



**AUCSA**

Amsterdam University College  
Student Association

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016**

**“ROCKING THE BOAT”**

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Stefanie Berendsen  
Steffan Oberman  
Jerome Mies  
Sezgi Iyibilir*

“GET YOUR TOWELS READY IT'S ABOUT TO GO DOWN  
EVERYBODY IN THE PLACE HIT THE DECK  
BUT STAY ON YOUR TOES  
WE RUNNIN THIS, LET'S GO  
I'M ON A BOAT (I'M ON A BOAT)”

-THE LONELY ISLAND FT. T-PAIN

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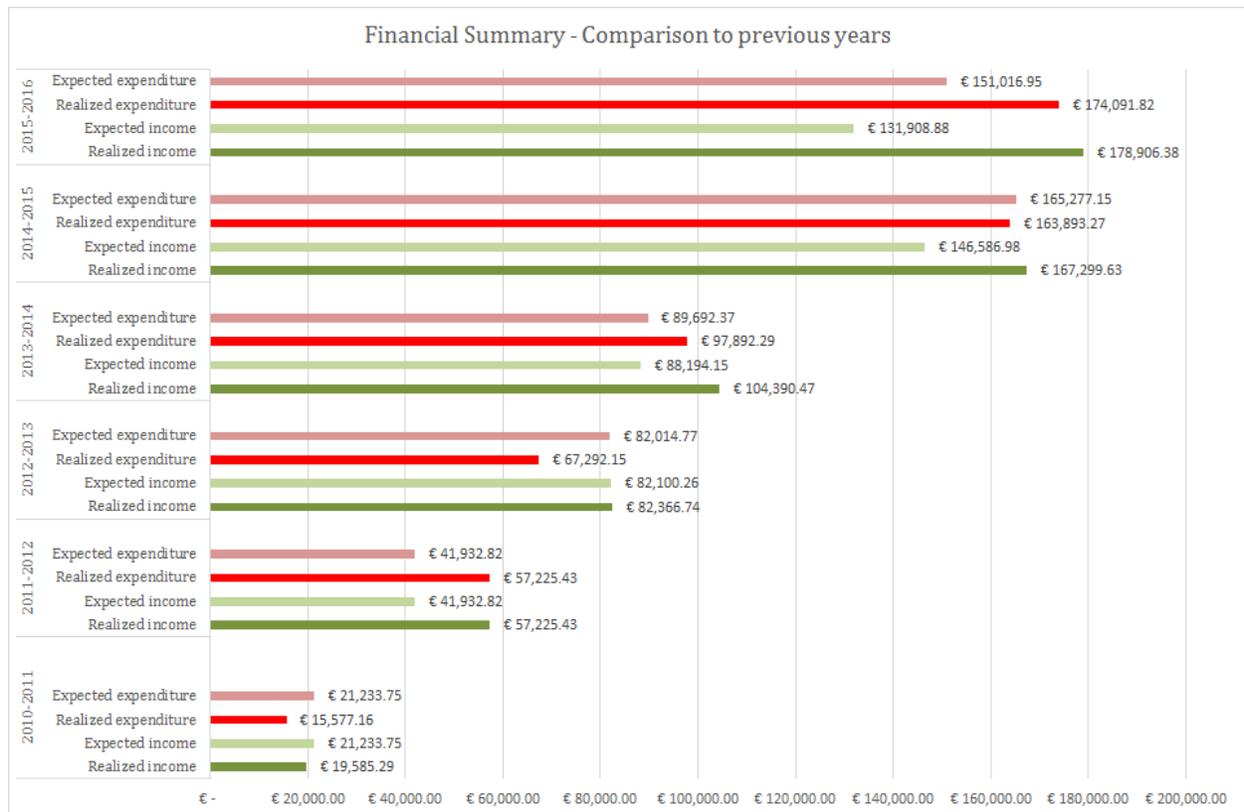
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## FINANCIAL SUMMARY - COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS YEARS



## INTRODUCTION

Amsterdam, October 1, 2016

Dear Members,

Another fantastic year in the history of the AUCSA has passed! With this annual report, we hope to draw attention to some of the many highlights, and to reflect on everything we have achieved as a student community.

I had the great pleasure of heading our student association during our first Lustrum year. Our fifth birthday has marked an important point in our existence as a student association. To the board of 15-16, it represented a key milestone in the transition from a student initiative, to an increasingly well established organisation, with all the extra responsibilities that that entails.

From the beginning of the year, we set out to raise the bar of how the Association functioned. It was no small task to take over the reigns from last years dedicated Board. It was our ambition to build upon the foundations that previous years had laid down. In that challenge, I am proud to say, we have succeeded in many ways, as I hope the rest of this document will show.

Certainly, our ambition was matched by that of our committee members. Since I came to AUC, I have always been impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication seen in our various committees. Year upon year the AUCSA has been able to provide our community with an incredible variety of activities, all organised by volunteers. Not only did the quantity of events increase, but we have also seen committees become more established, and consistently increase the quality of their events. Particularly the number of large scale events noticeably increased in our year.

The continuous growth and expansion of the AUCSA is something to be extremely proud of, but has also challenged us. As a Board we were determined to enter this year as one team, and also to

leave it as such. I am very glad to say we were able to succeed in that respect, but not without the occasional struggle. We were able to do this through a process of regular self-reflection, and maintaining the attitude that, at the end of the day, we still wanted to be able to call each other friends. Not only did this help us enjoy the year that much more, but also ensured we could provide you, our members, the service you would expect from the Board. Through a tougher election process, and careful transitioning, we have done our best to prepare the next Board, and to pass on what we have learnt. We wish them the best of luck on their challenges ahead!

What remains to be said is an enormous thank you to everyone who has made our Board year the success it was. In particular, I would like to thank Tim, Stefanie, Steffan, Jerome, and Sezgi (again!). I couldn't have asked for a better team. From all of us of the Board of 15-16, thank you thank you thank you! Whether you were in a committee, whether you helped out in the bar crew, performed at an event, or if you just attended an event or two. Without you as a member, the AUCSA just wouldn't be the same.

On behalf of the AUCSA Board 2015-2016,

Yours Sincerely,

Floris Cobben

## LETTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Amsterdam, 20 October 2016

Dear AUCSA member,

As the Audit Commission, we have the responsibility to check the financial administration of the AUCSA and inform both the Treasurer and the AUCSA members about the association's financial health. In addition, the Audit Commission fulfills an advisory role, providing the Treasurer and the association's members with short- as well as long-term recommendations. In this letter, we present our findings and recommendations of the 2015-2016 financial year.

We are pleased to see that the Treasurer Stefanie Berendsen has kept her books very organized. Especially considering the continuous growth of the AUCSA, and thereby Stefanie's workload, we would like to compliment her on her bookkeeping. Our recommendations are as follows:

Our first recommendation is to minimize the use of cash money, since its use is nontransparent, prone to errors, and time consuming for the Treasurer.

Secondly, we advise the Board of 2016-17 to establish adequate savings. While we are aware of the regulations governing our budget, we also appreciate the obligation to address the issue of underspending. The past years have shown that overbudgeting by 5% of the overall budget has been a safe estimate. However, permanently increased savings would provide a financial buffer for the association that can be utilized in case this deficit is realized. Moreover, it would be in line with the recently increased membership fees (from €40 to €55 per student per year) and the according membership body.

Thirdly, it must, yet again, be stressed that the AUCSA has to comply with Dutch tax law. While we have been informed that efforts have been initiated since our last letter, it remains imperative for the AUCSA to make this a priority this year.

Fourthly, we recommend the Audit Commission to take a more active role in the association. To realize its full potential, we recommend the AUCSA to alter the role of the Audit Commission by means of a policy manual change. This includes the implementation of a quarterly audit, a biannual budget consultation with the Audit Commission, the possibility of checking the books at any given moment, and a more predominant advisory role.

Our fifth recommendation is to communicate all budget modifications after the GA and realized expenses to the students through the weekly newsletter. In addition to increasing transparency, ensuring that all members are informed of the most recent budget changes would improve the presence of the AUCSA's finances in the members' consciousness. As more awareness may lead to increased critique on the AUCSA's budget, we furthermore advise the Board to implement an appropriate platform or forum to constructively direct critique and facilitate debate.

Lastly, we are glad to see that a Vice Treasurer has been appointed within the Board in order to spread the workload more evenly. However, we would like to recommend the AUCSA to define the division of tasks between the Treasurer and Vice Treasurer in more detail.

For any questions or remarks about these recommendations, the Audit Commission, or the financial procedures of the AUCSA in general, please approach us in person, send your question(s) to [audit@aucsa.nl](mailto:audit@aucsa.nl), or contact the AUCSA Treasurer at [treasurer@aucsa.nl](mailto:treasurer@aucsa.nl).

Kind regards,

The Audit Commission 2015-2016

Anouk Ide & Jan Willem Bruggeman

with the help of Didi Altena, Jasper Meijer and Shambhavi Chouhan

## EVALUATION: GOALS AND PROGRESS

This section of the report reviews and reflects upon the goals we set out for the last academic year. Once again, the Association has grown in many ways such as budget, number of members, and number of committees, to name but a few.

Last years Board also experienced this growth, but with only 5 board members, they initially struggled to complete all the work necessary to keep our wonderful Association running. Fortunately, they took measures to ensure the same would not happen to our Board, introducing a change to our Statutes, allowing for a 6th board member (an extra CAO specifically!). This additional pair of hands was crucial for our year in order to make the total workload bearable, particularly considering the growth in the number of committees. This change initially brought some scepticism. For example, voting becomes a more difficult issue with an equal amount of Board members. Or that increasing the size of the Board would cause inefficiencies. Fortunately none of these factors caused concern, and we found 6 members represented a good balance between enough manpower and a manageable team size. For this reason, the current Board also consists of 6 members.

As we stated at the beginning of the year, one of our pillars as a Board would be the Committees. This comes from the belief that without our Committees and the Board members who run them, the Association would be nothing. We refined the process of becoming a Committee, imposing stricter standards for starting new Boards. A number of Committee proposals were rejected. The reasons for this varied, but our decision to raise the bar when it came to new committees stemmed from two parts: 1) We were aware of the near saturation point for Committees, both in terms of the AUCSA Boards ability to manage these Committees, and the communities ability partake in their events. 2) We wanted to work towards raising the standard of Committee events, rather than the quantity, the latter of which we believed had reached capacity.

Such conclusions were not reached without due consideration. We made sure that the Committee members were able to voice their ideas and concerns at Committee Assemblies and at the Committee Forum. We believe the latter was a useful initiative which we hope the current board will continue. A yearly meeting with all Committee members, around half-way through the year, represents an ideal timing to reflect on what has been achieved so far this year, and how we, as an Association, hope to progress for the rest of the year, and indeed the further future. If anything, it is also a good time to celebrate our achievements, and to motivate ourselves for the next semester. We hope that all this will contribute to the continued growth in the quality of AUCSA events, and that the bar continues to rise as time progresses.

Certainly, our other pillars of Internal Communication, External Communication, and the First year experience were not ignored either.

The First Year Experience refers mainly to our efforts to make the Introduction Week and Weekend as great as possible. We believed strongly that making sure the new students had a good time was crucial in getting them excited to be AUCSA members, and to engage in our community. Big events like Introduction week are constantly being adjusted for improvement, and we collaborate closely with AUC to make the event a reality. For example, we put much effort into ensuring we only selected the best Mentors (formerly Papas and Mamas) for our week, as we believed they formed an integral part of the Introduction Week experience. The Introduction Weekend, which is organised solely by the AUCSA, was once again very enjoyable. We were blessed with good weather, which always helps! From an organisational side, we made efforts to improve aspects such as the quality and quantity of food, and to provide a more activity filled schedule.

In terms of addressing our internal communication, one of our main goals was to increase the visibility of the AUCSA Board towards its members. We approached this pillar in many ways. We made sure we religiously attended office hours, encouraged our CAOs to sit in on Committee meeting for more face to face contact, started a snapchat account, and generally tried to ensure consistent and high quality communications through media such as our facebook page and

newsletter. We believe one of the best ways in which we can assess the success of approach is the great number of people who applied to be part of this years AUCSA board. By increasing our visibility, we believe we have been able to make clear how rewarding it can be to be part of the AUCSA board, and we think the number and quality of AUCSA Board applicants is a reflection of success in that regard.

Just like Internal Communication, we approached External Communication from many sides. However, the new and updated website is certainly our biggest pride in terms of how we show the Association to the outside world. With the first Lustrum of the AUCSA, we decided it would be time to think towards expanding outwards to the world outside of our bubble. A new website, essentially the first impression anyone has of an institution in a digital age, matched this ambition. Many thanks to Tim for the countless hours he put into completing that project! Next to our digital advances, we also established the Acquisitions Team in order to work towards securing finances from sponsors. Important groundwork was laid in this respect, including our first sponsorship deal with Tilt. The great progress the first Acquisitions Team made will form a solid foundation for future acquisitions.

Our board year has now ended, which is a bittersweet feeling. We are relieved to have completed such an intense year, but that same intensity is something we have learned to enjoy immensely. Now is the chance for Lance, Lasse, Andy, Ilen, Petra, Gordon to put their own twist on the AUCSA Board year. They have already successfully completed Introduction Week and their Budget Weekend, so they are well on track! We wish them all the best! Thank you to everyone who has worked with us over the past year. It has been our honour. Rest assured, you are in good hands with the Board of 2016-2017!

For one last time, only love,

Your AUCSA Board (15-16)

## FINANCIAL RESULTS

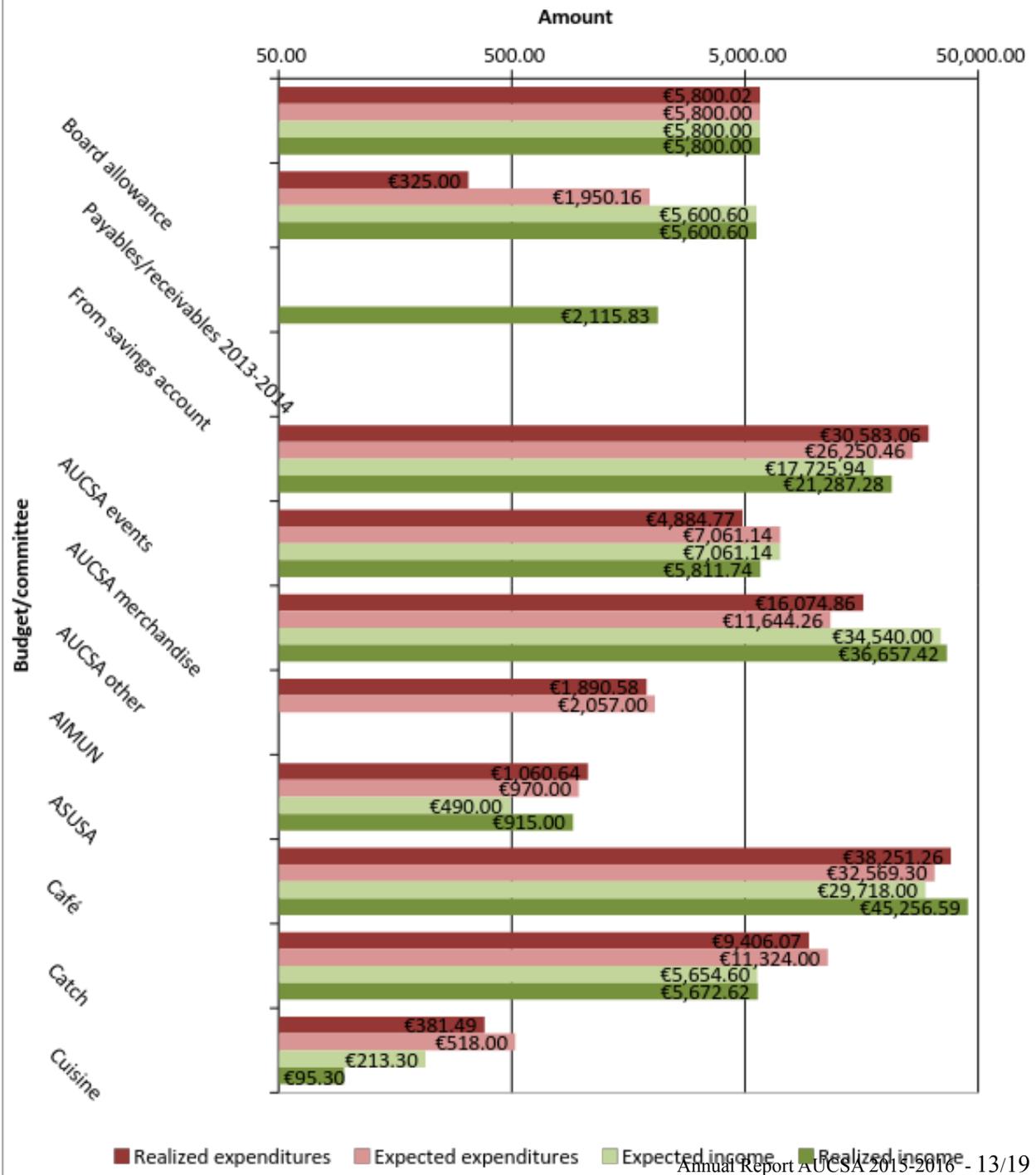
### THE AUCSA BALANCE

Date: August 21, 2016.

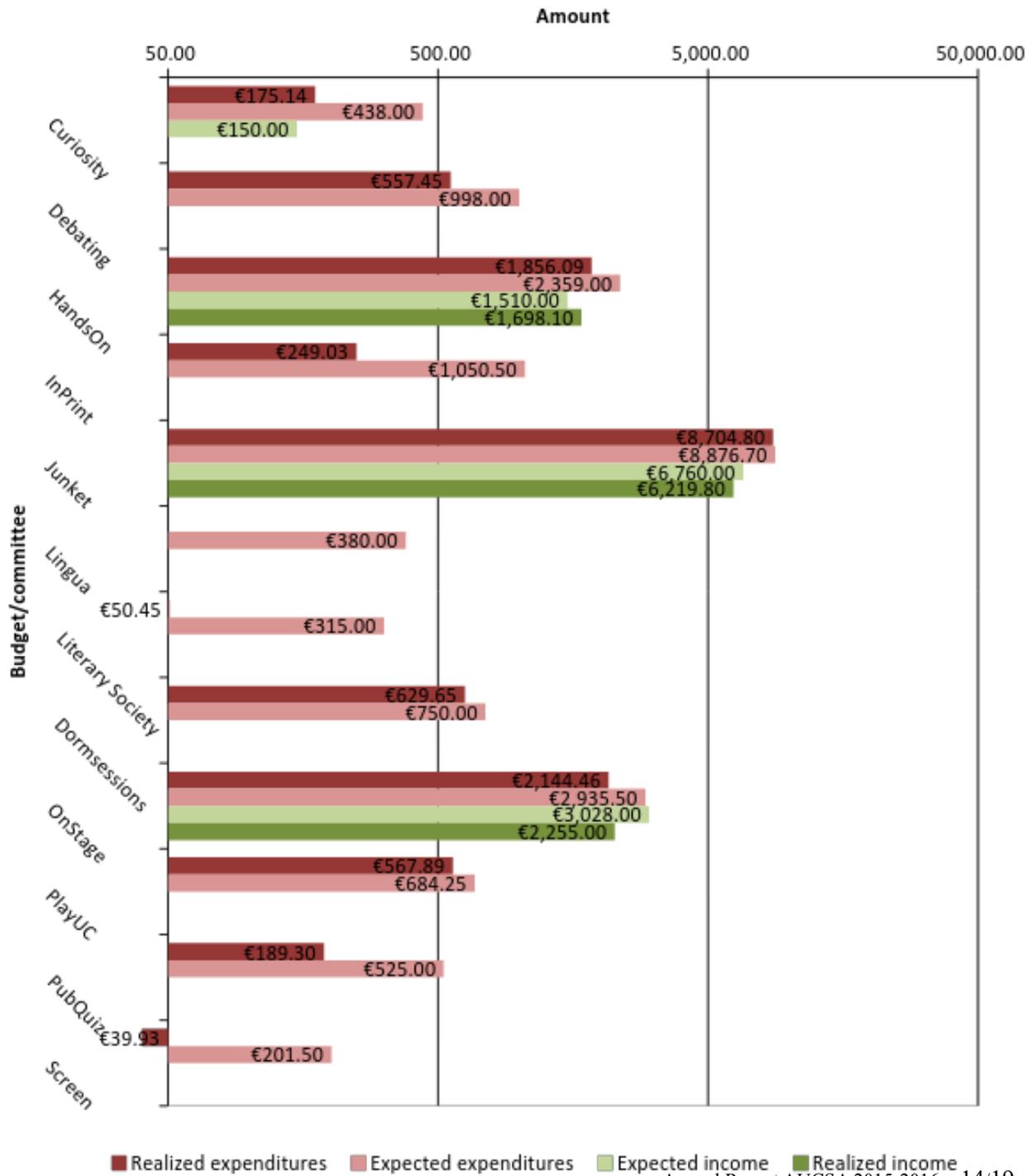
<b>Assets</b>		<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accounts</b>		<b>Accounts payable</b>	
Cash	€ 518.85	AUC printing (2013-2014)	€ 350.00
Bank account - AUCSA	€ 1,669.81	ASF Donation (2013-2014)	€ 400.00
Bank account - AUCafé	€ 170.00	AUC printing (2014-2015)	€ 350.00
Bank account - TedX	€ 476.58	Balance on AUCafé tokens (until June 2016)	€ 3,877.30
Savings	€ 176.99	AUC: Inprint copies handed out at publishing event (2014-2015)	€ 500.00
<b>Receivables</b>		Oerknal: OnStage open Stage #2 (2014-2015)	€ 125.00
AUC Contribution for BrewCrew Beer	€ 112.50	Catch sport socks (from donation from Rabobank)	€ 250.00
Coffe/Tea for UvA Exchange day	€ 66.20	HandsOn Donations (2015-2016)	€ 181.00
Brew Crew Contributions	€ 560.00	AUC printing (2015-2016)	€ 250.00
Contribution Hoodies 2016-2017	€ 120.00	Fem Com Donations (2015-2016)	€ 283.43
Income Club AIR Doorsale Graduation Party	€ 594.40	Right2Education (2015-2016)	€ 1,063.90
Broken Window at AUCafé	€ 442.39	Oerknal: OnStage open Stage #1 (2015-2016)	€ 100.00
Advance Payments for Budget 2016-2017	€ 7,071.33	ASF Donation (2015-2016)	€ 400.00
<b>Inventory</b>		Club AIR Graduation Party (2015-2016)	€ 1,815.00
Merchandise	€ 2,607.00	Gift Voucher Happy Boards Day (2015-2016)	€ 50.00
Bikes (2)	€ 140.00	Debating Contribution Summer Tournaments (2015-2016)	€ 325.00
Brew Crew Beer	€ 2,076.00	Jeugdlab Credit (2015-2016)	€ 790.49
AUCafe Inventory	€ 1,481.76	Dormfest AV Payment (2015-2016)	€ 1,752.13
Yearbooks (70)	€ 700.00	<b>Equity</b>	<b>€ 6,120.56</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 18,983.81</b>

RESULTS PER BUDGET

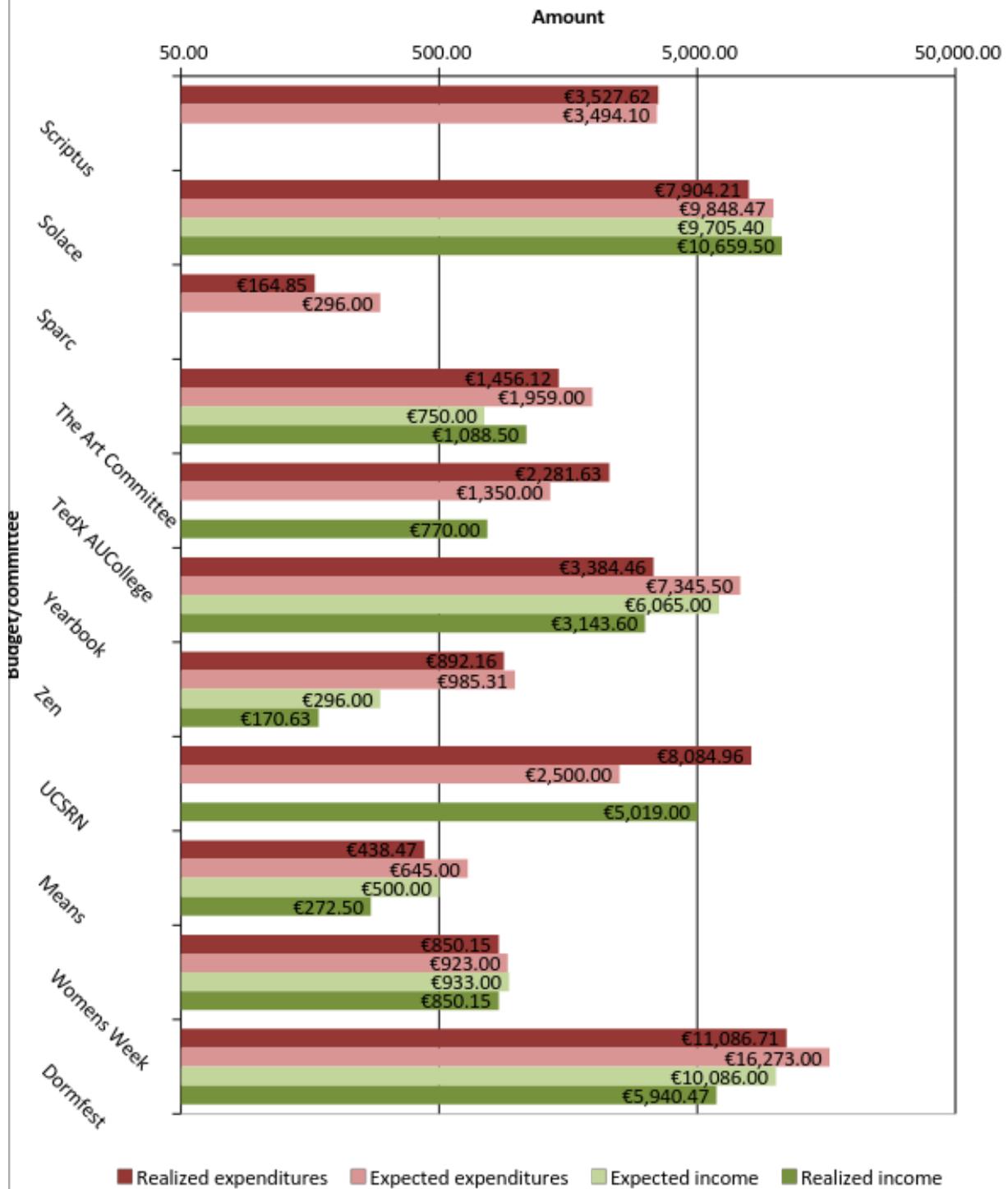
Profit & Loss: expected & realized – AUCSA 2015



### Profit & Loss: expected & realized – AUCSA 2015 (continued)



### Profit & Loss: expected & realized – AUCSA 2015 (continued)



## AUCSA EVENTS

### INTROWEEK & INTROWEEKEND

The first and most challenging event of the year will likely always be the introduction week. It is also one of the most fun times of the year, with the excitement and energy of a new cohort of students being almost tangible. The introduction weekend was also once again a part of this year's week, where we ended our week in a beautiful castle in the countryside of Limburg. With contributions from committees throughout the week, and the hard work of the Board and AUC staff, the week seems to get better and better every year as the organisation becomes more refined, and the concept becomes more refined. The heart and soul of the great experience remains the papas and mamas, who put an incredible amount of effort and time into making the new first years feel welcome in their new university environment. The enthusiasm of every involved made it a beautiful week! Thanks to everyone involved!

### LUSTRUM

Celebrating our first ever lustrum, this year was a milestone for the AUCSA. Existing for 5 years, the Association has transformed from its humble beginnings into a fully fledged, and financially sound organisation. This, naturally, called for a celebration! For this special occasion, AUCSA organised a big all-day event for all its members, alumni, and partners on the 9th of April. The event was hosted at Undercurrent in Amsterdam Noord, with an idyllic view on the IJ. Many thanks to the Lustrum Team who put together this impressive event! Special thanks are also due for all the committee members who helped organised activities on the day, and everyone who contributed any way to helping us celebrate this important milestone.

#### **Lustrum Team**

Sezgi Iyibilir

Stijn Gabriël

Steffan Oberman

Victor van der Brug

Pleun Andriessen

Vittoria Dentes

### WINTERFORMAL

The yearly tradition of Winter Formal once again transformed our academic building into a wonderful place of festivity where teachers and students dress up in their finest looking attires. The theme of this year was “Carnivale di Venezia”, turning this years Winter formal into a masked ball. Apart from the delicious olliebollen for sale, and the excellent barman ship of the AUCafé bar crew, almost the entire evening was filled with live music. A special shout out to the musicians who rocked the stage this year! As always, it was a night to remember, and thanks go out to everyone who made it possible.

### DORMFEST

Last June was home to the 4<sup>th</sup> annual edition of Dormfest, one of the days that makes us realize why we love the AUC community. Dormfest is a day that starts around 2 pm and ends around 11 pm. It is a festival in our own beloved dorms, organized for students, by students. This year’s Dormfest we focused on really transforming our Dorms into an actual festival, where you walk in, and feel a ‘wow’- factor. We achieved this through spending a bigger part of our budget on (coloured) tents, and by putting a lot of effort into creating decorations such as paintings, coloured signboards, flags, circus letters that light up, and much more (BIG thanks to Ocean Koornstra, our creative mastermind). Additionally, we invested in haystacks, and blew up around 250 balloons, which really added to the atmosphere. Besides ambiance, we also upgraded the food by hiring a professional company that offered four types of food, which were all full vegetarian to make Dormfest more sustainable. Luckily, even the hard-core carnivores were truly impressed by the delicious food that Square Events had prepared. They offered three soups with Turkish bread, but also fresh noodles, different salads, and BBQ vegetables. All these different

options were exceptionally affordable. It was great to see all students walking around with these huge smiles on their face, having fun, and enjoying their cotton candy! One of the other – most important – aspects was that students could engage in many different activities. Besides the creative corner (with face paint, hat decoration, and henna) there were two stages (the main stage and the web radio stage) where students could dance. The main stage looked perfect and especially the silent disco was a huge success.

Overall, Dormfest 2016 succeeded in offering all students a distraction from the day-to-day routine of life at Science Park, as Dormfest is about spending time outside in the sun, enjoying life with your friends, and fellow students.

A big thanks to our Team, it was a joy to work with you all, and also a big thanks to our volunteers and sponsors, it would not have been possible without you.

**Dormfest Team 2016:**

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Position:</b>
Steffan Oberman	<i>Chair</i>
Tim Moolhuijsen	<i>Chair, Sponsors, Permit</i>
Sharon Zervaas	<i>Secretary</i>
Yaron Zonneveld	<i>Treasurer, Volunteers</i>
Teus Hagen	<i>Performances, Stage, Activities</i>
Marie Smit	<i>Promotion</i>
Ocean Koornstra	<i>Creativity, ambiance</i>
Johanna Ramaer	<i>Food, Drinks</i>

## CONTACT

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

**“ROCKING THE BOAT”**

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