

# POLICY PLAN

AUC Student Council 2022-23



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# INTRODUCTION



Dear Reader,

It is our pleasure to share the Policy Plan of the AUC Student Council (AUCSC) for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The Student Council functions as an intermediary body between AUC students and administration, working equally with both parties to ensure a beneficial experience at AUC. In detailing and publishing our Policy Plan, we wish to increase transparency and clarify the Student Council's aims for the year. This, in turn, means we are held accountable for these aims by the student body.

The Policy Plan outlines our aims for this year, which we believe best reflect the student's interests. In addition to the plan's overarching sections, we have chosen two central themes: flexibility and accessibility. We believe that both are essential to what we wish to accomplish and will focus on these themes through each of our aims.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, concerns or just for a conversation. We are grateful for your trust in us as your student representatives, and look forward to an amazing year ahead!

With love,  
Marcello, Gilda, Miriam, Lola, and Lexa

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Feel free to contact the members during office hours or around the academic building!

# MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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In a busy environment such as AUC, students may often, to various degrees, find themselves struggling. As student representatives, mental health and wellbeing is one of our primary focuses for our upcoming term, for which we plan to work closely with the Wellbeing Team at AUC.

## 1

### Mental Health Services and Resources

This year, we want to further the Student Council's collaborations with the Well-being Team to promote mental health services and resources available to students in the Netherlands. To do so, we aim to implement an annual revision cycle for the recently published Mental Health Guide, and establish regular meetings with the Well-being team to create more awareness for the mental health services available.

## 2

### Attendance Policy

Following on from last year's discussions, we want to make sure that the application of the current attendance policy is fair to all students, and that the concerns of students are communicated to AUC staff and management directly.

- a) We aim to establish more regular discussions between students and management over this policy, by expanding the number of events such as Voices of AUC, and facilitating further information sessions from management.
- b) We will explore the creation of a guide with the BoE that explains the procedure for students to receive accommodations from the policy.

## 3

### Continued Covid Response

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has been reassuringly easing up, and restrictions are completely lifted at the time of writing, we will continue to assess the situation throughout the year. If necessary, we will follow the efforts of the Student Council board of '21-'22 to advocate for fair accommodations, including student surveys.

Additionally, we want to ensure that online alternatives are kept available for students, in the case of a pandemic resurgence.

## 4

### Wellbeing in the Dorms

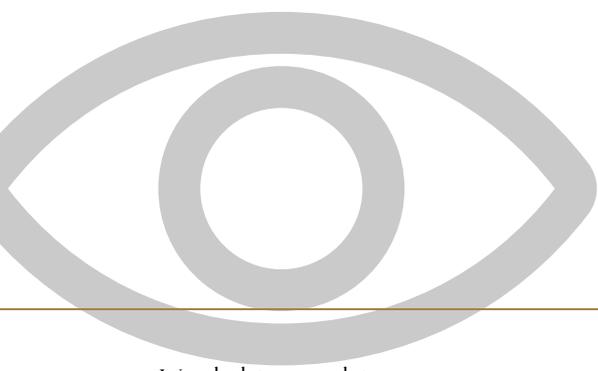
The dorms are an integral part to being an AUC student, and we want to focus on keeping them a safe space for everyone.

- a) By furthering our interaction with the Campus Commission and Resident Assistants, we want to help foster a positive dorm-life experience. Understanding that the dorms may generate difficult situations, we want to collaborate with Peer Support and the Student Life Officers to provide help and representation for those who may struggle in the dorms.
- b) Since the dorms are integral to AUC, we plan to continue the dorm tour, in order to strengthen the connection between AUC and its students, and give AUC's staff a chance to understand how students live. We would like to develop this further with the help of AUUSA and DUWO.

## 5

### Medical Corps

As this last year has highlighted, safety at social events is a priority for us. Therefore, this year we aim to explore the possibility of a medical corps with AUUSA and the group Our Bodies Our Voices. The student-led medical corps would be trained in first aid, and work together to ensure safety and responsiveness at larger occasions. The corps could be used at dorm events, as well as off campus events that are AUC- or AUUSA-organised.



# VISIBILITY

Visibility and transparency go hand in hand. Increased transparency and visibility will help to facilitate a greater understanding between staff, students and management. It will also help to clarify the Student Council's tasks, achievements and goals for the year, and encourage further engagement within the community.

## 1

### Internal Visibility

In order to represent the students of AUC in the best way possible, we believe that the Student Council should be more visible to AUC students and staff.

- a) We aim to increase our presence at various AUC events, in addition to our regular office hours twice per week. Through this, we want to clarify AUCSC's role within AUC to the students.
- b) We want to specifically focus on further promoting our Instagram account, and increasing student usage of the Student Council website and Canvas page, to ensure that we remain accessible to everyone.

## 2

### AUCSC Elections

Increasing the visibility of the Student Council will be important to conduct proper elections in the upcoming year. We believe that by promoting the application and election processes to students, we will ensure that all students' voices and concerns will continue to be represented within AUC.



# TRANSPARENCY

## 1

### Information on AUCSC Tasks

AUCSC is a student body that tends to work more behind the scenes at AUC, and students are often not informed about the entire scope of the council's work. We want to be even more transparent on all our platforms of communication, both online and offline, so that students are more aware of both the powers and responsibilities of the Student Council, and the resources available to them.

## 2

### Student Input

All students have their own ideas and expectations at AUC. We aim to further improve our response time and increase regular communication with AUC students, so that we can ensure we are truly representing the student community. Regular upkeep of our office hours and social media channels offer the students easier opportunities to reach us, and more clarity on our role within the community.

# ACADEMICS

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Making sure that all AUC students are satisfied with their academic life and course options remains a top priority for the Student Council.

## 1

### Expanding the Course Market

We aim to expand the course market further this year and increase student and lecturer participation. To do so, we want to open a discussion with the Heads of Studies about the format of the event, including adding more information about off-campus courses at the UvA and VU that are available to AUC students.

## 2

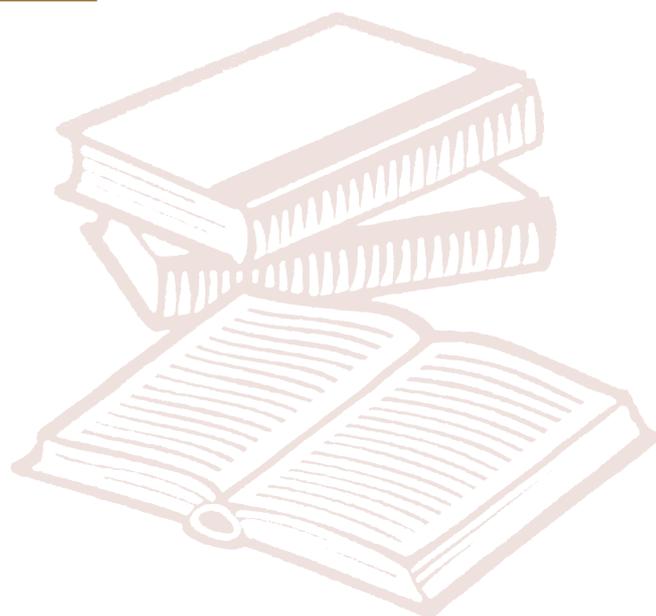
### Course Catalogue Accessibility

We believe that it is important for students to know what content they are signing up for prior to course registration, rather than once the semester has already started. Therefore, we aim to promote the use of the course catalogue, particularly to first-year students. We will additionally urge lecturers to regularly update course descriptions on the catalogue, and ensure that course manuals are detailed regarding course structure, content and assessment.

## 3

### Meeting Requirements for Postgraduate Programmes

We want to make sure students are meeting the curriculum requirements that they will need for future pathways following AUC. Therefore, we plan to create a resource that establishes some of the most common course requirements needed for graduate and master's programmes. Additionally, we will consistently voice the concerns of students to management regarding issues within the curriculum, particularly those that may affect AUC students' eligibility for master's degrees.



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# DIVERSITY

Diversity has been a main aspect of studying at AUC, but can always be improved upon. We plan to bring forth issues we have noticed at the college, while continuously voicing remarks and suggestions from other students to management.

## 1

### Destigmatising Menstruation: Free Menstrual Products for AUC Students

We aim to make menstrual products available for free in the Academic Building as a step towards the destigmatization of menstruation. In conjunction with the previous year, we are actively brainstorming ways to develop so. We would like to first create a trial in the ground floor bathroom of the AB early into the academic year.

2

### Diversification of Curriculum and AUC Experience

We want to make sure AUC is as diverse, accepting, and accommodating as possible, and thus, aim to continue the previous board's diversification initiative this year.

- a) We aim to discuss with the Head of Studies ways to include more non-Western content in the syllabus. This way, students can gain a variety of knowledge and experience through new ways of thinking.
- b) We want to encourage students to get involved in the organisation of the "Who's in Town?" event by inviting them to nominate the speakers. Additionally, we will continue to promote the event through our platforms of communication to increase student turnout.

3

### Student Participation in the Admission Criteria Evaluation

The evaluation of the admission criteria and demographics is relevant for the admission office and communication regarding diversity, but also for the students since they are impacted directly by them. For this reason, we want to include students in these evaluations and reports and have their perspectives included within discussions on the findings.

4

### Framework and Action Plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (FAPDEI)

We will continue to monitor the implementation of the FAPDEI at AUC, which will help to ensure that AUC remains an inclusive space for everyone. Working with the Diversity Leadership Groups, we want to make sure that the college is accommodating for everyone in the AUC community. We will also look to make the entire document easily available to students, allowing for increased transparency of AUC's missions.

5

### Accessibility

- a) Along with relevant groups and AUC management, we will continue to fight for a more accessible programme to people of physical, mental, and cognitive difference. One aim in particular is to hold a discussion with the Heads of Studies about encouraging teachers to use videos with subtitles.
- b) We will continue to actively encourage AUC staff and students to always include their pronouns, as using incorrect pronouns can often make individuals feel uninvited. Therefore, alongside AUCSA, it will be our goal to help create awareness for pronoun inclusion, within AUC's social and academic lives.
- c) We want to work more with the Diversity Leadership Group and Diversity Working Group, to allow for an open, accommodating space for discussion about learning. We will additionally look into furthering student involvement within the Diversity Working Group.



# EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Although it's easy to get trapped in the "AUC Bubble", there are many social, academic, career and personal opportunities just outside. Promoting these opportunities to AUC students more will allow them to expand and explore life outside AUC more.

1

## Increasing Connections with External Bodies

This year, we aim to focus on building and expanding connections even further with external bodies such as our two parent universities, UvA and VU, and the UCSRN. We believe that AUC's connections to these bodies are key to raising recognition for our students and making sure their voices are heard. They also increase the accessibility of opportunities outside of AUC for students, including university and career activities, social events, or even student jobs.

2

## Resources for Off-Campus Course Registration

We plan to further expand upon the progress made by the previous student council with regard to information about off-campus course registration. To do so, we plan to host more regular information sessions in the period leading up to registration rounds, and distribute resources with step-by-step guides on applying for courses or minors at UvA or VU that are easily accessible to all students.

# TUTOR SYSTEM

When students have questions or concerns about their studies, they will usually turn to their tutors first. We want to make sure that the AUC tutor system is providing them with proper guidance.

1

## Implementation of Tutor Evaluation Form

This year, the tutors will implement a tutor and tutees evaluation form. We want to help with its establishment and implementation to ensure both anonymity and accurate representation of opinions for students.

2

## Emphasis on the Master Requirement

We believe that it is important for tutors to emphasise Master's requirements early and offer guidance regarding them to the students. We aim to work with the tutors to find a way to highlight the balance between the liberty of choice for courses and students' potential future requirements.



# GRADUATE FUTURES

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One of the main concerns among AUC Students is getting prepared for Master's programmes or other future career options. By expanding the resources available to students, we hope to make the transition smoother for all.

1

## Alumni Database

a) AUC has a comprehensive alumni database which many students are unaware of. We aim to promote the database more, as we believe the resource is beneficial to both current and prospective students when considering career options or further studies.

b) We believe that the facts and figures about AUC alumni are essential for students exploring their potential future pathways. Therefore, we plan to share summarised statistics from the database to our social media platforms, and will additionally advocate for more accurate, numerical data to be clearly published on the AUC website.

2

## Alumni Association

We aim to increase our communication with the Alumni Association in the coming year to offer our assistance with new initiatives and programmes. We additionally plan to work closely with the Alumni & External Relations Officer to expand current initiatives and programs for this purpose.

3

## Diploma Deadlines

Many Master's and postgraduate programmes have strict application deadlines, and often require diplomas before approving students into their courses. Therefore, we want to ensure that graduation timelines, including the receiving of diplomas, are being consistently met by AUC. To do so, we will establish communication with the BoE, and plan to keep students informed about the topic via our social media platforms.



Sustainability remains a priority for us all. In an already very sustainable AB, we plan to approach sustainability with a series of smaller goals.

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# SUSTAINABILITY

1

## Reusable Cups in the AB

Reducing waste is a priority for the student body and getting rid of paper cups will help foster more sustainable behaviours. We aim to explore the possibility of implementing BillieCups or a similar initiative.

2

### Turning off Lights in the AB at the Weekend

Often when the AB is not in use during weekends and evenings, the lights remain on, wasting electricity. We want to make sure these lights are turned off when we are not using them!

3

### Sustainability Tours

The Student Council wants to further increase awareness of sustainability within the AUC community. To do so, we want to organise a sustainability tour of the AB again and work on expanding it for the student body in collaboration with the Sustainability Commission.

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# STUDENT FACILITIES



It is important for students to have a safe and clean and "gezellige" environment, as it can have an extremely positive impact on both their overall experience at AUC and their mental health.

1

### Clean up the Dorms!

DUWO staff, the janitors and many AUC students have often voiced their dissatisfaction with the state of the dorms' shared spaces and hallways. We aim to work closely with the Campus Commission to ensure a clean and tidy space for everyone in the dorms. To do so, we want to create a voluntary clean-up initiative in the dorms and promote the importance of keeping it clean. We will additionally explore a competition-based initiative.

2

### Higher Accessibility for Class Texts

Brand-new university textbooks are both unsustainable and costly, often placing constraints on AUC students. Therefore, we want to promote lecturers to remove textbooks that must be bought brand-new from their courses, and instead choose texts that are more accessible to all students. To do so, we will look into creating an internal donation or exchange book system. This system would give students the opportunity to have physical books without the high costs.

Thank you for reading our Policy Plan. We hope the information gives clarity on our aims and tasks for the year.

Once again, please do not hesitate to reach out to us for any inquiries, comments, or concerns throughout the entire academic year. We thank you for your trust as student representatives.

With love,  
Marcello, Gilda, Miriam, Lola, and Lexa

