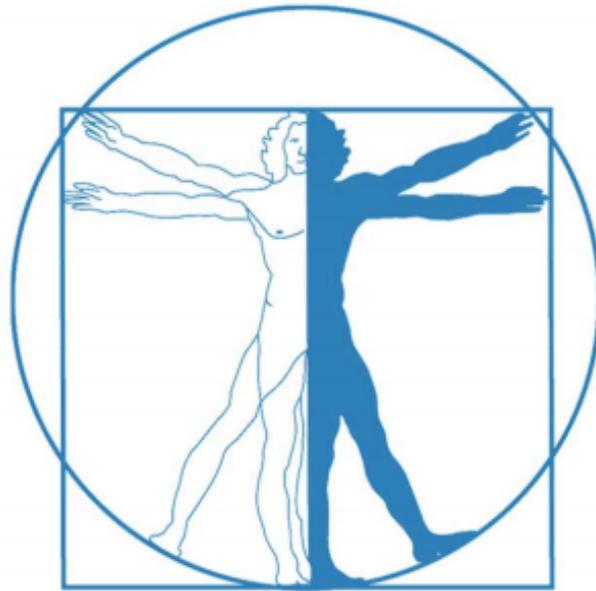


*University College Maastricht Study  
Association Universalis*



# **SEMESTER REPORT**

## Spring 2015

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# INTRODUCTION

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to read about our thoughts, ideas and setbacks during the Fall 2015 Universalis Semester. On the following pages you will find a timeline of events of the past semester, as well as a report by each Board Member and the Academic Council on the semester's proceedings.

It has certainly been a busy semester, with some of the highlights including the annual UCSRN Tournament, the Gala, the Cantus and of course summer week, ending the year with a spectacular 12.5 years of Universalis anniversary party. It has been a semester of innovation as we improved our media presence further, and became more green; a semester of creativity as we planned and carried out new events such as the Cantus and Gala, and a semester of great friendships, laughter and bio-beer.

Unfortunately however, there comes an end to everything; one of us has graduated UCM, others are preparing to go abroad in the Fall semester, and still others are moving on to greater things. With all endings come new beginnings too though, and we are confident that next year's Universalis Board will continue to be greener, spread more love, and take the UCM spirit higher.

With much gratitude to the UCM community for their support,

On behalf of the UCMSA Universalis Board Spring 2015,

Emilie Frijns  
*President UCMSA Universalis 2014-2015*

Maastricht, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# TIMELINE

## JANUARY

- Intro Days (26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>)
- Leaving party of Harm Hospers as Dean of UCM

## FEBRUARY

- Committee Fair
- Charity Committee Valentine's Cookies
- Fair Fridays
- Academic Council High Tea
- Feminism Dinner
- General Assembly (26<sup>th</sup> of February)

## MARCH

- Visit of Ambassador to Iran
- Joint Party MSC and DKE
- GECCO Bag painting
- Charity – Bake sale
- Feminism – Movie night
- Music – Open Mic Night
- Politics –EuroMUN
- Charity – Murder Mystery Night
- Midterm Recovery Drinks
- Merchandise Sale
- Feminism – Panel debate
- Guest Lecture Ray Goodsir
- Arrival of Richard Nimubona (Shelter City Project) (March 19<sup>th</sup>)
- EXCO – Blind City Trip

## APRIL

- Beginning of Period Drinks
- GECCO – Earth Hour
- GA Summit UCSRN (April 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Games of Thrones viewing
- Politics – EuroMUN Simulation
- Board Information Drinks

- GECCO – High Tea
- UCSRN Tournament (April 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Charity – Culture Night
- The Bell – launch Issue #4
- Open Board Meeting - Applications (April 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Music – Karaoke Night
- Charity – Bake Sale
- Presidential Applications Deadline (April 24<sup>th</sup>)
- VrijMiBo (Friday Afternoon Drinks)
- EuroMUN
- Practice What We Preach Initiative Start
- Feminism – Dinner
- Presidential Elections Speeches (April 29<sup>th</sup>)

## MAY

- GECCO – Discussion Round
- Music – Open Mic Night
- Gala (May 7<sup>th</sup>)
- Deadline Board Applications (May 11<sup>th</sup>)
- Cantus
- Feminism – Book Discussion
- GECCO – Swap Shop
- General Assembly (May 19<sup>th</sup>)
- Feminism – Potluck Dinner
- Burundi Night – In Honor of Richard (May 20<sup>th</sup>)
- Goodbye Dinner Richard (May 29<sup>th</sup>)

## JUNE

- Merchandise Sale
- Charity – Bonfire night
- EXCO – Beer tasting
- Gastronomy - In Vino Veritas Wine Trip
- Mentor Programme Information Night
- Summer Week
  - Lasertag
  - EXCO – Brussels Trip
  - EXCO – Travel Monopoly
  - Anniversary Party (June 24<sup>th</sup>)
  - Summer Soiree (June 26<sup>th</sup>)

# PRESIDENT

General Assembly, Policy Manual, Agenda, Meetings with Mark,  
Gala Team Coordinator, Summer Week  
(Emilie Frijns)

As mentioned in the Semester Report for Fall 2014, the new semester started off rather chaotic and disorganized. Emma Bergmans had just been accepted as the new Social Executive, with Lucia van der Meulen taking on the role of Secretary. There was a time lapse however between Anne Lycia's leaving and Emma's arrival and thus we were one Board member short. On top of this, another Board member was coping with some psychological problems, essentially leaving the work to be done by four people. With the welcoming of 56 new freshmen, a transition period for two Board members and Harm's leaving party to help organize, the remaining four had to work extra hard. As such, we were all happy when Project Period was over; we had a complete Board again, Harm's party was a success and everyone knew what their positions required of them.

## 1. February

February was a rather quiet month as Carnival break took out about half the month of university. We had initially planned to organize a ski trip for this week, but the sports committee did not want to organize it, which left me with all the work at the very last minute. I could not find any good deals anymore by that time, and there was also a lack of enthusiasm from the student body, causing me to give up on the plan altogether. This was difficult for me because I had taken responsibility for the planning, and when I found I could not do it, I was disappointed in myself. Furthermore, the previous ski trip, although costing a lot of effort, had been such a great success I was excited about the prospects of another trip. The lesson to take away from all this is that communication and planning is everything. If you do not plan and communicate about these types of trips clear and early enough, it is simply not going to happen. As such my advice to the next board would be to make a year-long plan of everything you want to achieve in the year, and start

allocating tasks and planning early; earlier than you think you should. A year passes by a lot quicker than you would think. The rest of February consisted of committee events such as the Valentines cookies, a committee fair and a GA, covering the last semester and the plans for the future semester (i.e. budget approval). What was different about this GA was that we asked the treasurers of each committee to present their own budget. This we thought would force them to come to the GA, justify their spending, and break up the often monotonous budget approval discussion. Furthermore, we began raising some questions about the election process, and received some advice as to how to make it more transparent and democratic. This input was very valuable for the way elections were run this year. Other than this, nothing remarkable occurred at the GA,

## **2. March**

March was a busy month filled with committee events and novelties. In the beginning of March, the Dutch ambassador to Iran paid UCM a visit. This was very exciting for us, and we made sure that everything was perfectly organized. Our efforts paid off as the Ambassador expressively thanked us both the night itself, and in an e-mail after. A lesson learnt from both this and other experiences is that if you never take a shot, you always lose. As a Study Association it is extremely valuable to have contacts, but also to aim high; you never know who might be interested in coming to speak to our student body. We received a lot of positive feedback from both this and other events, and I would therefore encourage future boards to also try events such as these. It is a great way to delve into a possible future occupation for the evening, and see what a job really entails. Perhaps this could be something for Career Week in the future, organized in cooperation with the AC.

In March, we also had our first joint UCM-MSD-DKE party, which unfortunately was not such a big success. I think that with everything else happening in March, we lacked the motivation to really get behind this party. On top of this, the UCM Party Committee was also dead at the time. The idea is very nice though, and I would encourage next year's board to give it another shot.

March also meant the start of another merchandise sale. By now, Emma had taken over the contact with Pascal, our contact person at the merchandise company. The contact with Pascal had always been a little difficult and as such, Emma put in a lot of effort. This effort has certainly paid off however because the bulk ordering of the merchandise is going much smoother and more efficient than ever.

Richard Nimubona, our Shelter City Project participant arrived on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Richard was escaping prosecution in his home county Burundi for having spoken out against an unconstitutional additional term of the then-serving Burundian President. Richard's presence made an impression on all of us, and it was interesting to listen to his stories of human rights abuses. That being said, communication with Richard was difficult due to language barriers, and a lot of the burden of helping him ended up with us because no one else took responsibility and some of the budget allocated to this was cut. As a result of this, Richard felt lonely and very homesick at times. To help him, we began talks with the UCM management about the Shelter City Project itself, how to improve it, and how to help Richard. The UCM management does want to continue the project with a new political refugee next year, but the participant will get an office with the UCM administrative staff, and will be assisted by the UCM management team, so that the students can enjoy and learn from his stories without having to deal with psychological issues we are not qualified to deal with.

In the reflection week at the end of March, EXCO organised another Blind City Trip, this time heading to Porto, Portugal. As per usual, this was a big success, and I am hoping this tradition will continue in the coming years.

### **3. April**

April consisted of yet more committee events such as the Politics EuroMUN simulation, GECCO's earth hour, and Charity's culture night. As a Board, we also introduced two new events in April, namely a Games of Thrones public viewing, and the VrijMiBo (Friday afternoon drinks). Both proved to be a great success, and we received much positive feedback from the UCM community.

April was also an important month for the UCSRN. We had a General Assembly at the beginning of April discussing the statutes, and finally approving them. One week later, the annual UCSRN tournament took place once again. Although not winning the trophy this year, or even placing in the top 3, the tournament was a lot of fun. We had UCM teams represented in all disciplines but cheerleading, and there was great UCM spirit all around, as was observed by Teun Dekker in his e-mail to all participants as well. My only hope is that UCM will continue showing this spirit, and will continue and increase the use of the UM sports facilities for practice and team building.

We started next year's board application procedures in April as well. Using the feedback received at the GA at the end of February, we spoke to the Independent Body about making the application procedure more transparent. Essentially, what we agreed on was a supervision of the IB during all interviews, in order to make sure interviews were held in an objective, unbiased manner. Furthermore, we decided to organise open board meetings and info drinks for those interested in a Board position, in order to gauge interest and inform. Both events were a success, and it was great to see so many interested people. At the end of April, the Presidential elections were held, with a satisfactory turnout. As per usual, this turnout could be improved, but elections are an event organised by the IB. As such, apart from promotion, there is little the Board can do. That being said, next year's Board should promote elections and applications even more extensively.

At the end of April, we were approached by a couple of UCM students to discuss their Practice What We Preach Initiative. The PWWP Initiative basically consisted of a series of measures to improve the sustainability within the UCM community, such as limiting the use of plastic, paper and flying. Some of the ideas introduced were interesting, but the major problem I saw was that a lot of the ideas would require a lot more work. This work would then, naturally, fall on us. I felt this unfair; if you want to create a sustainable community, everyone must contribute. It is not fair to leave the work to only a couple of people who already work very hard to make things happen in the community. As such, we came to the conclusion that unless the

PWWP organisers can form a concrete, doable plan with many people contributing, we would not support them. The PWWPI organisers then took the matter to the GA in May, where they were told much the same by the community members. Nevertheless, the Initiative did bring up some interesting ideas and simple ways to make UCM and Universalis more sustainable, which is definitely something to think about for the next Board.

#### 4. May

At the beginning of May, the UCM Gala took place. The theme of the Gala was masquerade, and it took place at the StayOkay hostel. The night itself was a lot of fun, and ran rather smooth, but as the head of the Gala team, it taught me quite a few things. First of all, the idea of teams is great. It allows people to commit to organising and working towards something they are interested in without a long-term commitment. Essentially, if someone has an idea for an event, they can form a team to make the event happen. After the event has occurred, this team may or may not disband again. I introduced the idea of teams to the new Board, and I really hope they will make use of it. Furthermore, promotion is everything when it comes to events such as this, and because we had a lot of budget left over, we were able to make great deals on the entrance fee and could even include some finger food. Keeping this in mind, it is essential that the budget is discussed beforehand and thoroughly and that everyone sticks to their role within the team.

We also organized another event in May, namely the Cantus. Holding a Cantus is a Dutch tradition, and we were therefore very nervous as to how it would unfold in an international community such as UCM. It worked out well though, and although participation was not great, we received great feedback from those who did participate. Perhaps it is an idea to promote this event more extensively next year, and perhaps also explain it more to the international students.

May was also the month in which we selected the next Board. The President had been chosen by this time, and she, as well as the IB, were extensively involved in the whole process. As a result of our promotion during the year, we had enough candidates, at least two for each position. This

made the choosing difficult of course, as there were several excellent choices. After much discussion and some arguing however we settled on a Board and presented them at the GA. Unlike previous years, we first explained why we chose each candidate for his/her position, after which we had them introduce themselves. I think this made the whole process a lot more transparent because it allowed the community members to ask questions about applications and candidates. At the end of the GA, all new Board members were accepted, and we had our new Board. A scary but also exciting thought for many of us in the current Board.

## **5. June**

June was transition month. Unlike in January, this time we had a plan of action and specific dates and presentations planned. As a result of this, and the new Board's enthusiasm, I think transition period went well, and they are ready to take over.

To celebrate the end of the year, gastronomy organized a wine trip, charity a bonfire night and the Universalis Board organized summer week. The highlight of summer week this year was the anniversary party we spent many weeks organizing. Again we used a team, this time consisting of only 3 main organisers however. The rest of the new and old Board were then subdivided into smaller teams and each assigned a task such as drinks, music, food, safety, etc. Due to the size of the event we had to have extra security. The event itself included French fries and fried snacks, popcorn, candy floss, cocktails, tap beer, a band, 2 DJs and a photographer. Although it took a lot of time and effort to organise it, it was a great way to bring people together at the end of the year and celebrate Universalis, UCM and the end of another great academic year.

Of course some tears were shed on the evening of the Anniversary party as well as at the final GA; we had been working together for more than a year after all. However, we all felt that it was time for us to move on, and allow other people, people with fresher eyes, ideas and motivation take over. All in all it has been a great 1.5 years however, and I will forever cherish the

UCM spirit, the 50 cents beer, the karaoke machine, the laughter, memories and the friends I have made. In the end, everything really was okay.

# SECRETARY

Minutes, Communications, Inventory, Booksale, General Administration, Room Bookings, Vice President, Summer Week  
(Lucia van der Meulen)

The start of 2015 was a rather messy one. It is hard to point to one cause for this, as it was a combination of factors. However, for next boards it is important to note that a smooth transition in January is as important as at the end of the year. For me, and for Emma, who was transitioning to social executive, a better organised transition period could have made a real difference in how comfortable we felt in our positions. It is important for next boards to plan this in advance and to make sure it is clear who is responsible. Whether it is the president, or the individuals that are transitioning. However, regardless of all of this, I was most of all excited to start as secretary in February 2015.

Together with Emma I still organised the Intro Days in January. Although we tried to organise nice things for the new freshmen, they were not very enthusiastic. However, I do think it is important that we continue to put effort into this, as also February intake should immediately feel included in the UCM community.

My main tasks have been roombookings, administration and inventory. Besides that, I wanted to support Emilie and the others as much as I could, in my role as vice-president. This, I think was something I learned how to do mostly towards the end of the semester. In her time as secretary, Anne-Lycia started a lecture series that was supposed to take place in March again. Unfortunately, we were only able to organise two lectures. Although I did take responsibility for this project at the start of the year, our ambitions were unrealistic. There was simply too much else to do, and especially the planning of a lecture series requires you to start planning way ahead of time. Starting to plan a lecture series for March in February is not doable. Moreover, it should be considered whether it is the responsibility of the social board at all to organise such lectures.

Unlike the position of executive, I found the position of secretary much more continuous. The workload was very similar from week to week, and there was a lot of freedom in which projects to take on. Highlights of the semester for me have been the UCSRN tournament, the Gala, the Cantus, and of course summer week.

In summer week I was partly responsible for the organisation of the courtyard festival. However, I was too busy in my other tasks to take as much responsibility as I would have like to, or as was sometimes necessary. It is important to be clear in the communication with your team members about this, which I think I was not always. In the end there was a lot that had to be done last-minute. Which is fortunately something Emilie, Elena and myself are best at. The event was amazing, worth all the work and a worthy finish to an incredible year. We went all out for a reason, but I think we underestimated how much time and effort it would cost us. When organising such an event in the future, it might be worth considering including non-board members in the team.

Towards the end of the year, I was in contact a lot with StudyStore. They wanted to renew our contract, which was initially also our intention. However, we were approached by Dominicanen bookstore that made us an offer. We, as a board, felt that decision was one that should be taken by both the old and new board together, also because the responsibility for the transition would rest on the new board. We decided together, also in accordance with Elin from the OSA, that our experiences with Studystore have been that unsatisfactory that it would be a good idea to switch providers. The most pressing reason being the closing of the Studystore shop on Tongersestraat. Although it is hard for me to leave this project to the new board, I am sure they will do whatever is best for our students.

In addition, at the end of the year, I spent quite some time on the transitioning process. I think mostly because transitioning in January was not how it should have been, I wanted to make sure the new board would get all the guidance they need. The work involved in putting out applications, planning an preparing interviews, making decisions, and the actually transitioning should not be underestimated. It is wise to plan this process far

in advance, preferably already at the start of the semester so you do not run out of time at the end of the year. We involved some new aspects in the recruitment process that I think were very wise. We organised individual coffee dates with prospective applicants and the positions they were interested in. Moreover, we organised info-drinks in the boardroom and open meetings. This definitely increased the quality of applicants. In the end, we managed to put together a board that I trust will do a good job. It is hard to say goodbye to something you have come to care a lot about, but it is also time for new ideas, new people and new plans.

This year, both as freshmen executive and secretary, has meant a lot to me. I have learned so much. A big thanks to the UCM community and staff for their enthusiasm and cooperation. And an even bigger thanks and lots of love to my dear friends and fellow board members who have made this year so much fun, and so rewarding.

# TREASURER – FINANCIAL REPORT

Finances  
(Lian Swinkels)

The aim of this financial report is to provide a clear overview and evaluation of the financial aspect of the board's activities and expenses of the past semester. Clarity about and if applicable elaboration on UCMSA Universalis' expenses is not only necessary to support the Independent Body in its tasks of reviewing Universalis' financial books. Clarity of its expenses is necessary to provide all members of UCMSA Universalis with insights of the association's financial state when inquired. Furthermore, the financial report is to be used by future treasurers of the association, as to learn from mistakes made in the past. It is to be used as reference to improve financial matters within the association and to maintain a clear overview and understanding of the financial processes of UCMSA Universalis.

## 1. Content

Actualisation Fall 2014

Overview of realisation per category

Overview of realisation per committee

Other Income and Expenditure

Extraordinary expenses

Expected actualisation Spring 2015

Semester report

## 2. Actualisation Fall 2014

The following is the actualisation of Fall 2014, an update on the previous semester report in which only the income and expenses up until that point were included.

<b>Discretionary Expenses</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
T-shirts	€ 120,00	€ 136,44	€ 0,00	-€ 16,44

Budget Weekend	€ 300,00	€ 383,87	€ 84,00	€ 0,13
Website	€ 93,37	€ 64,74	€ 0,00	€ 28,63
Google Apps	€ 168,00	€ 220,50	€ 0,00	-€ 52,50
Introdays February	€ 300,00	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00
Administration and supplies	€ 400,00	€ 256,73	€ 0,00	€ 143,27
UCSRN	€ 2.500,00	€ 2.211,85	€ 924,00	€ 1.212,15
Drinks (beginning of period & midterm recovery)	€ 400,00	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 100,00
Bank Fees	€ 100,00	€ 109,08	€ 0,00	-€ 9,08
Graduation	€ 500,00	€ 150,00	€ 0,00	€ 350,00
Christmas week	€ 500,00	€ 649,81	€ 280,00	€ 130,19
Promotion	€ 100,00	€ 85,19	€ 0,00	€ 14,81
Academic Council expenses	€ 650,00	€ 791,62	€ 174,00	€ 32,38
General events	€ 1.030,00	€ 324,21	€ 0,00	€ 705,79
Committees	€ 4.755,44	€ 9.414,79	€ 6.353,40	€ 1.694,05
Unexpected	€ 1.083,19	€ 837,47	€ 0,00	€ 245,72
<b>Total</b>	€ 13.000,00	€ 16.236,30	€ 7.815,40	€ 4.579,10

### Committees

Committee Expenses	Allocated	Spent	Income	Surplus
Arts	€ 216,00	€ 183,67	€ 0,00	€ 32,33

Book Club	€ 30,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 30,00
Charity	€ 384,00	€ 1535,95	€ 1.195,40	€ 43,45
Dance	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00
EXCO	€ 1.225,00	€ 5,030.14	€ 4.025,00	€ 219,86
Feminism	€ 30,00	€ 24,80	€ 0,00	€ 5,20
Gastronomy	€ 325,00	€ 502,04	€ 260,00	€ 82,96
GECCO	€ 124,50	€ 112,95	€ 33,00	€ 44,55
Magazine	€ 424,00	€ 694,48	€ 80,00	€ -190,48
Music	€ 516,94	€ 344,07	€ 0,00	€ 172,87
Party	€ 0,00	€ 773,37	€ 760,00	€ -13,37
Politics	€ 30,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 30,00
Sports	€ 970,00	€ 136,87	€ 0,00	€ 833,13
Theatre	€ 330,00	€ 76,45	€ 0,00	€ 253,55
Yearbook	€ 150,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 150,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 4.755,44</b>	<b>€ 9.414,79</b>	<b>€ 6.353,40</b>	<b>€ 1.694,05</b>

*Overview of realisation per category 23-6-2015*

The following shows the income and expenditure that was budgeted for this semester. There are still some expenditures that apply to this budget but which will be booked in Fall 2015.

<b>Discretionary Expenses</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
T-shirts	€ 120,00	€ 120,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00

Budget Weekend	€ 300,00	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00
Google Apps	€ 168,00	€ 140,00	€ 0,00	€ 28,00
Introdays August 2015	€ 500,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 500,00
Administration and supplies	€ 400,00	€ 343,13	€ 0,00	€ 56,87
Drinks (beginning of period & midterm recovery)	€ 300,00	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00
Bank Fees	€ 114,42	€ 66,50	€ 0,00	€ 47,92
Graduation	€ 500,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 500,00
Summer week	€ 750,00	€ 588,46	€ 0,00	€ 161,54
Promotion	€ 100,00	€ 129,62	€ 0,00	-€ 29,62
March Lecture Series	€ 200,00	€ 34,20	€ 0,00	€ 165,80
UCSRN Tournament	€ 50,00	€ 1.313,49	€ 874,50	-€ 388,99
Easter Egg Hunt	€ 30,00	€ 16,00	€ 0,00	€ 14,00
Academic Council expenses	€ 837,00	€ 758,44	€ 418,00	€ 496,56
General events	€ 1.030,00	€ 21,79	€ 0,00	€ 1.008,21
Committees	€ 7.434,48	€ 8.556,82	€ 4.756,44	€ 3.634,10
Unexpected	€ 166,10	€ 441,36	€ 0,00	-€ 275,26
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 13.000,00</b>	<b>€ 13.129,81</b>	<b>€ 6.048,94</b>	<b>€ 5.919,13</b>
12.5 Event (From left over money Fall 2014)	€ 2000,00	€ 456,18	€ 0,00	€ 1.543,82
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 15.000,00</b>	<b>€ 13.585,99</b>	<b>€ 6.048,94</b>	<b>€ 7.462,95</b>

*Overview of realisation per committee 23-6-2015*

<b>Committee Expenses</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
Arts	€ 289,00	€ 14,19	€ 0,00	€ 274,81
Book Club	€ 70,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 70,00
Charity	€ 403,50	€ 320,85	€1.876,44	€ 1.959,09
Dance	€ 250,00	€ 250,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00
EXCO	€ 1.500,00	€ 1.641,40	€ 102,00	-€ 39,40
Feminism	€ 222,00	€ 94,75	€ 0,00	€ 127,25
Gala Team	€ 1.500,00	€ 2.789,60	€ 1.098,00	-€ 191,60
Gastronomy	€ 375,00	€ 2.025,71	€ 1.680,00	€ 29,29
GECCO	€ 125,00	€ 17,95	€ 0,00	€ 107,05
Magazine	€ 430,00	€ 213,84	€ 0,00	€ 216,16
Music	€ 829,98	€ 622,73	€ 0,00	€ 207,25
Party	€ 490,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 490,00
Politics	€ 650,00	€ 430,80	€ 0,00	€ 219,20
Sports	€ 50,00	€ 135,00	€ 0,00	-€ 85,00
Theatre	€ 250,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00	€ 250,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 7.434,48</b>	<b>€ 8.556,82</b>	<b>€ 4.756,44</b>	<b>€ 3.634,10</b>

*Other Income and Expenditure*

Description	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
Beer bought and sold for several	€181.20	€180.82	€0.38

events. Sometimes we gave beer for free (eg. GA, Mentor & Mentees drink)			
Fair Friday & Sustainable Study Material Sale (still needed to make 678.76 euro to make up for the losses from the last two semesters)	€670.32	€255.58	€414,74
Second Hand Book Sale (couldn't be reimbursed)	€145,00	€0,00	€145,00

### *Extraordinary Expenses*

Any expense greater than € 250 ,- is listed here. Note that many of these expenses were (partially) covered by ticket sales or other income.

EXPENSE	DESCRIPTION	FORM NO	AMOUNT
Board Weekend	Accommodation Board weekend	1	€ 268,45
Active Members Night	Payment Dinner Active Members Night	3	€301,40
Jazz Night	Payment Band	10	€300,-
Donation Livres Solidaire	Donation based on the money Charity Committee generated during Fall 2014	25	€1195.40
The Bell	Printing Costs Issue #2 of this year	26	€305,28
Dinner With Freiburg (AC)	Dinner with the Freiburg people at Donatello's was paid back by everyone	40	€288,90
Merchandise Sale	Order of Merch Sale, was all paid for	72	€468,20
Blind City Trip	Busses from the airport to the city and back	75	€393,93
Welcome dinner	Cato dinner Welcome Richard,	76	€265,-

Richard	was paid for by UCM		
Blind City Trip	Busses from Maastricht to Airport and back	87	€750,-
Blind City Trip	Payment of Hostel	88	€1.502,46
UCSRN Tournament	Contribution so AUC did not have to pay for all cost initially as their budget would not cover that	92	€800,-
UCSRN Tournament T-Shirts	T-Shirts for all participants of UCSRN Tournament	96	€508,97
Drumkit for Music Committee	Complete Drum Kit	103	€324,28
Busses to and from UCSRN	Busses to and from Amsterdam, the one there was covered by the UCSRN budget	108	€1650,-
Costumes Dance Committee	Costumes for the dancers during UCSRN Tournament	115	€250,-
EuroMUN	Contribution to UCM politics society delegates of EuroMUN	116	€330,-
Laser Tag	Laser tag during summer week, tickets will be sold > see fall 2015	159	€805,-
Cantus	Rental of the Beurs and drinks, costs were mostly covered by ticket sales	167	€663,-
Travel Monopoly	NS daytickets for travel monopoly will be partially covered by ticket sales income > see fall 2015	168	€279,80
Food at Gala	Food served during the Gala, partially covered by ticket sales	174	€1.117,40

Accommodation Gala	Accommodation for the Gala, partially covered by ticket sales	175	€1.360,37
Merchandise Sale	Order of Merch Sale, was all paid for	187	€515,15
Gastronomy Wine Trip	All things paid during the wine trip, was mostly covered by ticket sales.	191	€1.676,51
12.5 Anniversary event	Food and equipment for anniversary event.	194	€458,18
Train tickets for Brussels trip	Train tickets, were partially covered by ticket sales.	198	€285,00
Summer soiree food	Food served during the summer soiree, partially covered by ticket sales	206	€508,80
Blind City Trip	Flight Tickets paid by credit card, partially covered by ticket sales	209	€864,56

*Expected Actualisation of Spring 2015*

<b>Discretionary Expenses</b>	<b>Allocated</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
T-shirts	€ 120,00	€ 120,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00
Budget Weekend	€ 300,00	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00
Google Apps	€ 168,00	€ 168,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00
Introdays August 2015	€ 500,00	€ 500,00	€ 0,00	€0,00
Administration and supplies	€ 400,00	€ 343,13	€ 0,00	€ 56,87
Drinks (beginning of period & midterm recovery)	€ 300,00	€ 300,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00

Bank Fees	€ 114,42	€ 93,10	€ 0,00	€ 21,32
Graduation	€ 500,00	€ 500,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00
Summer week	€ 750,00	€ 588,46	€ 0,00	€ 161,54
Promotion	€ 100,00	€ 129,62	€ 0,00	-€ 29,62
March Lecture Series	€ 200,00	€ 34,20	€ 0,00	€ 165,80
UCSRN Tournament	€ 50,00	€ 1.313,49	€ 874,50	-€ 388,99
Easter Egg Hunt	€ 30,00	€ 16,00	€ 0,00	€ 14,00
Academic Council expenses	€ 837,00	€ 758,44	€ 418,00	€ 496,56
General events	€ 1.030,00	€ 584,29	€ 0,00	€ 445,71
Committees	€ 7.434,48	€ 8.556,82	€ 4.756,44	€ 3.634,10
Unexpected	€ 166,10	€ 441,36	€ 0,00	-€ 275,26
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 13.000,00</b>	<b>€ 14.746,91</b>	<b>€ 6.048,94</b>	<b>€ 4.302,03</b>
12.5 Event (From left over money Fall 2014)	€ 2000,00	€ 2000,00	€ 0,00	€ 0,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 15.000,00</b>	<b>€ 16.746,91</b>	<b>€ 6.048,94</b>	<b>€ 4.302,03</b>

### 3. Budget Allocation

The budget for this semester was allocated according to the semester plans the committees handed in and the expenses the board had over the last few semesters. All semester plans were reviewed critically by the board during the board weekend to make sure the allocation the committees suggested were actually

Making the budget was a lot easier this semester compared to last semester. First of all committees seemed to be willing to be more active and had more plans in their semester plans so the budget seemed rather tight

with not a lot of money left for unexpected events, but as there was budget left from Fall 2014 I did not see this as a problem.

Unfortunately committees did not end up spending the budget they had requested which has left us with quite a bit of money left over from this year. This meant that we ended up spending the money on events ourselves, such as the cantus and 12.5 anniversary event.

#### **4. Budget GA**

The beginning of this semester was slightly stressful as I was writing the financial report of last semester as well as trying to make a reasonable budget for this semester. In the end it all worked out fine and the budget GA went well. We decided to try and make it more interactive by having all committee treasurers present their own budget. This is not only to have them more involved but they can also explain better what they want to use the money for as they have more insight in the exact intend of the committees, therefore when questions are asked they can answer them more suitably than I would have been able to. Therefore I think this worked out very well and would recommend it for future GA's.

#### **5. Book Sale**

The webshop StudyStore is offering has lead to quite some problems this semester, books were not delivered on time and orders were lost. We feel the UCM community has lost faith in this system, which can also be seen by the number of orders place on the webshop. Therefore we started looking at alternatives. Dominicanen has proposed a deal, where they would sell the UCM study books in their store for the same discount as we get at StudyStore. The only problem we've encountered is the fact that we still have a contract with StudyStore till the end of next year. Therefore it will be up to the new board to make the changes in the book sales.

The second hand book sale has been okay. I have been trying to determine which books are outdated to make sure the book sale is as up to date as possible. Furthermore I have been taking down email addresses or bank account details from the people who have been handing in books to

make it easier to track them down and reimburse them when their books get sold. The second hand book sale could use some more promotion so people hand in their books with us so we can offer more books to potential buyers as we often have had to tell people we are 'sold out' for certain books.

## **6. Merchandise**

We decided to expand our merchandise with some new stuff and I think in general the system where we order them for people works really well. You don't have the large stock issues that some previous reports talk about anymore and people seem happy with the merchandise.

## **7. Summer Week**

I was part of the summer week team as we split the board in two divided over summer week and the 12.5 anniversary event. Initially committees seemed very happy to do things during summer week and we kind of relied on the fact that they would therefore also organize it. This was a big mistake, we should have kept in touch more and asked them how the organizing was going as a lot of the activities that were planned did not happen in the end as the committees told us last minute that they were unable to do it.

Tip for next year therefore is keep checking with the committees whether they are actually organizing the things they say they are organizing, this actually goes not only for summer week but for the whole semester in general as a lot of the plans that were presented in the beginning of the semester did not end up happening either.

The board event during the summer week, the summer soiree, was organized, but we needed a change of plans for the 12.5 event due to the weather so we ended up combining them, and that actually worked out rather well.

## **8. Transition**

The transition period went very well I think. I've had several individual meetings with Suzanne and I think she is well enough prepared to do a good job next year. Looking back on what I could have improved as a tip for next

year is probably talk less and show more. I think I said a lot of key information that might have registered better if I would have showed it at the same time. Suzanne knows she can ask me anything anytime, so I am sure it will work out in the end.

## **9. Active Members Night**

The last thing I organised for this year was the active member's night. Initially I tried to set up an excursion with Hoeve Nekum, however, they did not reply to anything, not even direct calls, therefore we ended up going to the Apostelhoeve which was a bit more expensive, but we did stay within budget so I do not see that as a problem.

The active member's night itself was really nice, and I hope that it helped to keep the active members of this year motivated to stay active next year as well.

I have really enjoyed this past year as part of the Universalis board. It feels really good to do something back for the amazing UCM community. I hope the money has been spent to everyone's satisfaction and that you have enjoyed the events that did end up happening, I certainly did.

For personal feedback or questions, please contact me via [lian.swinkels@student.maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:lian.swinkels@student.maastrichtuniversity.nl). For general question you can also contact my successor Suzanne Nusselder via [treasurer@ucmuniversalis.com](mailto:treasurer@ucmuniversalis.com) or [universalis-treas@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:universalis-treas@maastrichtuniversity.nl).

# INTERNAL EXECUTIVE

General Promotion, Gastronomy Society, Sports Committee,  
Society of Feminisms, Dance Committee, The Bell, Summer Week  
(Elena Klaas)

## 1. General

The second half of my year in the Universalis board as the Internal Executive was very pleasant and a lot of fun in general. Although all of us, including me, were slightly unmotivated and stressed from time to time, overall, we still pursued our tasks with joy and put in effort as much as we could. Moreover, as the tasks were now divided more clearly, we were able to avoid any confusion and all knew what our position entailed. Finally, and most importantly, our team work improved significantly and we grew into a board that was able to work together perfectly. This led to not only a nice atmosphere in all meetings, but also to a wonderful semester where I gained close friends that will surely stay with me for the time after Universalis and UCM-

## 2. Committees

When Emma Bergmans was elected as the new Social Executive, and Lucia van der Meulen moved to work as Universalis' Secretary, we decided to give Emma Lucia's committees. We thought it would be best if the committee boards of Janine and my committees do not have to get used to a new contact partner. Thus, my committees remained the Gastronomy Society, Feminisms Society, the Sports Committee, the Dance Committee and the Bell. The Gastronomy Society was not very active during the biggest part of the semester, due to problems with electing a new board. However, Reinier Hoon decided to be the new Chair of the Society as soon as he got back from his semester abroad by the end of Period 5. As a result, the society was able to organize a Wine Trip to the Alsace in Project Period, which was a great success. The Sports Committee kept up the UCM Sports Practices and was able to create teams for all the sports disciplines in this year's Inter-UC tournament. The tournament was a lot of fun and the Ucm sports teams did

fairly well in many disciplines; especially Women's Football, Basketball and Volleyball. However, the committee was not able to organize any events apart from the weekly sports practices. The dance committee experienced a surprising revival under new chair Frederike Bauer and after intensive practices was able to gain 4th place in the UCSRN Tournament. Just like last semester, the Feminisms Society was a very independent and active committee that organized many meetings and events throughout the semester. A highlight was their lecture evening in project period, which was very popular with many students. Finally, the Bell launched another two editions of their magazine which kept up with the quality of articles and a wide arrange of topics. The editions were accompanied by two launch parties that were appreciated by the students. Moreover, old Chair Finn O'Neill did a great job finding a new board and handing over the magazine to equally competent people.

Overall, committee work was not always easy but most of the committees did a great job in executing what they planned to do in the smelter reports. However, I would strongly suggest that executives keep up the communication and motivation of committee boards as much as possible.

### **3 Management Team**

Being a member of the Management Team was a continuous joy and one of my favorite tasks as internal executive. After Harm Hospers resigned as dean of UCM, Teun Dekker stepped in as acting dean and thus leader of these meetings. Throughout the semester, we discussed regular issues such as graduation, grade deadlines and admission figures, as well as updates from the Social Board and the Academic Council. Moreover, PINE's budget and report was discusse extensively, as well as the procedure for the applicants for the new dean positions. The 2 most promising applicants were introduced in an additional MT meeting, which again shows how much value UCM puts to the opinion of their students.

### **4 Posters and Website**

As mentioned in the last report, making the posters required a lot of time and effort in the beginning, however, I got used to working with Photoshop and am now certainly faster in creating a poster. Since we did not have a lecture series this semester, I had less posters to design but tried and make special ones for our big events such as the Gala and the Courtyard Festival.

While I updated the website with new important documents, new Bell editions and merchandise, I was not able to do as much as I hoped to as we did not have many pictures taken throughout the semester that I could put on the website. As a result, for next year I strongly suggest taking as many pictures as possible at events in order to keep the website up to date and interesting.

## **5 Courtyard Festival**

The Courtyard festival was our final, and biggest event, this semester. It took place in the Universalis Summer Week and was held in order to celebrate Universalis' 12,5 year anniversary. After having discussed with the MT, we were allowed to have the building open until 1am, which meant we had an extra 1,5 hours to celebrate. As a result, we had one band and two DJs perform throughout the evening which was much appreciated. Moreover, in order to make the event more special than normal ones, we decided to sell two kinds of wine-based cocktails and tapped beer instead of bottles. Finally, we also offered candy cotton, popcorn, fries and borrelhappjes to the students, all of which were very popular. All in all, the event was very successful and a perfect way to end our year as the Universalis Board of Spring 2015.

## **6. Final Remarks**

Finally, I would like to thank the board for this amazing year that we were lucky enough to spend together. We had a lot of ups, but also some downs, but we were always able to resolve everything, work together as a team and certainly be proud of all we achieved this year!

# EXTERNAL EXECUTIVE

UCSRN, partnerships and sponsors, Charity, Excursion, Gecco,  
Party Committee and Chess Committee.

(Janine de Jong)

This semester I carried on with my role as external executive, with my responsibilities as external contact, UCSRN representative and committee contact person. Overall it has been a very good, though sometimes rather busy, year. We said goodbye to Anne Lycia, our secretary, and welcomed Emma as our new social executive. Though seeing Anne Lycia go was sad we couldn't have wished for a better new member to bring in new energy and enthusiasm to make sure this semester was as good, if not better, than the last! Highlights for this semester include the UCSRN tournament, passing the UCSRN statutes, the Cantus, Summer Week, the Courtyard Festival, and on a more personal note – graduating!

## 1. UCSRN

This year was very successful for the UCSRN. The statutes were officially passed and we are now a registered organisation. The process to get here took many long meetings, even longer GA's and much discussion. As such, it was a great relief and triumph to have them officially passed both by the UCSRN summit as well as the individual UC's. This gave us the opportunity to hold the very first UCSRN GA on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June at UCU. During the GA the new executive board was elected, and we reflected on the year. This was followed by a discussion session for the social and academic boards and the first in person meeting with the new UCSRN board.

My role in the UCSRN this year has been social chair. This means I function as the go-between for the social committee and the executive board, as well as general chairing responsibilities like planning and leading meetings and ensuring that everyone does the required tasks. With the executive board I have been busy editing and finishing the writing of the statutes, while the social committee organised the UCSRN tournament. The last month or so both the board and the committee have been busy with

transitioning and reflecting on the past year, and working to compose a board book for the new UCSRN board, as we did not previously have one.

The tournament took place at AUC on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. Overall it was a huge success. Though the lead up to the tournament was extremely busy and tiring, it was well worth it as we completely filled our 80 person quota for UCM, and we had a team or person for every activity aside from the Mascott competition. Though we may have tied for last place with EUC, the quality of our teams was very good and I was extremely proud! It helped to have the UCM sports on Fridays, as a lot of the teams had the chance to practice and play with each other before the tournament came around. From an organisational perspective everything during the day and at the party also went very well. The schedule was kept to (mostly), nearly every student who wanted a sleeping place was provided with one, there were no major incidents during the event, everyone knew what was happening when and could answer questions and just the overall running went very smoothly. A big thanks to AUC and tournament team for their great planning and help during the event! For next year some improvements that came out of the evaluations and questionnaires were more transparent judging, and redistribution of the guidelines for the tournament to the UCSRN, who should finalise the guidelines sooner and then stick to these.

It was noticeable that the motivation within the social committee dropped after the tournament was done. There was no longer anything to work towards, aside from reflections, and a lot of the committee members – such as myself – had to write their capstones. Next year it would be nice for the social committee to think about non-event organisation, such as organising forums for the UCs or boards to discuss issues they are facing within their own UC and how this is handled elsewhere. All in all it has been a pleasure to work with the UCSRN and I am very proud of what we achieved!

## **2. Committees**

The committees I have been working this semester are Charity, Exco, Gecco, Party and Chess.

Charity has worked very hard and put together some great events this year, and this semester they really outdid themselves. The charity that was chosen for the spring semester was 'Ngari Himalaya', which supports a school in the Himalayas in Tibet. With waffle Wednesdays, a Tibetan Culture Night attended by a Tibetan refugee and a holy llama, murder mystery night, Valentines cookies, Bake sales and Bonfire night (with smores!) the committee raised a whopping €1,842.83! Communication with the committee has been good, the Chair responds quickly and thoroughly and the meetings I have attended have been well-attended. It's also nice to see some new first years involved in the committee. However, I also noticed and heard that a small group in the committee was doing the majority of the work, and it would be nice to see some more people offer to help out with for instance waffle Wednesdays. Exco also had a very productive year. The Chair is very onto it, and the committee works well! There were some issues this semester with the contributions of a committee member but after talking it over with the person in question this was remedied. They organised Laser Tag, the Brussels trip together with Politics, Beer Tasting, Travel Monopoly, the BCT and Hitch Hiking! They also have some first years involved in the committee, which is nice to see. This semester Gecco has been focussing mainly on writing the student code of conduct and opening a dialogue about the sustainability of UCM. With fair Friday they also organised the ice cream sale during summer week, always a lovely treat. Chess committee started this semester, and the common room has been full of chess games since! It is great to see people getting involved in their tournament! Party committee unfortunately could not find anyone willing to participate in the committee and help organise new parties, despite the Chair's and my efforts. This is of course disappointing as the Party committee has always been a central part of UCM and I hope to see it revived next year.

However, finding willing and committed members for any committees has been a struggle this year, and especially involving first years students has proved hard. This is something we have struggled with all year as board, and we are still not sure how to remedy. Hopefully the new board has more success!

### **3. Partnerships and sponsorships**

The partnership with Café Forum has gone well this year, the drinks have all been well attended and Café Forum has enjoyed hosting us! Aside from the usual Beginning of Period Drinks and midterm recovery drinks we also introduced a new event: Vrij-mi-bo, or Friday afternoon drinks with bitterballen! This was really nice, and shows how willing Café Forum is in helping us organise new events. Definitely something to keep in mind for next year. Aside from Café Forum and the drinks I did not spend much time on partnerships and sponsorships this year, as we did not consider it a priority with the increased budget and also because time-wise it was too much.

### **4. Other Events**

Aside from my usual tasks this semester I also helped Emma organise the Cantus, and organised Summer week with Emma and Lian. The Cantus was a huge success, it was a lot of fun and the participants were very enthusiastic. Together with Lucia I was the praesidium, which was mildly terrifying but turned out to be rather enjoyable. Definitely worth repeating next year! Summer week was a little more difficult, it was hard to motivate all the committees to participate and organise an event and several committees pulled out and cancelled their events last minute and we had some weather issues. Thus we did not have as many events as we would have liked. However, I think the combined summer soiree and courtyard festival more than made up for it!

### **5. Final Notes**

All in all this year has been very, very enjoyable and I am really grateful I got the chance to be in the board! There were some speedbumps in the road with my health and also with trying to combine Capstone, my courses, and the board but with the help of my fellow board members it went very well. I could not have made it through the year without them, and I know that next year I'm going to miss our meetings and 'geze

# **SOCIAL EXECUTIVE**

Intro Days, Merchandise, Social Media, Active members night, Shelter City Committee, Arts and Photo Society, Music Committee, Politics Society, Theatre Society and Book Club.

(Emma Bergmans)

When the position of social executive opened up in January of 2015, I decided to apply and hopefully become part of the Universalis Board. Luckily, this was successful! After my return from my semester abroad in South Africa, I was afraid life at UCM would be a bit dull. On the contrary though, I learned a lot this semester and I had a great time with the five other lovely ladies in the spring 2015 board. I will briefly explain what I have done the past semester in terms of Universalis work. Although my position is assigned to organize the intro days, this has not been one of my tasks as I only became part of the board in mid-January. Lucia had then already organized most of the intro days activities.

## **1. Merchandise**

Keeping in contact with our merchandise company was a bit frustrating and difficult at times. Our contact person at 'we produce' is not the best at communicating and I often had to send many emails in order for him to answer my questions. However, I did manage to expand the merchandise with a sports collection, new sweatpants and a tote bag. Especially the tote bag was very popular at our last merchandise sale in June. In terms of the sport clothes, we will have to see how it works out and how many people actually order it. The new sweatpants are better as the last ones, but they are still quite big. We had quite some merchandise sales this semester which were very well visited by UCM students. This way they could actually try on the merchandise before ordering it. Finally, I bought a standing mirror for in the board room so that people can actually see themselves when trying on our merchandise.

## **2. Committees**

I took over the committees that Lucia had in the Fall semester. Unfortunately, most of them were not too active. Although the Theatre society showed a lot of initiative in the beginning of the semester, this faded a bit due to UCM deadlines, other priorities, and a low interest in general. Therefore, there was unfortunately neither a spring play nor a movie. The arts and photo society did several activities this semester such as body painting, decorations for open mic nights, and they also arranged a photography workshop in the final project period. Although the committee was not super active, it was very nice to see that their chair, Freya, put a lot of effort into it and managed to do several nice events! The book club had several meetings the past semester with people interested in the books they were reading. Although they did not create any big events, I believe they did function well the past semester and the committee members enjoyed their meetings. The music committee hosted quite some events this semester and they were popular among students, especially the open mic nights. Communication with the committee did not run as smoothly as I hoped and they were not always prepared for the events (e.g. getting food and drinks). The politics society had completely disappeared in the fall semester, but luckily I found a new committee board in January. They did a great job at reviving the committee and they hosted several nice events such as pub politics, a EuroMUN delegation, and a trip to Brussels. However, communication within their board did not always run smoothly. As a final note, I feel like some of the committee boards did not quite understand their role and tasks, so I think it would be useful to have a committee board meeting at the beginning of every semester to explain everything.

### **3. Facebook**

In the past semester, I tried to make Universalis more active and efficient on social media. Making several Facebook posts a day works counterproductive as it reduces the amount of people who see the post. However, this was sometimes difficult to control as all the board members are admins of the FB page and the communication about this was not always optimal. Nonetheless, we got quite some additional likes on the FB page in general

and many of the posts were very well seen and responded to. Especially pictures in which people are tagged did well. Moreover, we posted more pictures of events on Facebook and the website (such as inter-uc, gala, and the courtyard festival).

#### **4. Active Members Night**

Even though I only arrived in the board in mid-January, I was given the task of organizing the active members night for the Fall semester. We went to dinner at Donatello's. Although not so many people showed up, it was a fun night and people who were there enjoyed it. For the spring semester active members night we organized a wine tasting. Less than half of the active members actually signed up so that was a pity. However, I think the active member nights are still very important to show committee members appreciation for what they do.

#### **5. Other events**

As I decided not to do my capstone in combination with the board position, I had quite some time I could spend on Universalis. I therefore decided to take on more responsibilities besides my set tasks. As committees were not too active this year, we as a board organized several bigger events. We tried out some different events that had never been hosted before such as the Cantus and the Vrij-mi-bo. They both worked out really well and we got many positive remarks about them. I enjoyed taking responsibility for these events and improving my organization skills. Furthermore, I was part of the gala team with a great bunch of people. It was quite stressful at times, but the gala was very popular and successful in the end! Finally, I was responsible for organizing the summer week together with Janine and Lian. The week turned out to be quite stressful. Due to the bad weather, the summer soiree and the courtyard festival had to be combined on one day and everything that we had arranged needed to change to Wednesday. Nonetheless, everything worked out well in the end and it was a great night. Furthermore, many of the committees cancelled their events last minute. This really was a pity and I hope that the committees will be more active next year.

### *Shelter City Committee*

In February, Richard Nimubona, a human rights activist from Burundi, came to stay in Maastricht for three months. He had a desk in the board room and worked closely with UCM. I was the chair of the shelter city committee that was set up to make him feel at home. This was quite frustrating at times, because the whole program was very unorganized and it felt like we, as students, had the majority of the responsibility. After talking to the staff about this however, it got a bit better. Nonetheless, the municipality and the NGO responsible for the shelter city project were not very active in making Richard feel comfortable in Maastricht. Moreover, we encountered some cultural problems as Richard made several inappropriate comments towards students. When I contacted Mark Stout about this however, he responded very well to the situation and had a talk with him. For upcoming human rights activist coming to UCM, I hope the other parties engaged with this project will be more active.

### **6. Final Remarks**

With me entering the board in the second semester, I had some challenges, especially in the beginning. I just started and had a ton of energy and motivation while the others were a bit worn out and de-motivated at times. However, we discussed this several times and I think it got better throughout the semester. Nonetheless, I believe it is quite valuable for the organization to have one or two new people enter the board in the second semester. As I have already stressed, this semester has been more than great! Although we encountered several difficulties, I think we overcame them and learned a lot from it. More importantly, I believe I made five new very good friends this semester. Cheers to many more Universalis years!

# ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Laura Rahmeier (President/Secretary, MT), Thomas Verbeek (Treasurer), Geke Hasperhove (UCSRN), Deborah Koll (AC Events), Sean Trümmer (Student Communications)

## 1. Finances

As Universalis got allocated extra budget, the Academic Council was also entitled to a larger budget. This budget shifted up from €500 to €650. As a result of this enlarged budget we were able to organise two excursions as part of our big event on medicine. However, as a result of unfortunate order of events, a dense schedule, and not sufficient opportunities to really go anywhere we had to cancel this. This wasn't expected, and therefore we have quite a lot of budget left. Nevertheless, if next year we can find interesting places to go to as an excursion, and be allowed for, this will definitely be a large part of the costs as well.

The rest of the expenses all were conducted as planned for. As the excursion was cancelled we were even able to finance the trip to Freiburg largely, which was very much appreciated by the attendees. The next treasurer of the Academic Council has already been instructed, and we are confident that she will do a great job.

## 2. Big Event June

During restructuring in fall 2014 the Academic Council decided to organize a series of smaller events under an overarching umbrella term in order to cover different aspects of a certain topic. The topic "Law, Ethics and Science of Pharmaceutical Drug Development" for this semester's Big Event was democratically chosen by the UCM community. The general event took place within the project period in June 2015 and consisted of three lectures, one discussion round and one workshop. Originally, it was planned to additionally organize an excursion but due to difficulties finding an interesting destination related to the topic, this idea was not realized. However, for future Big Events excursions are still favored. We paid attention to the fact that all events addressed the overall topic of pharmaceutical drug development but differed

by focusing on either law, ethics, science or a combination of some of these. The first lecture was a science lecture given by Dr. Jos Prickaerts and João Casaca-Carreira from the faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Science (FHML), Maastricht. The researchers elaborated on the clinical trials of drug development and the relationship between science and industry. The second lecture by Prof. Dr. David Townend (FHML) covered the aspect of law within pharmaceutical drug development. The third event was a discussion round led by Dr. med Christiane Fischer from the German National Ethics Council. The discussion focused on corruption in health care and medicine and therefore covered an ethical aspect of the overall topic. Also from the German National Ethics Council, Prof. Dr. Ludwig Siep (University of Münster) gave an ethics lecture on the problem of drug development with regard to developing countries. The last event was a workshop organized and conducted by the student organization Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM). The workshop combined all aspects of law, ethics and science with regard to pharmaceutical drug development by applying it to different cases of neglected diseases. However, in general the low turnout at all events was remarkable. This might be due to the nice weather outside and the number and variation of other events going on during project period in June. Generally, students were very interested in the events which was confirmed by several comments and the high popularity of the events on Facebook. The general format of having one umbrella topic for which several smaller events are organized seems to be suitable still. It might be though to organize the Big Event earlier in the academic year while less events are organized in general. For evaluative reasons, feedback from students will be asked for.

### **3. Mentor Program**

Due to positive feedback from previous years, the mentor program was again organized for fall 2015. In order to simplify the process, the Academic Council took over this task alone instead of doing it in cooperation with the social board. This was useful because in that way once person was in charge who had the overview and whom students could directly approach with their

questions. During the project period in June, UCM students could sign up for being Mentor, an information session took place and the program was promoted among freshmen and exchange students. A high turnout rate on all levels within a short amount of time indicated the enthusiasm about the program. Additionally, a semester plan of compulsory meetings for the fall semester was created and communicated to future mentors. The next steps involve the distribution of freshmen into groups, ensuring possibilities to sign up during introduction days and keeping contact to mentors.

#### **4. Graduation**

The graduation committee of summer 2015 did not request any help by the Academic Council.

#### **5. Freshmen initiative**

In spring 2015 the Academic Council started a new initiative based on the observation that prospective freshmen of UCM struggle with deciding for courses of their first period. In order to support them by giving a student point of view, we offered future freshmen to send us an email asking questions about the usefulness, feasibility and combination of certain courses within the first period. Due to several students approaching us with specific questions, the initiative can be evaluated positively and should be proceeded in the future.

#### **6. High Tea**

At the end of February 2015 we hosted a high tea concerning the possibility of integrating internships into the UCM curriculum. The high tea was organized in cooperation with Inge Römgens, who had only shortly before been hired to research whether it would be beneficial for UCM students to receive time and ECTS for taking a internships and how this could be practically implemented. We had a great student turnout, who many of enthusiastically discussed this controversial topic. In addition, we had many filled out a brief survey to collect data on opinions, arguments and motivations regarding 'internships at UCM.'

Our second high tea of the semester at the beginning of June 2015 revolved around the question as when grade-orientedness of students is beneficial and when it has detrimental effects, not only on individual students, but also on the entire learning environment at UCM. Unlike other high teas in the past year, this one was co-hosted by UCM's Board of Studies. Unfortunately students were not as well represented as the UCM staff. In spite of this inconvenience we had a fruitful discussion leading to a report, which will serve as a base for future endeavors (e.g. a PEERS project) concerning this topic.

## **7. Freiburg**

This cooperation currently consists of annual visits of students of both colleges. In spring UCF students visit UCM and in summer UCM students go on their return visit. During the last visit in March 2015, we discussed the possibility of extending our cooperation to a new project. After a discussion, we settled on joining forces for a journal. As a start, Freiburg students are thought to have a section in the Bell, while Freiburg will first establish an online journal which UCM students can contribute to. However, due to semester holidays in Germany, nothing was organized on their side yet. We hope that during the course of this or next semester, UCF can set up their own magazine so that we can start cooperating in this way.

In addition, in 2015 a hitchhiking trip was organized by EXCO in cooperation with us. Interested students could hitchhike to Freiburg and then participate in our program. While many students initially signed up for this, we received a lot of cancellations right before the trip. This was very unfortunate and could be avoided by attaching a fee to sign-up, like buying the tickets right after registration so that students are more inclined to go. Nevertheless, those 10 people that went to Freiburg in the end had a great time.

## **8. Board of Studies**

The Board of Studies is an independent advisory body of the dean. It analyses the course evaluations and acts upon those issues that need our

attention. This year again many constructive conversations have emerged for the improvement of courses. We, the entire Board of Studies, have been able to engage in meaningful debate with course-coordinators, UCM staff, and students to address issues with particular courses. Many of these issues are now resolved, and the few outstanding problems are monitored at the moment.

Furthermore, the board is now undergoing a change of its members. The current chair is resigning after many years of service, as well as another board member. Although resentful to lose their experience, the Academic Council is confident that their successors are able to carry out the task excellently. The new student representatives are looking forward to expand upon the effort of this year, and we are fully confident, as the old board, that they will do a splendid job.

## **9. Peer reviews**

As a recurring event over the years and during the year the Academic Council organizes peer reviews. This allows students to review each other's paper by supporting each other in finding a thesis, analyzing trains of thought, and giving feedback on already written pieces. As expected, the turn out for the peer reviews was lower than in the first semester, as a result of less freshmen commencing in this period.

Unfortunately, there was no option to organize the much appreciated lecture of the 'UCM writing guru' as a result of personal reasons. However, we certainly hope that the next board will cooperate with him/her again to help freshmen structure their writing. To conclude, we are happy to provide the students with this forum to interchange their work, and will remain to keep this as an event for next years.

## **10. Management Team**

The Academic Council was also represented in the UCM Management Team in the past semester, updating everyone on what was going on in the academic community and representing students' opinions on the discussed issues.

## 11. UCSRN

At the beginning of the semester the academic committee of UCSRN organised an academic conference. It was organised around the investigation of our role as students in society. Although it was planned very inconveniently for UCM students and not many attended, the conference was a success and will be organized again next year.

A start is made to the 'UCSRN visions' that will be the leading document of the academic committee in the coming years. The next academic committee will need to proceed with the efforts of the current team. Although every member of the academic committee was positive about setting up the vision document, little action was undertaken after all. This was partially because it was not entirely clear what the document had to look like, and partially because most members seemed to have a preference for organising events rather than writing documents. The fact that we only met very few times, and always via skype, has also contributed to the inaction. Luckily brainstorm sessions were held and the new board is informed on the purpose of the visions.

Next to this, the UCSRN statutes were finalised, which resulted in the possibility for the official establishing of the UCSRN. The document was started in September and after many rounds of questions and adaptations, it was finally accepted.

The social committee of the UCSRN has organised the UCSRN tournament, at which the academic board members assisted.