



## Agenda

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| February 18 | ProVU Drinks at 6 PM (@ de Tegenstelling - W&N, D107) |
| February 26 | Famelab 2016 Prerounds                                |
| March       | PhD Movie   |
| April       | Pubquiz   |
| June        | PhD day   |

Dear PhDs and postdocs,

We hope you have all enjoyed the christmas holidays and have had a good start of 2016! To celebrate that this year is a leap year we would like to invite you for drinks on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February in de Tegenstelling (W&N, D107).

In this newsletter we present the achievements the ProVU delegates in the Works Council (OR) have made last year. We are also very happy that Laura Henderson has become chair of the Works Council ([link to article](#))! In addition we give you an overview of the events we plan to organize for the coming half year. You are very welcome to attend these events, but also to help out with the organization. We are still looking for PhDs who are willing to help organize the VU PhD day.

Lastly, as you may know, the central-VU reimbursement for printing theses of 500 euros will remain in effect until 2017 (for more information about the recent changes in doctoral regulations [see the VU webpage](#)). This should allow faculties enough time to implement their own bursary for printing costs. If any of you are running into problems or have further questions, please feel free to send us an email at [board@provu.nl](mailto:board@provu.nl).

Hope to see many of you on the 18th!

Samantha Scholte

Chair ProVU



Come celebrate the start  
of a new year with us  
during the ProVU drinks!



**18th of February, 6 PM at de  
Tegenstelling (W&N, D-103)**



## News from the Works Council (OR)

Dear PhD candidates and post docs,

In April 2014 elections for the Works Council (Ondernemingsraad), the university's representation council, were held. ProVU obtained 7 seats – 2 more than in the previous council period!

We would like to thank you for voting and give you some highlights on what we have achieved for young researchers in the past year:

Firstly, ProVU members are spread out across different committees/topics within the council. We head three committees: research and education, communication and legal affairs. One of us is also on the daily board of the council. This way we ensure that we are involved in a wide range of matters in the council. Additionally, we are from different faculties and do our best to represent the interests of *all* young researchers across all faculties.

A fierce debate has been going on in the past years in the country about whether PhD candidates should be considered students or employees. Last year, **we actively fought to maintain employee status** by joining forces with other councils around the country and sending a joint letter to all the university executive boards with a strong statement against student status. Our university fortunately decided to abstain from participating in a nationwide experiment with student PhDs, thus keeping employee status. Additionally, in our university's strategic plan we changed crucial phrasing to ensure PhD candidates continue to be labeled as employees.

We campaigned for the best **doctorate regulations** – regulations which are flexible enough to accommodate for differences between faculties and candidate backgrounds, yet which ensure that there are financial means to follow courses and that courses are available. Please contact us if you come across any problems with the doctorate regulations because we have ensured that an elaborate evaluation be done of the whole process.



## News from the Works Council (OR)

We have kept an active eye on the **university budget**, for example making sure that budget evaluation includes that enough allocations are made for the doctorate regulations costs.

At all times we fight for **more communication in English** so that English-speaking students and researchers feel welcome on the campus and at their workplace.

We are actively involved in **new data management policies** – who owns scientific data, how is data stored, etc.

Additionally, we very carefully look at the position of young researchers in **reorganizations, faculty fusions and new housing plans**, the outcome of the **employee satisfaction survey**, democratizing **university governance** and have a voice in electing new executive board members. Within the research and education committee we meet with the *rector magnificus* every 2-3 months to discuss **vision on education and research**.

ProVU is there to represent you, so if you have concerns about any issues, do not hesitate to contact us. We are also looking for new, Dutch-speaking, council members (for details see the ad).

Yours,

Laura, Tamara, Jona, Karin, Boris, Seline en Hans





## Are you working or studying in science and engineering?

If you are aged between 21 and 40 and think you can explain a scientific concept in just three minutes, you could win some fantastic prizes.

Engaging with people outside the scientific community allows scientists to not only enthuse people about their work and science in general, but to justify their use of public funding. What are you waiting for?



**FameLab is one of the biggest science communication competitions in the world.**

If you think you can explain a scientific concept to a general audience, in just three minutes, then why not enter? You could become the new face of science, represent The Netherlands at the FameLab International final in the UK, and open doors to global opportunities in science communication!

[Click here to register](#)



## ProVU is looking for new University Council representatives!

The Works Council/University Council (Ondernemingsraad) is an organ that actively participates in decision making within the university. The Council gives approval or advice on important financial, judicial, education, research, housing and other matters directly affecting the employees and our university as a whole. Following elections in spring 2014 ProVU obtained 7 seats in the Council. Because of members finishing their PhDs we are now looking for candidates to fill vacancies from January 2016 until April 2017.

### *What are the requirements?*

- Dutch-speaking (you don't have to be a native speaker or speak perfect Dutch, but do need to be able to have good written and oral communication skills)
- You are a PhD candidate, postdoc, lecturer or have affinity with these groups
- Willing to spend 8 hours per week (you will be compensated in money or time)
- Willing to learn about our university: the structure, how decisions are made, what our vision is for the future, etc
- You enjoy discussing and debating about a wide variety of issues affecting all employees of the university

### *How much time does it take?*

You are paid for and expected to work 8 hours a week. If you have a contract for 4 days or less, you can choose to have a paid extra day. If you have a contract for 5 days/36+ hours, you will be compensated in time. In practical terms, this means that taking a seat in the Council is time-neutral. You will receive an extension of your contract depending on your Council term.

### *How can I apply or ask for more information?*

To apply send an e-mail to Laura at [L.M.Henderson@vu.nl](mailto:L.M.Henderson@vu.nl) with a CV and short motivation. If you have any questions you can also e-mail Laura at the same address about your inquiry.