Employability

Students should get the opportunity to improve their soft skills. This can be achieved in multiple ways. Doing a minor, participating in extracurricular activities (e.g. a board year), or other opportunities like an internship are excellent ways of picking up soft skills outside of the regular curriculum. These opportunities should be (easily) accessible and the university should support students in organising, as well as participating in these activities.

In a lot of faculties, the Career Services and e.g. the study associations are working next to each other instead of together. This is not a very efficient way of organising it, furthermore a lot of money gets thrown into this system that is not working. In order to tackle this problem, faction 12 handed in a memo with a proposal for a change. In light of the memo an evaluation was scheduled. This year the results of that evaluation should be revealed. We are very intrigued by what the results will hold. If they show that the current system is inefficient, then we will lobby to have the Career Services changed entirely or abolished.

Students are generally unaware of the current alumni network (YAN) of the UG.

Implementing and promoting this network earlier on will make students more familiar with it for when they need the network in the future. By making students more aware of the YAN it will also automatically expand over time, making it even more useful. Especially during a

pandemic, alumni are invaluable sources of experience and information. Currently, the amount of students that can do an internship is often limited. Study programmes should provide students with the opportunity to experience the working field by offering internships where feasible.

Interdisciplinarity

A student's time at university should not only be defined by their choice of degree. In order for students to broaden their opportunities and knowledge, they should be able to pursue a diverse range of courses from other faculties. The Honours College already provides this to many talented students, however, talent is not determined by grades alone. The Honours College currently has a 'wildcard' process for motivated students, but this needs to be improved. Information about joining the Honours programme should be given multiple times to all students starting from the beginning of their first year so that every student can make the informed choice of applying for the Honours programme. It should also be clarified what students can expect from this programme to help decrease the high dropout rates.

Extracurricular courses are currently offered to students which are free of charge and follow an attendance-based system of grading. This allows students who may wish to broaden their education the chance to do so without it impacting their studies. Courses, such as the one in entrepreneurship, have proved to be successful. However, the University should expand this range of options to other faculties and disciplines. Lijst Calimero intends on engaging with lecturers and students to determine in which fields this is both possible and popularly demanded.

Next to this, a look should be taken into courses that can be valuable to every study. Courses such as statistics in research, for example, might be offered to a larger extent, and perhaps more flexibly. By which we mean that students have the option to follow the course all year round. When looking at possibilities of giving courses in such a manner, a close look should be taken towards their quality, so that this is not significantly impacted.

Quality assurance

The University of Groningen has let faculties set up projects, for which they would receive funding in the form of quality agreements. These projects were in development when the corona-pandemic hit the University. However, with the new crisis, the UG is looking into ways to stabilise the quality of education using the budget initially assigned to the projects of the

faculties. One way of ensuring the quality is by making sure that the quality agreements are met. It is important to evaluate whether the measures taken and the funding given created benefits to students.

Annually, the amount of students is still rising, the staff numbers however, are remaining relatively stagnant. Many faculties have used a portion of the quality agreements budget to employ additional staff members so as to achieve a better staff to student ratio. We will be lobbying with the central board for additional funding as without it there will not be funding for additional staff members if other projects/ideas take priority. Considering the uncertainty of how long hybrid education will take place, it is important that staff members do not get overburdened. Staff being overstretched will inevitably lead to the quality of education being affected.

That is why Lijst Calimero will push for an evaluation and additional funding to maintain the sentiment of the quality agreements.

Training for representatives

By making sure that the representatives are given the correct training also means that programmes are improved year on year by the feedback provided. This is an important aspect in maintaining, but also striving for higher levels of quality from the education provided. This year it was organised by University Council members. We will continue this format in the coming year.

2.3 Where we study

Internationalisation (Housing)

The University of Groningen has been suffering acute shortage of housing for international students in recent years. Part of this problem is exacerbated due to first year international students not knowing about their rental rights, which rental agencies they should contact, or other local tips that makes searching for a house easier. Although the University is not solely responsible for student housing, it still should provide incoming (international) students with the knowledge and tools to make settling into Groningen as easy as possible.

For this, Lijst Calimero proposes that a special rent support team is proposed for the beginning of each academic year. This team would operate instant-messaging platforms to

assist students in their efforts to find a room in Groningen, as well as a method by which the University can get realtime information about the severity and number of students who are homeless. We also intend on revising the website that our university has developed in conjunction with Hanze University of Applied Sciences and the Municipality to better inform students who are on a low budget and cannot afford student housing such as SSH.

In the past, Lijst Calimero has criticised short-stay housing contracts due to the lack of transparency in cost-breakdown as well as the lack of rental rights they afford students. The Municipality of Groningen has, however, recently changed rules surrounding short stay housing. While these changes are generally welcomed, Lijst Calimero intends to assess the quality of these rules by engaging with students who are affected by them.

International Associations

International students might sometimes have difficulty with going through a culture shock. Because of this, it is good that the UG has student associations that emphasise on providing a place where students can be with people from their own country or culture to adjust at their own pace to the Dutch University. Because international students are a large part of the university, but are sometimes still subjected to different treatment (e.g. tuition fees), we will keep close contact with these associations. We hope that through doing this we can understand their position even better and argue on their behalf in the council.

An inclusive university

Internationalisation has led to a student population with a larger variety in backgrounds. As such we feel study advisors should be trained to help students with a broader spectrum of potential issues. We would like to see the university encouraging faculties to do an introductory workshop for students about the university system, study associations, exams, and whom to contact. A memo will be handed in about this point.

We are going to look at options to support students who have difficulties seeing. We have thought about creating audiobook versions of the literature they need, but there might be better solutions than this. That is why we will spend time on coming up with the best way to support these students by using think tanks or working groups. In addition, Lijst Calimero believes that it is valuable to arrange an extra course on sign language.

Wellbeing

The wellbeing of students has been a problem for several years, even before corona. You often hear about the struggles students are dealing with, like performance pressure, enormous stress or even burn-outs and depression. More student psychologists were hired to help with this problem and to decrease the waiting list. However, the waiting times are still considerable, 4 weeks or more, which indicates that there is an actual problem. Lijst Calimero would like to free up more money to employ psychologists and to create a network for psychologists within Groningen to make it easier for the student psychologist to refer students.

Due to corona, psychologists have started to work with online meetings. Online appointments are an easy way for students to get in touch with a psychologist and seek help. This is a good solution, however, some students might not feel comfortable with online appointments and still suffer from mental problems. The UG should look into ways to help these students during these times of corona.

Every year we organize the well-being week. We will do so again this year. We are currently in contact with the Student Service Centre and student organisations to look into the different possibilities to raise awareness and focus on the wellbeing of the students at our university. We also want to look into the role of the study advisor. Lijst Calimero believes that the study advisors should be equipped with the ability to detect when a student is having mental and personal issues, so they can direct them to for example a student psychologist. Study advisors should be able to help out students with a big range of problems, which is not always the case yet.

Students often are dealing with burnouts, which are caused by a continuous level of study stress. Because of the frequency of these Burnouts and the problems they give rise to, we would like to find out what the source of the majority feelings of stress students experience is. We are going to hand in a memo (imminently) advocating for an evaluation and methods to combat the extra pressure that has been applied due to the COVID-19 epidemic. When we have found the main cause, we will strive to make a plan to help prevent these stressful situations and, in the end, also the Burnouts.

Furthermore, there is a lot of focus on the treatment of mental health issues, whilst there is little thought given to what happens afterwards. When a student has to take some time off,

due to a burnout for example, there are no special reintroduction measures in place. These students are expected to just go back to how things were before they sought help. This needs to be reviewed. Are students getting enough support and help after they have had to take time off? That is a question that needs to be answered and possibly improved upon in the coming year(s).

Sustainability

Sustainability has many aspects: People, Planet and Performance. This chapter will focus on the Planet part. Just like any other big organization the UG has certain goals for sustainability. In the [Roadmap 2015-2020](#) they wrote that the UG strives to become a CO2 neutral university by 2020. This is not yet the case, so we urge the University to keep on working on these goals. The UG used to do very well compared to other universities in the Netherlands, but are now lagging behind. The goals are there, but work needs to be done to achieve these goals. We have written down ideas that might contribute to becoming a more sustainable university.

Sustainability should be integrated in the education of all students, since it has to do with the future of everyone. Not just by supplying several minors about this topic, like the minor [Future Planet Innovation](#), but by raising awareness in everyone who studies or works at the University.

Next to this we believe that the energy output of the different buildings from the UG should be monitored and where possible reduced to achieve a more sustainable energy level in these buildings. The UG should also invest in more sustainable energy. We think that the UG should reduce the plastic waste of the university by changing to more ecological and sustainable alternatives regarding the cutlery in the canteens for example. They should also look into more possibilities for vegetarian and vegan alternatives and to work with seasonal fruits and vegetables. We propose an evaluation of the catering of the University, to find out where the UG can improve to become more sustainable.

We have several recommendations about the reduction of waste of the university. Since the municipality is the one who separated the waste, some students might think that it's strange to use bins that separate paper, plastic and other items. We still think that it's valuable to have these bins, since it creates awareness. As we believe that it is not necessary to print the alumni magazine Broerstraat 5 since they are often addressed to houses where no alumni are living anymore. It would be much cheaper, easier and more sustainable to

send this by email. We also want to look into other magazines and other printed work that can be digitised. The UG has already been working on restructuring the Zernikelaan and making it greener. We want the University to keep working on this and make our university greener by planting trees or creating picnic spots.

Strategic plan of the UG

The upcoming year, the university plans to finalise the document on the strategic plan for 2021-2026. This document bears importance for all students and staff, as it displays and elaborates on the road the University wants to take in the foreseeable future. Because this document will be central to most of the policies and changes that will be made in these five years, Lijst Calimero determines it to be essential that students are properly represented when structuring this document. We will represent the student population in the working groups that are set up to develop the strategic plan and will play an active role in doing so.

Finally, when participating in the working group of the strategic plan, we can also keep an overview that everything happens in due time, so that the university can start working towards the goals it has set as soon as possible.

Graduation fund

Last year, the graduation fund was reviewed and the distribution of the points was adapted. The new profiling fund was implemented in September. We will keep a close eye on how this is working out.

The pressure to graduate is increasing, students want to graduate faster, so they take less time to develop alongside their studies. Boards are having difficulties with finding successors, and some associations are even on the verge of becoming non-active. At the moment the cost of doing a board year are outweighing the benefits. That's why we handed in a memo about the professionalisation of student boards, as we find it important to acknowledge their importance for the city and our University. We propose an extracurricular board program. This program is for students from different boards to come together and to be trained on different aspects of governance. Professionalisation makes doing a board year more attractive. With the program we hope to bring knowledge to the students that can be valuable for the board year. We propose to award ECTS and to give board members a certificate upon finishing the board program. This memo has been supported by a lot of student organisations. If you want to know more about this program please feel free to contact us.

National politics

As a faction Lijst Calimero also has the opportunity to influence national politics, through its membership with the ISO, the national student lobby organisation. Therefore, representatives of Lijst Calimero will actively participate in working groups and meetings organized by the ISO. Next to this, the ISO membership offers the opportunity to talk to factions from different cities and learn from them. Finally, in March 2021 the national elections will take place. It is important for students that education is high on the mandate, even in the wake of a pandemic. Therefore, Lijst Calimero will put a lot of energy into lobbying to make sure this will happen. Next to this Lijst Calimero is also in contact with LOF to discuss problems that are encountered with them and other parties. In this way there are two channels through which information can be required and problems can be discussed.

Loan system

The quality of education is being stressed by the current loan system. Students feel more pressured to finish their studies in time so undertake less extracurricular activities, live with their parents longer and most importantly, start their working life with a huge debt. Because this restrains the development of students, Lijst Calimero supports the #nietmijnschuld campaign. This campaign roots for the reintroduction of a form of the basisbeurs, compensation for the students in the current system and prohibiting budget cutting that influences students negatively. Lijst Calimero will actively participate in actions organized by this action group, especially closer to the elections to stand up for the interests of students.

Coalitie Y

Coalitie-Y has been created to give young people a stronger voice in national politics so that they are heard within the debates that take place in the Tweede Kamer. Because Coalitie-Y has the interests of students at heart, we support this to get national policies that help with problems which are currently experienced by students. Therefore, Lijst Calimero will take part in the action group of Coalitie Y Groningen, which will mostly focus on students.

3. Campaign and candidates:

Although our year is only beginning, work in preparation for the election is already underway. Most important in this regard is finding our successors so that Lijst Calimero can continue to represent students in the University Council. Next to this, we will briefly discuss what we will do to give them a good start in the year that follows ours. It is difficult to state anything concrete about the campaign of the next year, as corona carries with it considerable uncertainty and creates ever-changing scenarios. In the following paragraphs, we will describe what we at least hope to achieve, no matter the situation around the moment of the campaign.

3.1 Candidates

For our candidates, we intend to look for students who have experience with student organisations at the university and preferably also with co-governance. This is not a strict requirement as we believe that providing competent candidates with a good training and transfer will bring them on a level that will allow them to effectively represent the interests of students at the University Council. However, it is still beneficial if they are able to show awareness with co-governance and/or politics. This, together with the ability to think critically and be creative, is something we will want to see in our candidates.

3.2 Support list

Previous factions of Lijst Calimero have had contact with many students over the years and, in doing so, created a constituency of students that were willing to help Lijst Calimero in improving the University. This constituency also assisted us in getting our vision across to students and have thus been essential to Lijst Calimero's functioning. These students played a vital role in the previous elections as they engaged with students in their own social sphere, who, due to the digital nature of the elections, would have been difficult for the faction to reach alone. In that respect, we think it is important that these students are well informed of Lijst Calimero's vision, strategy and policy. Therefore, we intend on running an election training for them once again this year.

3.3 Transfer, election program

Every year a new faction of Lijst Calimero takes over the reins from the previous one. With a new faction comes new candidates with new ideas and priorities that might differ slightly from our own. We believe this is a healthy part of our organisation changing in tandem with changes in our university, and also society at large. Naturally, however, we will also guide

these candidates to ensure consistency and continuity in the strategy and vision that Lijst Calimero has developed over the years. Having an effective transfer is key to achieving this. In previous years transfer documents have been drafted containing years of wisdom and experience from the Council, and this is something we intend on building on with our own experiences. Our candidates will also be required to draft their Election Programme, a process that we intend on starting early in 2021. We believe that starting early will allow our candidates to craft policy which is well-thought-out, feasible, and meaningful to a student's university experience.

4. Student representation

4.1 Structure

Currently there are multiple levels of student representation within the UG. Just to name a few at the various levels, let's start at the bottom and work our way up. First, there are the Program Committees, then the Faculty Councils, the student assessors in the Faculty Boards, University Council and finally the student assessor for the central board.

This structure of representation is currently only known by a limited number of students. In turn, this means that only a small number of students use their representative to provide feedback, but also to provide information on current issues that could affect them. Whilst education is not taught in a physical form, it is more likely that even less students know about their representation, and thus, are unaware of where to turn to for help or for their voice to be heard.

4.2 Active approach from UG and representatives

Therefore, representatives should be urged to take an active stance. For years Lijst Calimero has kept in touch with all the Faculty Councils of the UG, and we will continue to do so. There will be introductory emails and also monthly updates sent to the Faculty Councils.

Additionally, Faculty Councils should be urged to keep in close contact with the Program Committees, and preferably also any other parties at the faculty.

The UG should give more attention to the student representatives. Having the names and faces of, for instance, Faculty Council members mentioned on university (social media) channels numerous times throughout the academic year. Students need to know where to go to get their rightful representation.

4.3 Training for representatives

Due to the rapid nature of succession with student representative roles (most representatives change on an annual basis), there is a disparity in the information that is passed on to successors.

To give these ambitious students a better start to their year as a representative a training course has been introduced thanks to faction 15 of Lijst Calimero. This course explains the structure of the university, the rights of the representative as stated by law and how best to use these rights. Lijst Calimero will actively fight for this training to be continued in the coming year, and not be forgotten.



Lijst **Calimero**

Your Education.

Our Priority.

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