

VISION

2021 – 2022

AMSTERDAM HONOURS
STUDENT COUNCIL

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1. INCREASING THE VISIBILITY OF THE AHSC

This year the council will be continuing its pursuit in increasing the visibility of the AHSC in order to become more effective and approachable.

- We will try to increase our social media presence with Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn. A few examples of how we want to increase our social media presence:
 - Organize takeovers with Honours students;
 - Arrange social media shoutouts to promote the AHSC.
- Revamp the image of the AHSC to make us look more approachable and thus more visible:
 - Change the name (at the moment the name is still too vague);
 - Update the logo.
- Create a recognizable image (e.g. every post uses the same colours).
- Develop a monthly newsletter.
- Establish ourselves as the formal side of Extensus.
- Use the faculty representatives to make the AHSC more known.

2. INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY OF THE AHSC AND FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

In line with increasing visibility, we hope to also make the AHSC and the Faculty Representatives more accessible to current Honours students and those that are interested in joining the Honours Programme. By increasing accessibility, we hope to receive constant feedback throughout the year regarding the Honours Programme so that we can actively make relevant changes that benefit current students.

- The AHSC and Honours Faculty Representatives will be present at all Honours Programme related events.
- Organize a (monthly) consultation hour (digital/in-person) where Honours students can visit us to talk about everything regarding the Honours Programme. During this consultation hour, non-honours students can also join to get information about the Honours Programme.
- Publicly introduce the role of the AHSC and encourage Honours students to communicate with us about issues and questions regarding the Honours Programme.
 - Ask responsible individuals at the UvA and the VU to send out emails to all Honours students introducing the AHSC and Honours Faculty Representatives.
 - Ask the Honours Faculty Representatives to talk about the AHSC at the beginning of every Honours course.
 - Ask Extensus to promote us more.

3. INCREASING THE ROLE OF THE HONOURS FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

In previous years we believe that the Faculty Representatives were underutilised. That is why we want to change the role of the Faculty Representatives this year. This year we want the Faculty Representatives to play an active part in seeking out contact to Honours students. Moreover, we want the Faculty Representatives to ensure that all the relevant information about the Honours Programme reaches all the Honours students.

- We want Honours Faculty Representatives to establish three communication platforms with Honours students from their faculty through email, WhatsApp (creating a group chat), and Canvas.
- In these communication platforms, Honours Faculty Representatives should send regular updates about the Honours Programme and AHSC to all the Honours students from the faculty they are responsible for.
- Honours Faculty Representatives will be tasked with organizing a focus group at least once during the academic year to discuss the quality and evaluate the HP.
- We want the Honours Faculty Representatives to update us regularly. This means we want to meet up with the Honours Faculty Representatives at least once a month.

4. INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY OF HONOURS PROGRAMME INFORMATION TO AID STUDENTS

In line with increasing the accessibility of the AHSC and the Faculty Representatives, we also want to increase the accessibility of Honours Programme information. We are of the belief that information regarding the Honours Programme is currently too scattered between two websites (the VU & UvA website) which makes it hard for students to find specific information about the Honours Programme. That is why we want to create one place where all the information on the Honours Programme is accessible. We want to achieve this goal by doing the following:

- Develop a website that will contain all the information about the Honours Programme of the VU & UvA (or support the creation of the honours website that is already being worked on by the VU honours committee). On this website, we want to make a “FAQ” section (focussing especially on prospective and new Honours students).

5. PURSUING BETTER COOPERATION WITH IMPORTANT PARTIES

Like the previous councils before us, we want to improve the contact between the VU and UvA. Moreover, this year's council wants to establish contact with other important parties. We want to achieve these goals by doing the following:

- Reach out to all coordinators at the UvA and ask for their cooperation, establish ongoing communication between the AHSC and the coordinators.
 - Request for updates on incorrect information on VU and UvA websites for each degree program.
 - Ensure clearer information on the VU and UvA websites.
- Make a UvA contact person sheet.
- Have the AHSC play a more active decision-making role at the UvA (find concrete ways to achieve this).
- Strengthen the ties between Extensus and the AHSC by collaborating more with them.
- Collaborate with the Evaluation Committee IIS Honours Courses (UvA).
- Look into collaborating with the AUC student council.
- Work together with the USR (VU) & CSR (UvA).

6. TRANSITION

The AHSC of the year 2021-2022 aims to make the transition procedure as efficient and smooth as possible for the next council. To make this happen we want to achieve the following:

- Establish a durable transition procedure and see it through.
 - Make an up-to-date transition document.
 - Training the new council through a series of group and individual meetings.
- Establish annual goals each council after us has to achieve during their board year.