

# VISION

## 2022 – 2023

AMSTERDAM HONOURS  
STUDENT COUNCIL

# Table of contents

1. Increasing the visibility of the AHSC
2. Increasing accessibility of the AHSC and Faculty Representatives
3. Preserving the role of the Honours Faculty Representatives
4. Exploring and pursuing possible restructuring of the Honours programme to better suit student's needs
5. Accountability and transition

## 1. Increasing the visibility of the AHSC

The council will continue the positive trend of increasing the visibility of AHSC in order to become more approachable, as well as establishing ourselves in the university consciousness as the formal representatives of Honours students interests.

- o Keep up and expand social presence with Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn, for instance:
  - Presenting the Board on Instagram
  - Informing students about recent developments through Instagram posts
  - Collaborate with relevant parties who could promote our organization
  - Explore other platforms and options to make ourselves known (posters)
- o Continue the branding of last year, codify it to create a trademark.
- o Send out a monthly newsletter, this is done in combination with Extensius.
- o Promoting the AHSC through faculty representatives by organizing short presentations within important Honours events, most notably the try-out classes and Honours classes

## 2. Increasing accessibility of the AHSC and Faculty Representatives

This point is closely intertwined with the first, our goal is to make ourselves the connection between the needs of the students and the possibilities of the Honours programme, as well as mediating with important stakeholders within the Honours community. Eliminating the disconnect will be done through keeping up direct communication with students and getting new information, both through the Faculty Representatives.

- o The AHSC and Honours Faculty Representatives will be present at all important Honours Programme events.
- o Organize a consultation hour every month, which students can visit and talk to us regarding the Honours programme. Both Honours and non-Honours students are invited to join. Different board members would be responsible for different months.
- o Continue cooperation with those stakeholders which can promote us throughout the faculties.
  - Cooperate with responsible individuals at the UvA and the VU to use Canvas and email to send out beginning of the year messages describing the AHSC and Faculty Representatives.
  - Contact Honours course professors and organize presentations promoting AHSC at the beginning of selected courses, Faculty representatives when possible, Board Members at the beginning of the year.
  - Collaborate with Extensus/USR/CSR to promote the AHSC within their social channels.
- o Inform ourselves about faculties in which the Honours programme does not reach its potential and improve the situation through direct contact with their leadership.

### 3. Preserving the role of the Honours Faculty Representatives

Thanks to the efforts of the previous board, the position of a Faculty Representative had been substantially reimagined. They have now become much more active members of the Honours community, providing direct contact between the faculties, their students and the AHSC as a whole. We want to keep this level of engagement throughout this year.

- o Start the information campaign for recruitment before the beginning of the academic year and have Representatives recruited by the end of September.
- o Keep the Honours Faculty Representatives communication role through WhatsApp, email and Canvas.
- o Honours Faculty Representatives keep sending regular updates about the Honours Programme and AHSC.
- o Organization of a focus group through the Representatives, at least once a year but ideally more often.
- o Improving further the communication between Representatives and the AHSC.

## 4. Exploring and pursuing possible restructuring of the Honours programme to better suit student's needs

There had been substantial improvement in the way the AHSC and the Honours programme work over the previous years. This however does not mean that it cannot be improved further and we would like to first explore and then develop possible innovations to it. These improvements mainly revolve around asymmetric information problems, as students usually get frustrated with the Honours programme after receiving partial or misleading information about the course. This part of our vision presents possible projects, which would have to be first communicated with the relevant parties before they can be established. As such, it is a more theoretical part of the vision and not binding.

- o Contact the faculties of UvA which have as of yet not created their separate Honours programme page on Canvas and establish it.
- o Develop direct feedback for Honours courses. Evaluation forms are common, but these are usually of the quantitative (1-10) rather than descriptive nature. Our goal is to contact the relevant parties within the Honours course and develop a descriptive category of the evaluation forms. Here students would be able to share their closer thoughts, the precise structure and overall impression in words rather than numbers.
- o Explore other possibilities of selecting Honours courses. We've recently witnessed updates to the course registration in the form of Glass. Updates could be made to the Honours registration as well. We would utilize the results of the evaluation report of the year 2021-22 whether changes to the selection process are desired. Increasing transparency in the selection process had been an usual desire of current Honours students.

## 5. Accountability and Transition

Organizations such as ours often run into the problem of lacking incentives to push through with their goals. We want to remedy those problems with increased accountability. To achieve that, we will:

- o Establish an end-of-the-year Report in which the goals and achievements of AHSC will be compared
- o Finish this Report by the end of the academic year and make it publicly accessible

Transition is what makes or breaks student-led initiatives. We want to make this process a cornerstone of the association. We will achieve this with the following:

- o Update the transition document before the end of the Academic Year
- o Brief the upcoming board through personal & group meetings, as well as being available to help when problems arise