



A university of value(s)

Towards future-proof
organisation and governance of
the University of Amsterdam

October 24th, 2016



Why the committee D&D was installed

Dormant dissatisfaction among part of staff and students escalates in **appropriation Bungehuis and Maagdenhuis**

Action groups, representative councils and unions decide on **process for change** with the university's executive board

One result is the instalment of **committee Democratisation & Decentralisation:**

- Mandate
- Tasks
- Approach

Tasks in the mandate

“ The committee has the task to
(a) identify key problems with regard to governance, participation, voice, diversity and the academic climate, and their causes; (b) develop different proposals for new models of organisation, governance, voice and financing that can solve these problems; (c) involve the academic community in the development and judgement of these proposals; (d) report to the academic community about the results of this research.”

Approach

- Advisory and deliberative committee
- Not a research committee
- Large number of conversations
- Extensive use of (research)reports, papers and other documents
- Some research into aspects of university governance
- Subprojects on democratisation and decentralisation

What is happening at the UvA?

- Problems confirmed by report Inventarisatie Bottlenecks Staff & Students UvA
- Similarities and differences between and especially within faculties
- Distinguishing governance problems from policy problems
- Distinguishing between different governance problems:
 - Lacking democracy (both basic level and central policy making)
 - Lacking autonomy (both staff and students)
- Problems with relatively easy solutions at the short term

Final report

1. Policy problems and governance problems at the UvA

2. A threefold approach:

- A senate new style
- A charter with fundamental values
- New governance models

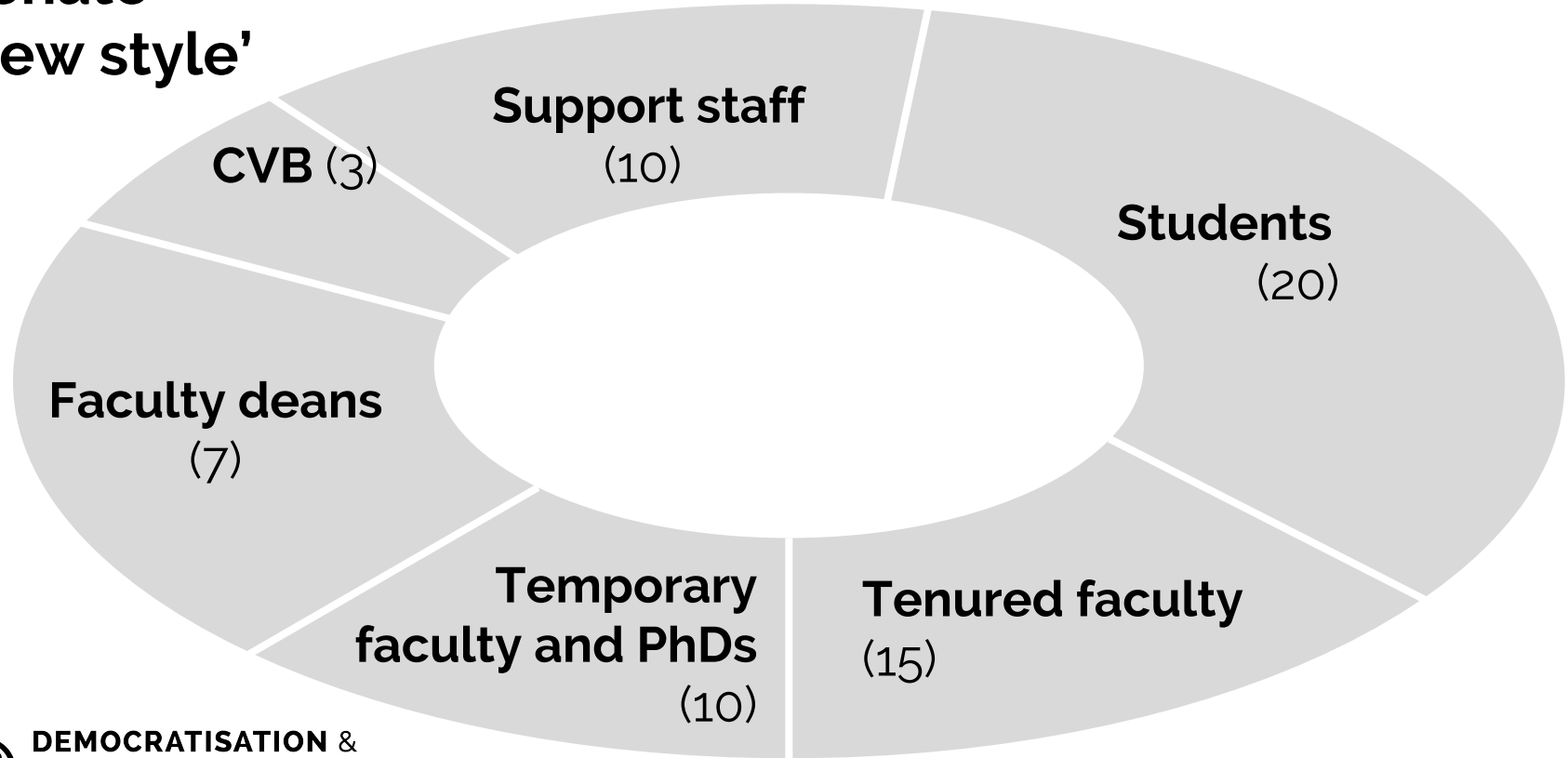
3. The referendum and what comes next



Senate 'new style'

- **Deliberative forum** for the university as a whole, advising about long term policy that concerns the university as a whole
- Looks after the **university's core values** and how these inform policy. Advises about maintenance and adjustments of core values
- Delegation of tenured faculty, temporary faculty, support staff, students, and PhDs in the form of **senators**. Members of CvB and faculty deans are also members.
- **Senate opinions** are prepared by workgroups and through (virtual) public consultations of wider university community

Senate 'new style'



Charter

Core values concerning the following themes:

- University and society
- The dynamics of knowledge creation
- Critical and scientific attitude
- The university community
- Decentralisation
- Advancing autonomy
- Participatory governance
- Effective governance

The D&D report gives further information on core values and their implications for policy

Models

Developing various models of organisation, governance and participation to tackle problems

Self-organising university

Relatively autonomous units for education and research. Self-organisation and self-governance.

Participatory university

Joint governing councils for staff and students determine policy. Executive board prepares and implements.

Dual university

Executives decide on all levels. Extended rights and facilitation for representative councils.

Existing university

Executives decide on all levels. Limited rights and facilitation for representative councils.

Six central themes

determine differences between models

Within every theme, one might choose from various principles

Fundamental themes

- Strengthening democracy at the central level
- Strengthening democracy at faculty level
- Decentralisation: emphasising the basic level (department)
- Strengthening democracy at the basic level (department)
- More openness and participation
- Continued existence of faculties

Example 1

Strengthening
democracy at the
central level

Governing board
made up of staff and
students. They
appoint members of
the board of
executives . Board of
executives prepares
and implements
policy.

Board of executives
has decision making
powers; COR and CSR
have extended
supervisory and
corrective rights.

Board of executives
has decision making
powers; COR and CSR
have limited supervisory
and corrective rights.

Example 2

Decentralisation:
emphasising the basic
level (department)

Decentralised units

at discipline level are
responsible for
education, research
and personnel.
Executives are
elected.

Existing situation

independent schools
for education and
research and
independent
disciplines.
Executives appointed
by the dean.

Example 3

- Strengthening democracy at the basic level (department)

Space for self-organisation and self-governance. Includes design for organisation and governance.

Governing board made up of staff and students. Elected executive board prepares and implements policy.

To be determined form of representative councils within departments, and schools for education and research.

No formal representation (except for OC's). Chairs and directors consult others informally.

Referendum

23 November

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11 December

1. Voting on desirability **senate new style**.
2. Voting on desirability of a **charter** with the possibility to agree with the eight proposed values proposed.
3. Reviewing the **six values** on which the **governance models** are built (blue, orange, yellow, green)

Short-term recommendations

Recommendations for the executive board

- Representing the university's community in The Hague
- Revise regulations representative councils
- Reverse policy

Focus on student and personnel matters

- Ombudsman

Short-term recommendations

Recommendations for the deans

- Extending administrative facilities for the representative councils
- OER at department level

Recommendations for representative bodies

- Public and accessible documents
- Deliberation and discussion
- Informal ways of (co)participatory governance
- Seize opportunities to influence appointment of executives

Short-term recommen- dations

Recommendations for all involved

- Digital democracy
- Experiment! With a 'citizens' initiative', for example

Referendum

23 November

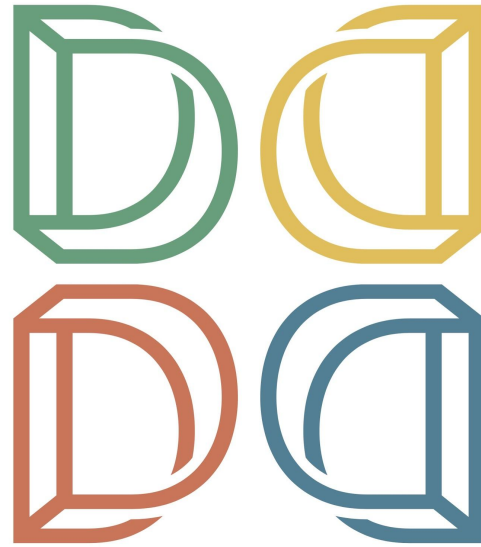
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Een universiteit van waarde(n)

Naar een toekomstbestendige inrichting en
besturing van de Universiteit van Amsterdam



 COMMISSIE
DEMOCRATISERING &
DECENTRALISERING

More information?

Some websites
And adressess

For the report and summaries:

- www.commissiedd.nl
- democratisering.uva.nl

Campaign committee:

campagnecommissie@gmail.com

Facebook:

facebook.com/referendumdd

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