



CAMPUS AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION STATEMENT - MAURITS VAN BEEK

Dear fellow UCU'ers,

Through this statement I would like to announce my candidacy for the first elected CAR board of UCU. For the persons who don't know me. I am a fourth semester student who is currently studying abroad at UC San Diego. I have already experienced three amazing semesters at the UCU campus but I know a lot can still improve. In the position of Campus Affairs Representative I want to make these improvements happen.

CAR is a new and developing board on campus and still subject to a lot of change. Next to its task in representing you in campus affairs, the new board will also be developing the 'institution' CAR. Building a properly functioning board, determining the tasks of the CAR and creating a smooth transition are all challenges the board

will be facing. The CAR will have four different portfolios concerning catering, housing, sustainability and facilities. Below I have outlined certain plans I have with regard to these portfolios. Most require serious funds and are aimed at the long term of which effects will thus not directly be noticed but that doesn't make them less important. The plans are to give you an idea of what I have in mind for CAR but will be supplemented by ideas you as student body have about campus.

Student Housing:

- **Washing machines @Kromhout:** Maybe a cliché but that doesn't make it less annoying. With around 250 students in Kromhout paying €600 rent 10 months a year Lekstede makes around €1,5 million. They should be able to provide us with some extra washing machines...
- **Pest Control:** Generally known is that every unit starts coping with hordes of mice halfway during the fall semester. Of course, students are to blame for creating very hospitable environments but Lekstede can make a bigger effort in fighting the plagues. Students shouldn't be kept up all night due to mice crawling in their walls and ceilings, UCU is exhausting enough already.

Catering:

- **Supermarket on campus:** Everybody wants this, everybody needs this. Let's make the bubble more complete. Only thing we need after this is our own train station. The supermarket would be relatively small but would adjust itself continuously to student demand and what sells a lot. The supermarket would offer jobs to a small number of students who can really use the money and any further profits made would go to the UCU scholarship fund. Of course, the viability of the supermarket would depend on contracts of UCU with Sodexo and possible non-competition clauses with supermarkets in the proximity of UCU.
- **Re-evaluating Sodexo:** Let's put Sodexo out of its misery. They are currently changing things themselves but in a way that makes everybody wonder who is in charge of Sodexo's long-term strategy. The fact that they didn't see the large drop in customers coming after abolishing the obligatory dining credit shows how out of touch with the students Sodexo

really is. Either they have to start serving tastier, cheaper and healthier food or they should pack up.

- **Food sharing application:** Linked to the previous point. Sodexo and dining hall, when it still enforced its dictatorial dining credit, used to provide next to crappy food, an in my eyes important social function. You met friends of friends there and could catch up with people you otherwise rarely saw. The fact that most UCU'ers would rather gorge on the abysmal food then let Sodexo get away with unused dh credit, made that you would run into almost everybody once in a while in dining hall. Of course, it is not easy to recreate this concept but surrogates can maybe make up for something. Proposed is an application (or forum) on which UCU cooks can sell their delicacies to fellow students. Maybe partially stolen from our colleagues at AUC but hey, better stolen than badly made up, or something like that. The concept would work as follows: Cooks put up an advert which states the dish, number of free spots, dinner time + location and a price. Other students can sign on to a meal and all they have to do is show up and pay (we make sure there is a "tikkie" link or some other fancy system installed). The real crux of the app however is that it is all anonymous. The chef can't select who is coming over to eat and the guest cannot choose who their chef is. This causes that you have random people at your table every night and students get out of their usual friend groups, it will be a good way to meet new people. Positive side effects are that it is cheaper to cook for more people, reduces food waste and saves time.

Sustainability:

- **Energy saving:** The amount of energy wasted on campus is still large and desperately needs to be addressed. Meetings with Lekstede and MD should provide solutions to at least reduce the amount of energy used a bit.
- **Recycling bins:** We have got large recycling bins outside where we can deposit our sorted trash. However, they might be so nice to provide us with bins in the units so that we can actually start using that system properly. Recycling plastic only accounts for 0,1% of the CO2 reduction in the Netherlands, but hey, every bit is still a bit and it gives us all a good feeling.

Facilities:

- **Refurbishing Voltaire:** Everybody who has visited the study environment in the UU Spinoza building and our own Voltaire study floor knows where I am aiming at. The furniture, carpet and practically everything else in Voltaire is old and obsolete. It is time to get rid of the squeaky uncomfortable chairs and give the walls a fresh layer of paint. Of course the new Voltaire study floor should be in line with the atmosphere of the older buildings of our campus, the plan is not to turn it into a cheap looking hub. The refurbishing should also take into account Voltaire lounge which currently looks like a homeless camp.
- **Refurbishing downstairs DH:** In the same line as Voltaire. Downstairs dining hall right now is not reaching the full potential it has. It should be a place which invites people to come together and hang out.
- **New computers:** We can all agree that with the current computers the turning on process takes more time than what you actually need to do on it. College hall needs to be reminded that there has been technological advancements made after 1998.

- **Sport fields:** Not extremely high on the priority list since the sport facilities (football pitch and basketball court) at UCU are functioning just fine. However, I still believe it might be a good idea to see how much money the UU is willing to spend on fields which don't work as a cheese grater when you fall on them.
- **Picnic tables:** If I am not mistaken UCU's only picnic table fell apart last summer. That table was always in use when the weather allowed it. Let's put some new tables around campus, we should be able to enjoy the scarce sun at UCU.

Of course the CAR shouldn't be a institution in which board members should implement their personal views but also a tool for you, as a student, to influence campus. My aim is to create an environment in which student involvement is going to be as accessible and easy as possible. General meetings, brainstorm sessions and input nights should be held to facilitate this easy access. In these meetings students can propose new views and give their input to the CAR and thus influence the campus in a more direct way. The task of the CAR is to host these nights and implement student ideas in the best possible way.

I believe I can effectively and efficiently achieve the goals I have and take on the challenges the new board has to face. I hope you will grant me the chance of representing you in all these affairs.

Thanks in advance for your support,

Maurits van Beek