

ZOË FOR CHAIR – OPENNESS. INVOLVEMENT. NO-NONSENSE.



Hi Campus! I am Zoë and I am running to be your next UCSA Chair. I am a fourth semester student, all Dutch and I am majoring in Psychology, Sociology and Politics.

UCU is a place for academic excellence, creativity and making lifelong friendships. After having had two gap years of working, theatre and travelling, I have found my **second home** here at UCU. But our campus also comes with difficulties and in order to tackle these, we must all work together towards an open and involved community, with realistic goals in mind. I **want to give all my energy** to make this place as great for everyone else as it has been for me so far and I believe I have the qualities needed to do so. That is why, with this statement, **I proudly declare my candidacy for UCSA Chair of '18/'19.**

WHAT MAKES ME A GOOD CHAIR?

My qualifications can be explained by my three main themes: openness, involvement and no-nonsense. I am a very open person. I am always there when people need me, I am a good listener and I enjoy having a chat with new people. Because of this, I will not only be **approachable** to all students but also to my board members, **enhancing the wellbeing of the board**, which will make for greater cooperation between all members. In addition, **I have been involved on campus since day one**. By being HR Manager of Barco (2016-2017), Chair of the Scholarship Fundraising Team (2018), Project Leader of Enactus Team Groene Vingers (2016-2018) and a Peer Supporter (2018), I have improved my time-management, organisational and problem-solving skills as well as my ability to work together in a team and keep long term goals in mind. Finally, no-nonsense: I am a **hard worker, organised and reliable** and I make sure to get things done. These characteristics will provide me with the ability to keep an overview, to assist my board members where needed and to make sure plans stay realistic and get realised.

OPENNESS

Approachability. As a Chair, I will make sure I am someone everyone can come up to, including students, committees and my own board members. It is of incredible importance for the UCSA to be approachable. This can, besides office hours and regular checkups by the CAOs, be achieved through **the implementation of brainstorm meetings and online anonymous feedback forms**.

Transparency. At times, **the UCSA Board could strive for more transparency, mostly towards committees**. By sharing long term goals, being more clear about the rooms available to book and making sure the CAOs meet regularly with committees in order to know what is going on, the transparency of the UCSA towards the committees as well as the transparency of the committees towards the UCSA can be enhanced.

Open to good relations with ASC, CAR and College Hall. In order to make more structural changes and to get things done, good relations with College Hall is essential. Only by building up **mutual trust and respect**, will we be able to work together towards a better environment at UCU. The same goes for ASC and especially for CAR. As CAR is a newly established board, they will have a lot to work on and I believe that with the 20 years long experience, the UCSA board can be of great help. One thing that the UCSA already has, is the **visibility on campus** and they can provide a platform for CAR in order for them to get into contact with the students. In addition, with the important role the UCSA Chair plays in the Management Team as well as monthly meetings with the Dean, I would be able to put CARs points on College Hall's agenda.

INVOLVEMENT

Involvement of the students. Involvement on campus can be improved by creating an environment in which more people feel like they can find **a place where they can connect with others over shared interests.** This can be achieved by a clearer overview of events on the website, but also by encouraging committees to create opportunities for students to be part of a committee without joining the board, such as the weekly Improv sessions or Game Nights. Potential initiatives include a book club by WordCo or weekly cooking sessions by GastronomyCo. In addition, sport teams could be made more visible during Introweek.

Involvement of committees. By encouraging collaborations, less events, but with higher quality are organised and the implementation of the collaboration budget in the past year has been a good step into the right direction. But collabs also have to come from **personal contacts.** By having a network event for all Chairs at the beginning of each semester, connections can be made and dates can be set.

Involvement with Utrecht. UCU can sometimes become overwhelming and in order **to realise there is more in the world than what plays inside our gates,** it is important to find new places and people and have the ability to look at UCU from another perspective. With the use of a calendar with off campus events on the website, students will be able to find what is happening outside of our bubble.

Involvement of Alumni. Alumni can offer a great platform of information about masters, life after the bubble and career prospects. Teachers and, in some cases, alumni, have set up certain platforms of (sub)disciplines in which they tried to connect students and alumni active in the same field. In collaboration with ASC, the UCSA could get an overview of these initiatives and make them more structured and visible to students.

NO-NONSENSE

Clarity and Structure. In order to create better collaborations, smoother transition periods and more structured application processes, the UCSA board could for example provide guidelines for board books and organise an HR workshop about handling application interviews.

Continuity. Even though the UCSA should always strive for new and better ideas, **the key is to work on the stones laid by the preceding boards.** Not all changes can happen in a year and in order to reach the goals that are set, the boards after you have to continue working on these. One goal that I would like to highlight is that of wellbeing. Together with the Wellbeing Team, CAR, ASC and College Hall, I want to continue the work done in the past years by giving Peer Support and the Wellbeing Team a platform on campus, by continuing the development of an Introweek that caters to the needs of all incoming students and by creating a wiki page on which everyone can anonymously share their experiences of off-campus psychologists.

THE WEBSITE

The website has many potential features that could serve as **the means to implement my goals for the upcoming year.** It is the perfect platform for the UCSA to enhance their approachability and transparency, it can improve general wellbeing by creating a different platform than Facebook and it can improve the involvement on campus, off campus and with alumni. Once the website is developed properly, a good second step would be the implementation of an app so that all information can be accessed just as easily on our phones.

This is just a summary of my ideas about campus, would you like to know more about my motivation, qualifications and ideas? Like my Facebook page to stay up to date, come to my events and most importantly: **talk to me!** I would love to hear what you think, as it is you I want to represent.