



DOPE, NovUM and KAN & USM dominate student lists

election
paper
included

University elections will take place next week, between 16 and 19 May. This year, only students can vote. The three large student parties DOPE, NovUM and KAN & USM (a merger between Klimaat Actie Netwerk and United Students of Maastricht) are competing for a place in almost all faculty councils and the University Council.

Last year, student party DOPE won the university elections, but their power in various councils – dominant for many years – has decreased the past few years. Main competitors are KAN, the Klimaat Actie Netwerk (Climate Action Network), and NovUM. This year, the latter has managed to find candidates for all councils.

KAN has joined forces with United Students of Maastricht (USM).

The main reason for the merger is their overarching goals and missions, they write in an e-mail to *Observant*. These include issues related to climate change and social responsibility, but also improving diversity, inclusivity and wellbeing. “It was a reasonable next step.”

Student party Shape, at the moment still present at the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences and the Faculty of Psychology and

Neurosciences, is out of the picture. There was too little enthusiasm among students, both to become a board member and to stand as a candidate, explains medical student Juul Hennissen, faculty council member on behalf of Shape. He hopes to transfer to the University Council next year, under List LEX with which Shape had a union last year. LEX is a student party from the Faculty of Law. According to Hennissen, LEX wanted a more diverse list for the University Council this year; hence the mix of candidates from FHML and Law.

Lastly, the law faculty offers the greatest choice, with six parties participating, one of them a one-man party.

Besides the student participation, there will also be university elections this year for the Service Councils, consisting of employees from various UM service centres, such as the university library, ICTS and Facility Services. However, no voting takes place for those, because there are fewer or an equal number of candidates as there are available positions.

Wendy Degens

Voting can only be done online next week via <https://elections.maastrichtuniversity.nl>. The results will be announced on Friday, 20 May at 15:00 hrs in the Kruithuis.

*The election newspaper, in which the candidates introduce themselves, is included in this *Observant*.*



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Leadership at UM

Sabina Bulic (FHML): “I’m very enthusiastic, that can be motivating but also overwhelming.”



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Who, what, where?

Central complaints centre for staff. No lack of confidential advisers, but finding the right person is difficult.

SPLINTERS

A funny incident, a striking piece of news, something interesting that happened elsewhere in the country: it is in this column.

Plants possibly good for students cramming for exams



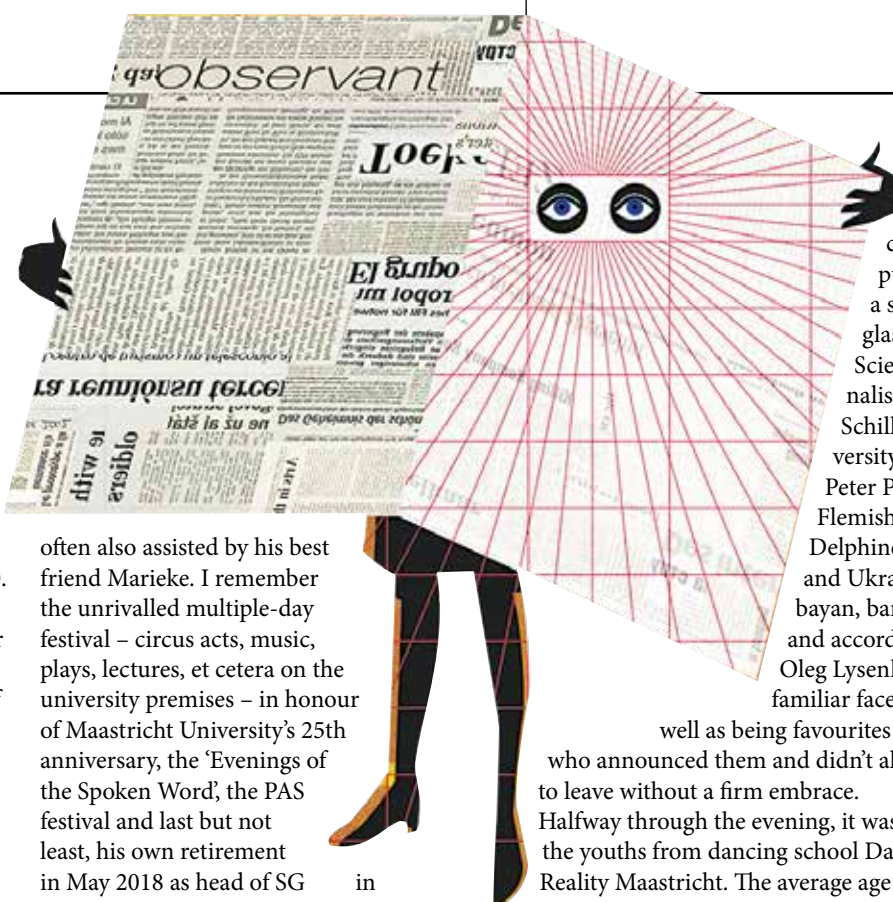
Does it help to have a lot of plants in the house when tough exams are approaching? Ghent University and University of Applied Sciences kicked off a research project on that question this week. The researchers want to know if plants have a positive effect on students' capacity to concentrate and their stress levels. In order to find out, three libraries in Ghent have been transformed into a green oasis, writes VRT Nieuws. The effect of the plants will be monitored by the university's Faculty of Bioscience Engineering. "We are going to take a DNA sample of the skin of some one hundred students. In the morning and in the evening, so when they start studying and when they finish," says co-ordinator Thibaut D'Huyvetter. The composition of the bacteria on the skin can be an indication of the students' stress levels. In addition to this 'sweat sample', the students will be given a questionnaire. Every library will also have a study room without green, so that the results can be compared. The research results are expected to be available in about a year's time. (HOP)

Lost exam papers



Students of Industrial Engineering & Management at the University of Groningen are really browned off. Their exam papers for the topic of Mechanics got lost and now they will have to take the exam again. Where the papers have ended up, is a mystery, university newspaper *UKrant* in Groningen writes. The lecturer collected the exam papers and put them in a box in a designated room. Lecturers can only enter this room accompanied by the doorkeeper, who is also in full view of the door. When the lecturer returned, the box was gone and nobody had seen anything. The fifty duped students, who have already started on another block, would prefer to have an alternative assignment instead of another exam. They will have more time then and can plan their time themselves. Gerald Jonker, programme director of the bachelor's of Industrial Engineering & Management, says he will seriously consider the suggestions. The Board of Examiners will now look into the matter.

Farewell to a special man



On my first day as editor of *Observant* – in the early nineteen-nineties – I met Jacques Reiners, head of Studium Generale since 1980. He turned out to be our upstairs neighbour and would remain so for years. First on Keizer Karelplein 10, later (*Observant* took a brief detour to another building) in an extension of the Student Services Centre. From that first handshake, Jacques only spoke Limburg dialect to me, no matter how many 'Hollanders' surrounded us. And it didn't matter if I spoke back in Dutch to him (it was sometimes a little awkward in company), Jacques didn't budge. Even his e-mails – usually filled with humour – he wrote in the language with which we both grew up (he more to the South, I a little more to the North). And every time I interviewed him and made it clear to him that I couldn't do my job in Limburg dialect, he kept a huge grin on his face and didn't give in. To subsequently, talk with great knowledge and full of passion about all the wonderful things that were coming up. Organised by himself and his team, but

often also assisted by his best friend Marieke. I remember the unrivalled multiple-day festival – circus acts, music, plays, lectures, et cetera on the university premises – in honour of Maastricht University's 25th anniversary, the 'Evenings of the Spoken Word', the PAS festival and last but not least, his own retirement in May 2018 as head of SG in the Vrijthof Theatre: the Evening of the Last Word. He didn't want to retire, he said several times, but he had to; it saddened him.

In a roaring show, one last time, he (I'm quoting from *Observant*) "pulled out all the stops and gave the well-filled hall an array of guests with the theme 'farewell'. Or as the programme booklet stated: 'Farewell is the most profound form of being together'. All this was on a stage that was transformed into a church, with

columns, a pulpit and a stained-glass window." Scientific journalist Govert Schilling, university professor Peter Peters, the Flemish poetess Delphine Lecompte and Ukrainian bayan, bandoneon and accordion player Oleg Lysenko; old familiar faces of SG as

well as being favourites of Jacques, who announced them and didn't allow them to leave without a firm embrace. Halfway through the evening, it was time for the youths from dancing school Dansschool Reality Maastricht. The average age on the stage dropped drastically, until Jacques himself – to the loud applause and like a somewhat older young god – joined the dancers a little later, and claimed his role with clearly a lot of pleasure and a feel for rhythm. That evening, he received the honorary medal from Maastricht University (the Medallion of Honour that is awarded to people who have served the UM in an exceptional way) presented by the President at the time Martin Paul (online) and rector Rianne Letschert, on stage.

letter from the editor

"Around half past eleven, it was time for a grand finale," the article in *Observant* states. "Accompanied by the men's choir from Borgharen that sung *You never walk alone* and wearing a long raincoat and a hat, he slowly walked off the stage into the light." Now he is no longer here. On the night of 13 to 14 April, he left his home in Borgharen. His body was found in the Julianakanaal on Thursday 21 April. He was 69 years' old. Unimaginable and tremendously saddening. What makes it all that more painful: he went into a depression, Marieke, his best friend, informs us. The GP took his condition very serious, had him taken by ambulance to MUMC+ for a neurological examination and with the message that he was suicidal the day before his disappearance. Something that he himself confirmed at the hospital, said Marieke. Their compelling request to hospitalise him was not acted on. They were sent home, even though the GP did not agree with this. Jacques disappeared that night.

Riki Janssen

On Monday evening 30 May there will be a meeting in memory of Jacques Reiners in the auditorium of the Minderbroedersberg. For more info: sg-mail@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Every week, the editor-in-chief writes about what has been happening at the *Observant* office

Cross-border workers: From 1 July no exceptions anymore

Home office furniture can be ordered now

Since the last week of April, Maastricht University employees can order their home office furniture and ICT supplies. A voucher is available for this purpose. But what if it doesn't fit at home and due to a lack of space you find yourself sitting at the kitchen table two days a week? "We would rather not have that," said HR director Nieke Guillory recently during the online Ask me anything session. There is a possibility that your manager refuses to allow you to work from home. "For your own health," Guillory emphasises.

The latest Ask me anything session was about hybrid working. Jan Smits, dean of the Faculty of Law and chairman of the Future of Working@UM taskforce, brought the good news: from now on a desk, desk chair, monitor, keyboard, mouse and a small hub (installation material) will be available from suppliers selected by the UM. Employees will first have to discuss with their managers how many days they can spend working from home. This will be laid down in a working-from-home agreement (which does not need to specify the exact days of the week). Another condition is a completed occupational

health and safety checklist. Hybrid working is, by the way, neither an obligation nor a right, Smits underlines. Anyone who cannot work from home because of the type of work they do, or simply doesn't want to, may continue coming to the UM.

Sit-stand desks

There are a considerable number of questions about the range of available products. It is Cyriel Heuts, moderator of this session (and project leader of the taskforce) who passes on those questions to Smits, HR director Guillory or Pascal Stevens, director of the Faculty of Psychology and Neurosciences. Is it possible to order two screens? (No). Why did they not opt for sit-stand desks? (Didn't fit within the budget of 1,000 euro per employee). If I order now, will I have my furniture on time? (Yes, "we expect so," there is sufficient stock available).

The voucher ("for items, not a voucher in money," says Heuts) doesn't need to be used up completely. Whoever is happy with just a screen, can leave it at that. The UM does want to know for sure, however, that the rest of the items available at home, is occupationally safe. That is why

there is a checklist.

Cross-border workers

What if you cannot agree on the number of days you would like to work from home, is the next question. "As someone's manager you have to be able to explain to that person why they should be at the university for a certain number of days. If there is no understanding, you can approach the HR advisor to find out what the best solution is." Also, what about hybrid working for cross-border workers who live in either Belgium or Germany? During corona, exceptions were made to European rules – (UM) employees living across the border were allowed to work from home without this affecting their social insurances and taxes. But from 1 July this will no longer be the case and that could turn out to be unfavorable. Guillory: "The UM does not impose any restrictions. Anyone who so wishes, can work from home for 40 per cent of the time, but "people will have to keep an eye on their insurance and taxes themselves".

New housing plans

Then the situation in the university buildings.

Will I be able to keep my own desk at the faculty? Will we soon only have open-plan offices and flexplaces? Will there be more rooms to Zoom in silence? "Yes", was Stevens' answer to that last one, "but we will have to look at how we can facilitate that."

According to Smits, employees will more often have to share an office in the future. He also thinks that it is important to have enough space to meet up on campus. The taskforce, therefore, suggests that new housing plans are developed. Implementing an activity scan is a good starting point. Smits: "This is where an inventory is made of what happens in a building." How can you create sufficient team spirit if one colleague is at home and the other at the faculty, moderator Heuts wants to know? Stevens calls "maintaining social cohesion" one of the greatest challenges. "That is not just the manager's responsibility, but the whole team's. Agree, for example, on a particular day when you sit together and have a meeting from a certain time to a certain time. At the same time, one size doesn't fit all. It depends on the size of the team and the type of work."

Wendy Degens

Saurus international regatta lasts two days for the first time



Photo: Joey Roberts

"I want to be in a boat like that," says an oarswoman pointing to the rescue brigade's motorboat before she drops to the grass with a sigh. It is Sunday morning, the second day of the Saurus International Regatta. About 270 boats from 25 associations from the Netherlands and abroad have competed on the Zuid-

Willemsvaart this weekend. The races start in Belgium and end close to student association Saurus's clubhouse.

The fatigued rower is still catching her breath from last night's party (motto: let it flow after the row). It is first down to the women's coxed four. While the supporters find a place along

the sides – members from Amsterdam association Nereus brought along their own bean bags – they calmly row to the start.

For the first time, the Regatta has been spread out over two days. "We have wanted to do that since 2020, so that we could accept more teams," says Saurus chairwomen Amber van

Els. Because of COVID-19 that was not possible before. Now they can enjoy the lovely weather, the toasted ham-and-cheese sandwiches and hamburgers along the sides as well as some wins here and there. The first prizes were divided up well across the associations, including Saurus itself, says Van Els afterwards. **CF**

There's a paradox at the heart of Dutch language policy

Hire linguists. As a linguist myself, I've tweeted this many times, usually to respond to media, products, or research that assumes that because everyone uses language, they can simply use their common sense to decide language matters.

Maastricht University's language policy was devised by common sense.

Now, I don't have direct evidence that language experts weren't hired to develop the policy. But I do know that it doesn't distinguish between "productive" language abilities (speaking and writing) and "receptive"



(listening and reading). A linguist knows that if someone needs language skills for their function, first you want to know what would help most, receptive or productive skills? And

in what languages? Training and testing follows from that.

In many parts of the world, strong multilingual communities exist thanks to receptive multilingualism because it's cognitively easier to build and sustain. It allows for more languages to be used in the community, and it's more inclusive. The older you get, the harder it is to build productive skills. It requires less time, so even people on temporary contracts could develop those skills.

Why would a Dutch university acknowledge receptive multilingualism? In fact, one already is. In the last year, I saw a particularly enlightened job posting (I can't remember the university) requiring B1 receptive skills in Dutch in two years. Such an achievable goal is good recruitment and retention strategy.

There's something else: Sociolinguist Kamran Khan, a Marie Curie postdoctoral fellow at

Copenhagen University in Denmark, argues that language tests for migrants are always border-making. That is, they're not merely about language; they're about sociopolitical status, and ultimately about inclusion.

Which means there's a paradox at the heart of this language policy. On one hand, the Dutch public wants to ensure that university employees, particularly migrants, can use Dutch. On the other hand, this language policy creates borders for people who aren't actually migrants. One way to resolve some (but not all) of that tension: a language policy that sets the right bars in the right way.

Hire linguists.

Michael Erard, Funding Advisor, UM Faculty of Law

This column reflects the personal views of the author

column

series leadership styles

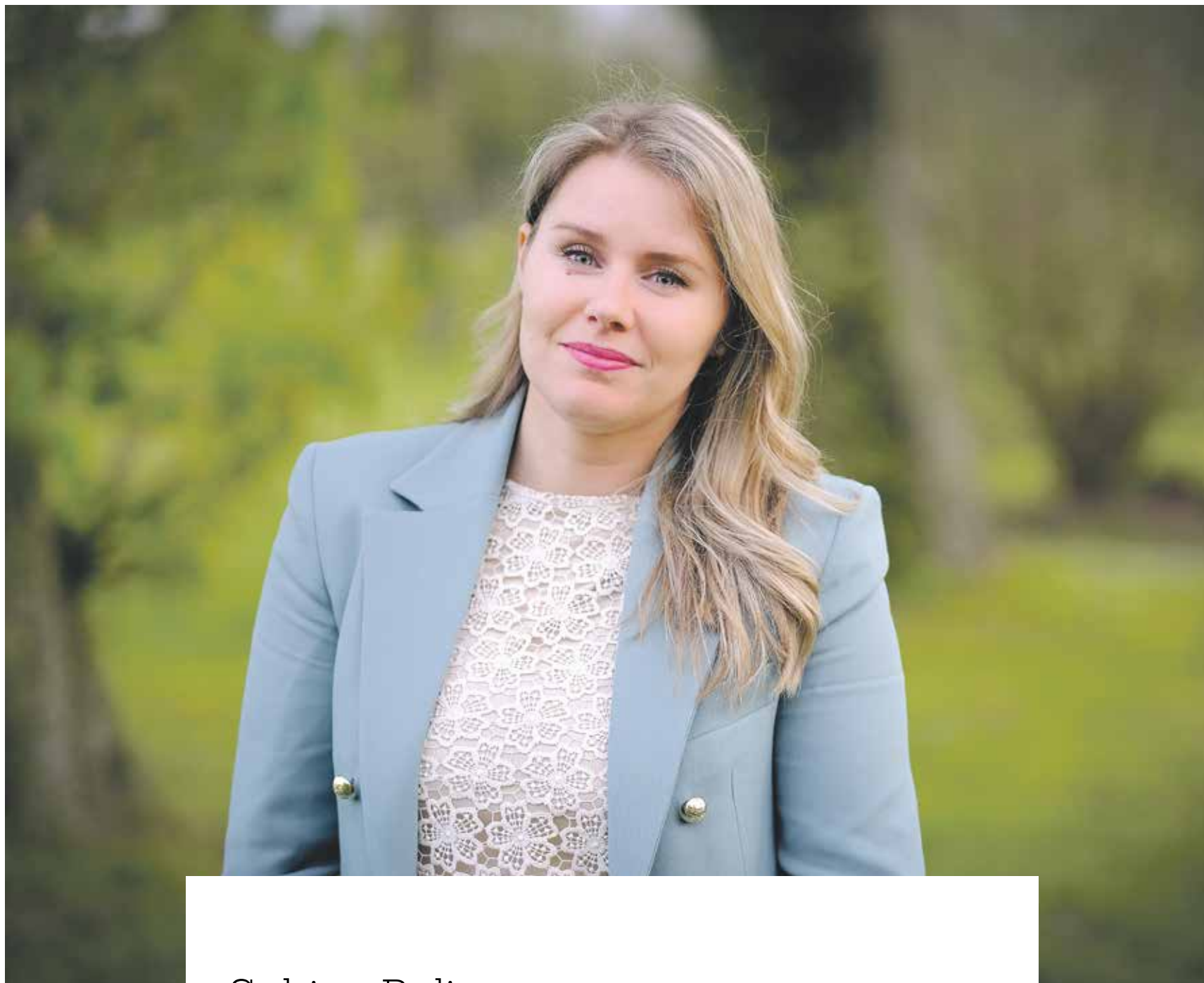


Photo: Joey Roberts

Sabina Bulic

“I am very enthusiastic, that can be motivating but also overwhelming”

Securing a leadership position was never one of her goals in and of itself, but slowly but surely it began to pique her interest. What if she was the one making decisions rather than just giving advice? What if she was the one deciding the course of action? Sabina Bulic (32) has been managing director of the School of Health Professions Education (SHE) since 2019. “I grew into the role.”

For a long time, Sabina Bulic was convinced that she would go into law. She studied law at Maastricht University and was interested in criminal law. But as so often in life, things turned out differently. In 2008, she got a job as a student assistant at the CAPHRI research school of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences. When given the opportunity to become a project manager, she changed her focus from criminal law and applies for a master's programme in private law. “As a project manager, you deal with all kinds of aspects of the research school, from legal

to financial and fiscal elements. You're the lynchpin of the organisation. I was involved in hundreds of projects. I liked that I never knew exactly what the day would bring. It was exciting work.”

Even so, “there came a moment when I fell into a rut”. Through Steep Face (now called Fostering Future Leaders, a development programme for future UM managers), she ended up at SHE. Bulic and her team of ten people are responsible for the school's operations management.

In her current role, Bulic has seen many other managers in action. “Sometimes I think, ‘I would've done that differently’ and other times I think, ‘Impressive, well done.’” It has shaped her understanding of the kind of leader she wants to be. “It gets on my nerves when managers only look at numbers and results. I focus on relationships. I think that's important. My door is literally always open, and I make sure to really give people my time and undivided attention when they approach me about

something. I want to create a safe workplace environment. That doesn't mean I can't be critical, though. I speak up when I want things to be different. But I also point it out when things are going well.”

She isn't a fan of micromanaging; closely observing and controlling everything your employees do. “You must have faith in your colleagues. They're professionals who know what they're doing. I try to give people freedom.” Another leadership pitfall: “Creating expectations and failing to meet them. I do what I say. It builds trust.” And another important thing: “Never act without knowledge. If I don't have the knowledge I need for a specific decision or task, I do my best to acquire it. Financial matters can be incredibly complex. If I can't make sense of them myself, I take them to our controller.”

Parent

Bulic draws inspiration from the people around her in both her professional and pri-

vate life. “It's inspiring to see young women in leadership positions, like [CEO of SNS Bank] Angela Eijlander. I think it's important to show my daughter that I can both be in a busy leadership position and be a parent.” She recently attended the leadership course Fundamentals of Leadership at the UM Leadership Academy. What was the most important lesson she learnt there? “Be aware of the fact that your actions as a manager have a certain impact. For example, I don't mind replying to a couple of emails at night. But getting a late-night work email from me might make my team members feel like they should also be working in the evenings. Others may interpret your actions differently than you intended.”

Achilles' heel

This ties into her own Achilles' heel as a leader. “I'm very enthusiastic and I love my job. Each new project makes me go, ‘Let's do this!’ It can be motivating, but it can also be overwhelming. I have to pace myself. Sometimes I'll already be three steps ahead and I'll have forgotten to include others in my thinking process. And sometimes we can't do everything at once, or other people have other priorities. I need to be aware of that.”

Cleo Freriks

This is a weekly series in which we interview people in leadership positions at UM about their leadership style. In January 2022, Maastricht University launched the Leadership Academy as part of the Recognition & Rewards programme, which aims to create more diversity in academic career paths and foster quality academic leadership.

QR code in toilets should make reporting inappropriate behaviour easier

Student council members from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASoS) came up with an idea to make reporting inappropriate behaviour easier: a QR code that can help people on their way after an unpleasant experience. These should be available in the toilets of the FASoS buildings even before the summer.

By scanning the QR code – which will be on stickers on toilet doors – with your telephone, it will take you to the so-called linktree. This is an overview of links that refer you to web pages with more information. The linktree will be divided into various ‘categories’ of undesirable behaviour, such as racism and sexual harassment, which indicate where victims can seek help and report an incident.

Why the toilets? “That is a place where you can scan the QR code without being seen, so that you don’t need to explain to anyone why you did that,” says Helena Sanvicente, who together with Maaïke van Uum proposed the plan in the FASoS council meeting – both of them being student council members – and subsequently developed it. “Besides, it is a place where people can go after they have experienced something unpleasant, to catch their breath and not be interrupted.”

Anonymous complaints desk

The idea was inspired by an initiative at student rowing association Saurus, where members can report undesirable sexual behaviour via a QR code in the toilet. Would something like that not also be possible in the university buildings, students from the Diversity, Inclusivity, Accessibility and Sustainability (DIAS) working group wondered after attending a UM conference on sexual misconduct in October. Research was presented here which showed that few UM students report unacceptable sexual behaviour.

A first proposal, in which people could anonymously report inappropriate behaviour, met with criticism from the Diversity & Inclusivity Office and the Faculty Council. An anonymous complaints desk is legally complicated and doesn’t help victims to move forward. Moreover, the existing structures work, even though students and employees often find it difficult to find them (see also page 6).

“Instead of adding an extra layer, we will now use the QR code to make people aware of the existing help and complaints desks and to present them in an ordered manner,” says Sanvicente. “They can see, for example, that you can also speak to a confidential advisor without immediately making a formal complaint. That is more or less what we also wanted to achieve with the anonymous complaints desk: lowering the threshold to speak about undesirable behaviour.” This should also help people who think that their experience wasn’t serious enough. “So that they not only make a report in the case of rape, but for example also when they feel uneasy because of inappropriate remarks,” says Van Uum.

University-wide

The students hope that the QR codes will be in place in all 76 toilets in the FASoS buildings before the summer. Facility Services and the Faculty Council already agreed to the plan, the D&I Office checked the information in the linktree. The only thing left is an official approval by the Faculty Board. But

Sanvicente expects that to be a formality. “It is not expensive to have the stickers printed and we can stick them on ourselves. Moreover, the board reacted positively to our plan during the council meeting.”

Should the initiative work well – for example, if it appears that more people at the UM find their way to the confidential advisors after

unpleasant experiences – the initiators hope that it can be expanded throughout the university. Van Uum: “The links are not specific to FASoS, so it can be introduced quickly and easily in other places.”

Dennis Vaendel

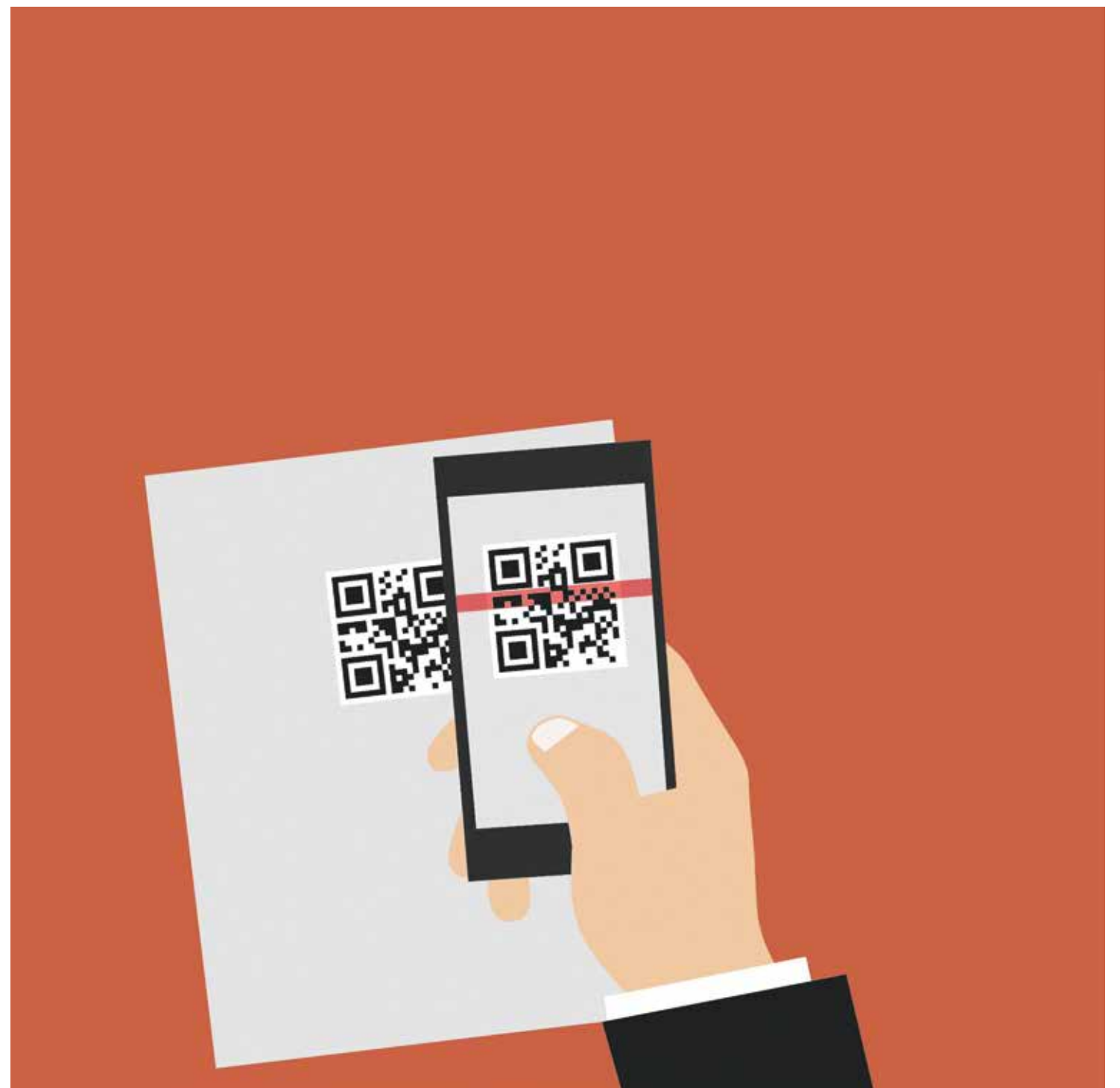


Illustration: Pixabay

background

WHO, WHAT AND WHERE?

There are various confidential advisers at the UM. Firstly, there is one for students, Wendy Geijen, and one for employees, Marloes Rikhof. They deal with undesirable behaviour such as sexual harassment and intimidation, bullying, aggression, violence, or discrimination. This also includes abuse of authority or conflicts of interest. The confidential advisers offer a listening ear and may, if necessary, act as mediators.

If the problem has to do with academic fraud, such as plagiarism or making up data, employees can go to the confidential adviser for academic integrity. PhD candidates – who are regarded as a vulnerable group because of their relationship of dependence with their supervisor – also have another possibility to approach the PhD confidential adviser. Every faculty has one.

If the problem concerns a conflict on the work floor, because of which working normally is no longer possible, an employee can go to the ombudsperson, Claire Essers. She deals with complaints but – contrary to the confidential adviser – also the right to carry out an autonomous investigation and give independent advice to the Executive Board, which may then intervene.

Lastly, there is the formal complaint. This can be submitted to the Executive Board via complaints procedure regulation (employees) or via the Complaints Service Point (students).

Central complaints centre for staff No lack of confidential advisers, but finding the right person is difficult



Photo: Shutterstock

Should a person who is being bullied by a colleague approach a confidential adviser or the ombudsperson? When is it time to submit a formal complaint? And, whom should you turn to if you suspect that a colleague is manipulating data? There is no lack of employees who you can approach with complaints or problems, but the road there can be difficult. That is why there will now be a central complaints centre, the Concern & Complaints Point.

“There is a lot, but it is a bit of a maze.” That is the conclusion drawn by the HR director Nieke Guillory, director of Legal Affairs Cenay Akin and director of the Diversity & Inclusivity Office Constance Sommerey after they had taken a close look at Maastricht University’s so-called care landscape (see box) last year. The issue was also discussed in various councils the past months – certainly after the report from the Diversity and Inclusivity Office, which states that almost half of Maastricht students find themselves having to deal with sexual harassment or intimidation during their time as a student: where can people who experience undesirable behaviour, go? Both students and employees often don’t know, while reporting issues is so important, said president Rianne Letschert during the first *Ask Me Anything* meeting in January. “Otherwise, we can’t do anything either.”

One centre

Now, there will be a single care and com-

plaints centre for employees, which Guillory hopes to launch at the end of June. “They can go there with all their questions, concerns and complaints. They will speak with a professional – so they don’t need to go through a digital list of questions – who can offer them a listening ear and who can point them in the right direction. That person also co-ordinates the team with various officials [confidential advisers and ombudspersons, ed.]”

The co-ordinator can also help people submit a formal complaint. With the confidential adviser, the initial route is often an informal one. They look into whether a meeting can take place, or whether mediation could be useful. In the case of a formal complaint, there is an official procedure. If the complaint is deemed legitimate, there may also be sanctions. “The *Concern & Complaints Point* will also give people an idea of what the procedure entails, what they can expect from it, they receive guidance if they want and they will be told what they themselves need to do.”

More hours

Those who deal with the complaints will also be given more hours. The ombudsperson will go from 0.5 to 1 FTE and soon there will be two confidential advisers for undesirable behaviour, one with 0.5 FTE and the other with 0.8. There will also be a co-ordinator for the social safety policy. “We could use more guidelines and policies in that area,” says Guillory. “At the moment, we have a concisely formulated policy vision, but together we should determine what social safety is exactly and what it means for our behaviour. This person, with the necessary academic background, will also contribute towards the development of new training courses in the UM Leadership Academy. For example, how to deal with cultural differences in your team, how to ensure that an atmosphere of openness is created in which people dare to discuss matters? So, we both want to prevent social unsafety and set up a clear and solid care landscape.”

Students

The complaints desk is only for staff members. “For students, there is already a central point which has, as it were, an extra layer of mentors, student advisers, student deans and psychologists for students around it,” says Guillory. “They can help students or refer them to a confidential adviser for students. That is why we are starting with employees, we will evaluate annually (the first time in January 2023, ed.), and continue to build, should that be necessary.”

DDPA INVESTIGATES COMPLAINTS ABOUT GOOGLE ANALYTICS

Google Analytics, a file that measures the number of visitors to websites, may soon be no longer permitted, the Dutch Data Protection Authority states. “In January 2022, the Austrian privacy supervisor completed an investigation into the use of Google Analytics by an Austrian website. According to the Austrian supervisor, this investigation shows that Google Analytics does not meet the requirements of the GDPR. The DDPA is currently investigating two complaints about the use of Google Analytics in the Netherlands. After completion of that investigation the DDPA can say whether Google Analytics is permitted or not.”

UM registers which links students and staff click on SBE student believes that the UM is violating his privacy

Maastricht University follows employees and students when they click on links in UM e-mails or the newsletter. Is the university violating privacy regulations by doing so? Also, how ‘necessary’ are cookies that register which pages you visit on the UM website?

Anyone who clicks on a link in the UM newsletter or other e-mails such as the announcement of the Foundation Day, does not go directly to that specific website, but first makes a stop-over on the UM server. That is where there is a programme running that uses a unique code embedded in every single e-mail sent, takes a note of which employee or student clicked on which link, and so who finds which information interesting. But also at that time and from which IP-address the user accesses the site and via which provider. With these tracking links, the UM gathers information from students and employees without them being aware of it, says third-year student of Econometrics Peter van Mill, skilful with computers and partial to his privacy. “I expect these kind of marketing tricks from businesses, but not from a university. This is not right from a privacy point of view. I want to be able to read the newsletters without the university monitoring which links I click on.”

Trust

Spokesperson Koen Augustijn states that the university works with Tripolis, a programme that indeed registers who clicks on what

links. However, for the university it is not about an individual’s choices, says Augustijn, but about “the number of clicks to assess whether actual use is being made of the available content”.

With regard to the tracking links, the UM informs its students and employees in the privacy statement on its website, the spokesperson said. This states: “In order to be able to measure the efficiency and relevance of the above-mentioned newsletters, statistics are collected with respect to the interaction of the recipients with the information sent.” Aside from the unclear phrasing, the question is whether such a statement suffices. The Dutch Data Protection Authority (DDPA) reported when asked: “As soon as tracking links yield data that can be redirected to an IP or e-mail address, explicit permission from the user is required.”

Why is there no option to not be followed, Van Mill wondered? “The UM claims that it does not monitor individuals, but there is no way of checking whether that is true. You just have to put your trust in the university keeping its word. And suppose that individual data is not looked at, is it generated and stored? Who can get at it?”

Anonymised

Then there are the cookies. As is the case on so many websites, students and employees also encounter them on the UM website. On the first visit, a pop-up window appears from which you can choose: allow all cookies, customize, use necessary cookies only. But anyone who chooses the ‘necessary’, Van Mill says, still receives five analytic cookies, plus one for Google Analytics, which - among others - records which pages you visit, and how long.

How necessary is that? The UM states that it doesn’t use any other analytic cookies than Google Analytics. Augustijn: “We did an extra check last week. This showed that on a website associated with the UM, five analytic cookies were placed. This has since then been adapted.”

To use Google Analytics, the UM does not need permission, because they anonymize the data. In doing so, the university meets the privacy requirements, says Augustijn.

AutoDelete

To place analytical cookies, the Dutch Data Protection Authority states in its reaction, “you don’t usually need to ask for permission, if the website only uses those cookies themselves to count visitors and in doing so does not (further) process the personal data. Using analytical cookies, you gain better insight into the functioning of your website.”

Van Mill: “You can consider these cookies as being useful, but as far as I am concerned, they are not necessary. The same applies here: why does the university not allow people to choose whether or not to accept the cookies.” Another possibility: download free files, or browser extensions, which continuously get rid of these cookies from your computer. Van Mill recommends, among others, AutoDelete.

Maurice Timmermans



Photo: Rhino Neal



Konijnen moeten wijken voor parkeerplaats

Op dinsdag 3 mei zijn er werkzaamheden gestart op de parkeerplaats naast de UM Sport. Na een gesprek met de bouwers wordt duidelijk dat de parkeerplaats zogenaamd wordt 'geprofessionaliseerd'. Op 4 mei is het grote grasveld in het midden van de parkeerplaats al weggehaald en de grond geëgaliseerd. Meer asfalt voorziet erin dat de parkeerplaats 'beter' is én ongetwijfeld hierna niet langer gratis zal zijn voor de studenten.

Het is echter bekend dat er een aantal wilden konijnenfamilies leven op dit kleine stukje UM. Voor hun is geen plek meer in dit waterschapshuvel gelijkend verhaal. Die verliezen namelijk niet alleen hun rustplek met al het kabaal van de werkzaamheden, maar ook de gronden waarop zij grazen. Dagelijks zijn de konijnen nog daar te zien, met name rond het vallen van de avond. Ik doe een oproep aan alle studenten, medewerkers en bewoners van Maastricht om nog een laatste keer te komen kijken naar de konijnen voor wie geen plaats meer is aan de 'sustainable' Universiteit Maastricht.

Thomas Vaessen, patholoog in opleiding

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Vóór dinsdag 16.00 uur ingeleverde Paarltjes verschijnen de donderdag daarop in de krant. De redactie is niet verantwoordelijk voor de inhoud van de Paarltjes en behoudt zich het recht voor om zonder opgave van reden Paarltjes te weigeren.

In memoriam Camille Nafzger

Afgelopen week bereikte ons het trieste nieuws dat onze gewaardeerde en geliefde collega Camille (1968-2022) op 25 april na een ziekbed van enkele maanden is overleden. Hoewel al snel na de diagnose duidelijk werd dat het noodlot dat hem wachtte onafwendbaar was, kwam de mededeling toch nog als een schok voor ons als collega's.

Zo'n zeven jaar geleden maakte Camille de overstap naar Maastricht Housing. Na een moeilijke periode bij de UB trok hij de conclusie dat het beter was een andere weg in te slaan en heeft hij op eigen initiatief de stap naar MH gezet. Daar bloeide Camille weer helemaal op en groeide hij uit tot een deskundige en zeer gewaardeerde collega. Dankzij hem is de website en ICT-ondersteuning die toen nog in de kinderschoenen stond, uitgegroeid tot het belangrijkste platform voor studentenhuysvesting in Maastricht en is ook de communicatie met studenten naar een

hoger plan getild.

We zullen zijn betrokkenheid, openheid en kritische blik, maar vooral ook zijn aparte humor niet snel vergeten en hem voor altijd in ons hart meedragen. Veel te snel hebben Ellen en Yanna afscheid moeten nemen van hun lieve, mooie man en papa. We wensen hen en hun familie en vrienden voor de toekomst heel veel sterkte met dit zware verlies. Of zoals we vaker bij lastige beslissingen tegen elkaar zeiden: als we het niet proberen, kan het ook niet mislukken en valt er ook niks voor ons te repareren. Het verlies van een geliefde valt natuurlijk nooit te repareren, maar de herinnering aan een prachtig mens zal de pijn uiteindelijk hopelijk wel verzachten.

Rust zacht lieve Camille. We zullen je nooit vergeten.

*Collega's Maastricht Housing en
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agenda academische zittingen Aula Minderbroederberg 4-6

12 mei, 15.30u	Dies Natalis and Rectorship Handover 2022, St. Janskerk	3 juni, 16.30u	Inauguratie Dr. Daniel Keszthelyi
13 mei, 10.00u	Robert J. Holtackers	7 juni, 10.00u	Hester Haak
13 mei, 13.00u	Sjoerd A.M.E.G. Timmermans	7 juni, 13.00u	Lisa Min
13 mei, 16.00u	Afscheidscollege, Prof. dr. Frans R.J. Verhey, St. Janskerk	7 juni, 16.00u	Nicolaas W. Schurink
16 mei, 13.00u	Shailesh Kumar Samal	8 juni, 10.00u	Joy Yeonjoo Lee
16 mei, 16.00u	Elena F. Brachtel	8 juni, 13.00u	Marjolein van Everdingen
17 mei, 16.00u	Nutmethee Kruepunga	8 juni, 16.00u	Jaap Seelig
18 mei, 13.00u	Beatriz Georgina Calzada Olvera	9 juni, 10.00u	Pauline C.S. van Paridon
18 mei, 16.00u	Dubbel inauguratie, Prof. dr. Nancy M.P. Bocken, Frank A.A. Boons	9 juni, 13.00u	Anna M.J. Deckers
19 mei, 10.00u	Supriya Dabir Gautam	9 juni, 16.00u	Francesco Iacoella
19 mei, 13.00u	Tamara A. Kool	10 juni, 10.00u	Tristan Krap
19 mei, 16.30u	Inauguratie, Prof. dr. Marieke J. Pierik	10 juni, 13.00u	Inauguratie Koen P.B. Rovers
20 mei, 10.00u	Lisa Maria Hillen-Rohlf	10 juni, 16.30u	Afscheidscollege Prof. dr. Hildegard Schneider
20 mei, 13.00u	Bruna Ferreira da Silva Calado, Double doctorate University of Gothenburg and Maastricht University	13 juni, 10.00u	Hiwot Mekonnen Mesfin
20 mei, 16.30u	Inauguratie, Prof. dr. Henk Van Santbrink	13 juni, 13.00u	Anne Odilia Emile van den Bulck
23 mei, 10.00u	Sofia Beghi Double doctorate University of Parma and Maastricht University	13 juni, 16.00u	Reshab Yadav
23 mei, 16.00u	Marieke E. Gimbel	14 juni, 13.00u	Perla G.H. Douven
24 mei, 13.00u	Michelle M.E. van Pinxteren	15 juni, 13.00u	Lennart R.S. Huizing
24 mei, 16.00u	Anouk K.M. Claessens	15 juni, 16.00u	Pomme I.H.G. Simons
25 mei, 10.00u	Bilal Shikur Endris	16 juni, 10.00u	Gwendolyn N.Y. van Gorkom
25 mei, 16.30u	Inauguratie, Prof. dr. Frank Phillipson	16 juni, 13.00u	Adriana T.P.M. Brands-Appeldoorn
30 mei, 10.00u	Federico Ferretti	16 juni, 16.30u	Inauguratie Dr. Marc Hemmeler
30 mei, 13.00u	Sarah Anschutz	17 juni, 10.00u	Xiao Wang
31 mei, 10.00u	Majdi Mohammed Sabahelzain Dafallah	17 juni, 13.00u	Olin Janssen
31 mei, 13.00u	Nikolaos Taxiarchis Skenteris	17 juni, 16.30u	Inauguratie Dr. Aggie Paulus
31 mei, 16.00u	Víctor Pablo Galván Chacón	20 juni, 10.00u	Kim C.P. Geurtjens
1 juni, 10.00u	Laura Jane Ogden	20 juni, 13.00u	Victor Osei Kwadwo
1 juni, 13.00u	Marijn M.L. van den Houten	22 juni, 16.00u	Derk Bransen
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