

Dear AUCSA member,

To live up to our responsibilities, we as the Audit Commission wrote this letter to provide you with our findings and financial recommendations of the 2016 fall semester. These recommendations are based on the Treasurer's financial administration and involve both short and long term advices made to attain a better financial health of the AUCSA.

We are very pleased to see that our Treasurer and vice Treasurer came to a clear division of the workload that comes along with the AUCSA budget. In addition, we hope this development will give our Treasurer more space to focus on the AUCSA's financial administration. Another development that stood out to us while checking the financial books was the significant decrease of cash used within the AUCSA and its committees. We are glad to see that the recommendations we provided in our last letter have been taken seriously and we hope this is a development that will be continued.

However, a recurring difficulty for the AUCSA is the underspending of the budget caused by a decreased expenditure by committees. In line with this, the Audit Commission has, over the past few years, advised the AUCSA Board to overbudget by 5%. Although there has been overbudgeted by 8% in the October budget, the AUCSA is still underspending. An important cause for this underspending is the cancellation of events. Once committees have asked for money to spend on events for AUCSA members, we think this money must actually be spent to benefit the AUCSA members. Still, we cannot conclusively say whether this problem lies with the committees or with the AUCSA Board. We would, therefore, recommend that both parties investigate whether and how they contribute to this issue and that the committees and the AUCSA together ensure that the committees truly commit to their planned activities.

Moreover, the Audit Commission once again wants to raise awareness for the importance of transparency, as this lowers the threshold for engagement and participation of the AUCSA members with the AUCSA and its finances. We feel that the AUCSA has made an active effort to increase transparency regarding the budget and finances via, for example, the white paper provided by the Treasurer. However, we still felt that due to the length, lack of visual explanation, and usage of technical and difficult language this might not have been as effective as was intended. We feel that the communication about the budget and finances must be executed in such a way that they are easily understandable for all members and not only those who have financial know-how to foster engagement of more AUCSA members. Moreover, we think that the AUCSA has not attained the desired approachability when it comes to finances and the budget. Being approachable makes it easier for AUCSA members to ask question and become engaged. In tandem with this, we as the Audit Commission have to increase our visibility for the exact same reasons mentioned above.

Lastly, with regards to the environment, we would advise the next treasurer to look into the options of changing the physical book for an online financial administration. When

performing the audit we found that many receipts that come with the administration forms are printed out pictures of the receipts. We thought it would be just as easy for those who actually include the original receipt to take a picture of this and fill in an online form. This will reduce paper waste and will increase the accessibility of the books to the Audit Commission.

For any questions or remarks about the Audit Commission or the financial procedures of the AUCSA in general, please approach us in person or send your question(s) to audit@aucsa.nl.

Kind regards,

The Audit Commission

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