



AUCSA

Amsterdam University College
Student Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 -2017

“GETTING ON BOARD”

Lance Bosch

Lasse Rogie

Andy O. Daab

Petra Karlsen Stangvik

Ilen Madhavji

Gordon Lucas

“THE FISHERMEN KNOW THAT THE SEA IS DANGEROUS AND
THE STORM TERRIBLE, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER FOUND THESE
DANGERS SUFFICIENT REASON FOR REMAINING ASHORE.”

VINCENT VAN GOGH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Letter of the Audit Committee	5-6
Evaluation: Goals and Progress	7-10
Financial Summary 2016-2017	11
AUCSA Events	12
Introduction Week	12
Winterformal	13
Dormfest	13
UCSRN	15
Contact	17

INTRODUCTION

Utrecht, September 26, 2017

Dear Members,

What a year we have had together. Though it is impossible for us to capture our experience into words, consider this annual report our sincerest attempt to do so; in it, we will cover some highlights, reflect on our achievements as a community, and reminisce together.

From the moment we were elected, I knew I had found myself amongst a particularly ambitious group. “Just as well”, I thought—it would certainly take a lot of ambition to add to the accomplishments of the Boards before us. But I soon found out that ambition on its own is insufficient to perform this role well. Ambition doesn’t make you forget to eat because you were too busy processing last-minute reimbursement forms. Ambition doesn’t make you skip studying to help a committee figure out how the speaker at AUCafé works. And ambition *certainly* does not tell you that going to that Solace party to encourage others to attend is a good idea when you have a 9am class the next day. Passion does.

So what were we so passionate about? You—our members. You all work so hard to come up with new ideas for the association, plan all sorts of fantastic events, and make AUC a university we are all proud to call home. Without you by our side, we wouldn’t have managed to do all the things we have done in the past year, and for that, we will always be grateful.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Lasse, Andy, Petra, Ilen, and Gordon, my fellow board members: I could not have wished for better companions on this journey.

On behalf of the AUCSA Board 2016-2017,

Yours Sincerely,

Lance Bosch

LETTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Amsterdam, October 17, 2017

Dear AUCSA member,

In order to close the financial books of the academic year of 2016-2017 we, the Audit Commission, have once again analyzed the financial administration conducted by the AUCSA's Treasurer. Whilst doing this, we came up with short term as well as long term recommendations that are meant to improve the financial potential of the AUCSA.

Firstly, we would like to thank the Treasurer of the academic year of 2016-2017. We would like to acknowledge the time and effort he has spent on running the financial administration of the AUCSA of 2016-2017, and we highly respect his dedication.

Secondly, what stood out whilst doing the audit was a remarkable trend in spending. The committee's spending behaviour is a fundamental factor in the financial health of the association. This is regulated and controlled by the Treasurer through allocating a budget to every committee at the beginning of the academic year. Specifically, every committee makes an overview of events they are planning to organize, including the expected income and costs that come along with these events. We would like to advise the committees to be as realistic as possible as the ideal would be for every committee to live up to the initial plan and spend the allocated budget. In other words, the AUCSA is trying to reach a break-even point where the costs equal the income.¹ In the first semester of the past academic year, some committees tended to underspend their allocated budget due to the cancellation of events and the fact that the realized costs were lower than the expected costs. In the February General Assembly, we therefore recommended the committees to make use of the budget they initially got in order to avoid underspending. Subsequently, the trend in spending went in the opposite direction, namely overspending. This started already at the same General Assembly when some of the AUCSA's committees started to request an allocation of the AUCSA's unforeseen costs budget as an addition to their budget. Consequently, there was almost no budget left for the unforeseen expenses that the AUCSA would potentially encounter. At the end of the academic year, this resulted in an overall budget deficit for the AUCSA. Therefore, we recommend the AUCSA and its committees to stick to their allocated budget as much as possible, taking into account the bigger picture and consequences of underspending and overspending.

Thirdly, whilst doing the audit we encountered several structural issues concerning the way the financial administration was done. These issues include missing receipts, unclear

¹ The AUCSA is a non-profit organization.

and unsorted reimbursement forms, wrong budget codes, and costs missing in the excel budget sheet. These issues make it harder for us to do the audit efficiently. Therefore, we advise the new Treasurer to be as punctual and structured as possible, and to inform the committees about the importance of a clear and complete financial administration.

In addition, we recommend the Treasurer to do reimbursement transfers within a timespan of two weeks. That way, the financial administration gives a clear and representative overview of the remaining budget. Also, the burden to purchase on behalf of the committees will be smaller for individuals. This might be a solution to a potential recurring problem of underspending. Moreover, we would like to request the new Treasurer in advance to stick to deadlines made with the Audit Commission such that we are also able to meet our deadlines.

Furthermore, we encourage the Treasurer to implement measures in order to increase the transparency and accessibility of the association. The main problem we encountered concerning transparency was the incomplete financial administration we received. Specifically, our task is to check whether all obligatory transfers have been made. Hence, it is important that we can access both the transfers from the AUCSA bank account, the reimbursements forms handed in by the committees, and the overview of the remaining budget. However, the document with all the bank transfers stopped at July whilst there were still bank transfers made in both August and September. Therefore, we did not have the opportunity to check these documents. Moreover, we did not have fully access to the incomes of Dormfest, although the committee's finances belong to a large part of the AUCSA's financial administration. In addition, the more independent committees (TedX and AUCafé) mainly take care of their own administration due to their high income, so their financial administration is not included in that of the AUCSA. This keeps us from knowing where AUCSA's donations go.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate the new Treasurer appointed in May 2017. We are very pleased to see the effort and dedication she has already put into her job by, among other things, implementing an acquisitions team. The Audit Commission is looking forward to a smooth collaboration with both the Treasurer and the Vice-Treasurer, and we strongly believe that this will be realized.

For any questions or remarks about the financial procedures of the AUCSA, the recommendations we provided, or the Audit Commission in general, please do not hesitate to approach us in person or via e-mail to audit@aucsa.nl.

Kind regards,

The Audit Commission,
Didi Altena, Lynn Engelberts

EVALUATION: GOALS AND PROGRESS

This evaluation posed a difficult question: how could we most accurately assess our performance in the past year? Objective measures often sacrifice nuance and subtlety; meanwhile, subjective reflections have a tendency to lack evidence and substance. Given this dilemma, we thought it best to view the progress we have made as your AUCSA through the lens of our pillars: the 5 major themes that we had promised to prioritize in our work.

Committees

This year, we welcomed three new committees to our community: Spoon University, our food & health journalism committee; SlayUC, our dance committee; and .RAW, our photography committee. Further, we saw the revival of an old friend, Debating, thanks to the efforts of a new wave of enthusiastic members. With over 25 committees, it begs the question: are we reaching saturation point? We believe the answer is no. These new committees facilitate interest groups that were either a) not yet well represented within our pre-existing committees, or b) only gaining traction in the past year. Either way, we see their founding as a positive: your AUCSA should always strive to cater to the AUC community's interests.

Another way our committees have developed this year is in a movement away from a “bigger is better” attitude. More and more, we saw committees less concerned with having 300 guests at their events and more concerned with doing their best to appeal to their target audience. Now, that is not to say that our committees have not been becoming more ambitious; we saw many committee collaborations—a hot topic during elections this year—in order to integrate multiple interests in single events, and enlarge their audience

in that way. We hope that the Board of 2017-2018 further facilitates these collective endeavors.

Lastly, to better accomplish our mission to make your AUCSA and its committees as inclusive as possible, we founded the Diversity Commission: a new body within your AUCSA, intended to ensure that our activities aligned well with the values of the people we represent (you!).

The First Year Experience

Merchandise, merchandise, merchandise. AUC's clean, collegiate grey sweater sold to a significant percentage of our batch of first years, and it seems as though this aesthetic will live on for many years to come. Naturally, this was not the only initiative we took on. We spent many hours on Introduction Week: everything from the (much discussed) schedule to our careful selection of Introduction Week Mentors was deliberated on to ensure our first years would feel welcome from day one. Though it is hard to determine how successful we were in our many first-year-focused efforts, we believe the heavy first year involvement in committees and AUCSA life is a testament to our accomplishments. That, and the fact that your new AUCSA consists largely of first years (we choose to count Louise, your February starter Secretary, as a first year too).

External Network Building

Connecting with the world outside of "the Bubble" has been a large part of what we have worked on in the past year. To name a few examples: (i) an increased number of collaborations with AIM, from UvA's PPLE program; (ii) assisting KalioPPE, from VU's PPE program, in the formulation of their statutes and policy manual; (iii) beginning a relationship with Startup Village, thereby transforming AUCafé from playground speakeasy to serious partner in Amsterdam's Science Park.

Outside of creating new relationships, we also worked to maintain old ones. Your AUCSA was (very) vocal during UCSRN GAs and debates, playing a hand in many of the changes that were recently implemented to the UCSRN policy manual. Simultaneously, we reinforced our connections to our sister UCs in other cities, such as UCU, LUC, and UCM. We also redefined our relationships to better serve our members, such as when we altered our contract with Studystore to reduce prices for AUC students.

Internal Communication

To reflect the changes that have occurred since the founding of our association, your AUCSA revised its policy manual this year. Though we agree that the process was not as smooth as it could have been, we were happy to have seen strong student involvement in its formulation.

Though we have already mentioned the Diversity Commission previously, it is important to remember the context in which the commission was founded this year. The idea for this commission came when we as a community were forced to reflect on our values and what we stood for. Overwhelmingly, we saw that the AUCSA has been built by, and works for, those who believe in equality and inclusivity. Though we hear it many times, it bears repeating: AUC is made up of a truly diverse body of students, and it was important to us that your AUCSA, present and future, acts in accordance with that fact. A special thanks goes out to Andy O. Daab, our treasurer, for spearheading this project. We hope that the Diversity Commission can (continue to) support and improve our community, and vice-versa. In a similar vein, our financial administration was changed from Rabobank to Triodos, to reflect our dedication to environmentally friendly practices, the kind that are almost universally championed by our members.

This pillar, however, is made up of more than a collection of grand gestures: it also represents your AUCSA's day-to-day efforts to serve you better. Perhaps more than was healthy, we made ourselves available to our members; I, Lance, cannot count the number of

times this team sacrificed their time and energy for the betterment of the members, and I am always proud to say I have worked alongside them. This, I believe, has been where we most succeeded: this year, *the* AUCSA became *your* AUCSA. Despite this, we encourage the new AUCSA Board to push for even further student input and communication. We suggest to plan more frequent reflection points with committees (other than the committee fora) and to create a more robust system for members to provide feedback throughout the year.

AUC Spirit

Our last and newest pillar is perhaps the hardest to evaluate: there are no objective correlates for spirit. That said, having won the UCSRN tournament for the third year running is a good testament to the passion our members have for their association. Here's to hoping that your new AUCSA can retrieve the trophy from EUC and return it to its rightful home: in Amsterdam Science Park.

Closing

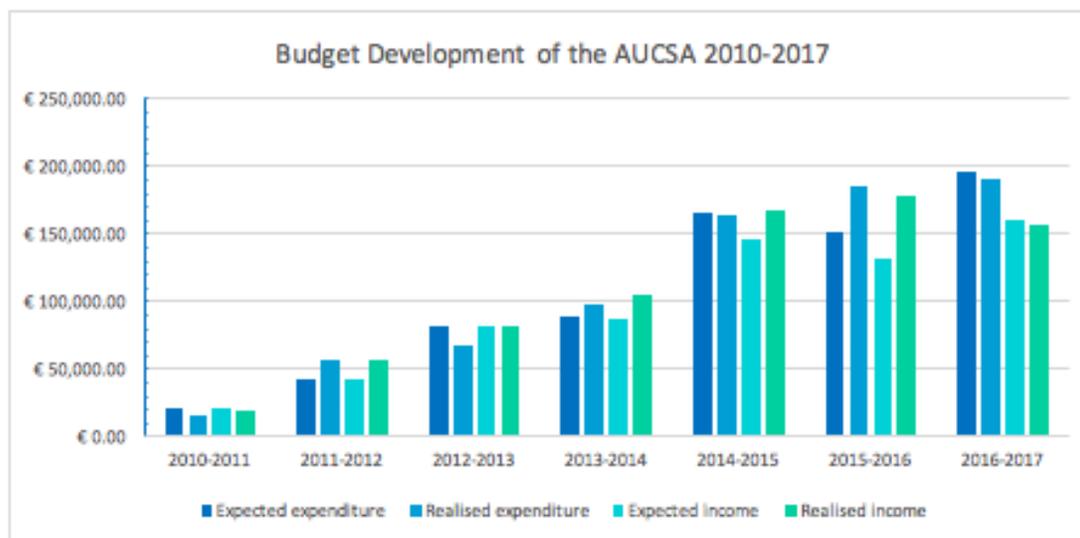
Looking back on the time we spent as your AUCSA board—the long nights, the hectic schedules, and attempting to be a human being in between—you would think we would be relieved to have put it behind us. But that is far from the case. As we watch our successors take on our tasks, grow into their roles, and truly become *your* AUCSA, we remember our own journey, and how far we have come together. Though we are sad to let go, we are overjoyed to pass on the reins to Ishvar, Louise, Charlotte, Berend, Gerold, and Noa: six incredible individuals. We are confident they will reach even greater heights.

To everyone who worked with us, challenged us, and helped us in the last year: thank you. It has been an honor.

For one last time, only love,

Your AUCSA (2016-2017)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2016-2017



Biggest Incomes

€ 60.135,31	AUCSA other
€ 29.224,94	AUCSA events
€ 10.178,03	AUCafé
€ 8.804,00	AUCSA merchandise
€ 7.716,95	Catch
€ 6.752,60	Junket
€ 5.613,00	Solace
€ 5.218,00	Dormfest
€ 4.920,45	UCSBNTournament
€ 4.774,00	Yearbook
€ 3.110,00	AIMUN
€ 2.509,55	OnStage
€ 2.314,00	Zen
€ 1.860,00	Webradio
€ 1.264,30	Dormsessions
€ 741,00	The Art Committee
€ 642,00	Pangea
€ 573,25	HandsOn
€ 316,80	Cuisine
€ -	Curiosity
€ -	CUT
€ -	Debating
€ -	IdeAUC
€ -	JeugdJab
€ -	PlayUC
€ -	PubQuiz
€ -	Scriptus
€ -	Sharood
€ -	Spoon University
€ -	TedX

Biggest expenditure

€ 48.196,30	AUCSA other
€ 32.077,67	AUCSA events
€ 24.316,69	AUCSA merchandise
€ 14.836,30	Dormfest
€ 12.103,50	AUCafé
€ 11.659,76	Solace
€ 10.835,56	Junket
€ 7.716,95	Catch
€ 4.927,01	Dormsessions
€ 3.724,75	Yearbook
€ 3.639,25	AIMUN
€ 3.018,78	TedX
€ 2.641,82	Webradio
€ 2.535,89	OnStage
€ 2.089,15	Zen
€ 1.758,15	Scriptus
€ 1.180,64	The Art Committee
€ 1.108,25	Pangea
€ 722,13	JeugdJab
€ 662,11	PlayUC
€ 375,96	Curiosity
€ 305,73	HandsOn
€ 292,93	Cuisine
€ 220,43	CUT
€ 132,46	IdeAUC
€ 131,05	Spoon University
€ 76,26	FemSoc (Suspended)
€ 73,79	PubQuiz
€ -	Sharood

AUCSA EVENTS

INTRODUCTION WEEK

The first event (and also the largest) was of course the Introduction Week. Together with AUC's communication team we spent the summer planning this week. Our goal was to reduce the duration of plenary sessions, as this was negatively evaluated in the past. This introduction week was packed with activities, both inside and outside the bubble. Some examples of our activities were: The crazy 44, a pub crawl in the Jordaan and a committee evening in the dorms.

Sadly, the schedule was sometimes too packed, so the days may have been a little stressful for the new students. Overall, we believe the Introduction Week was an immense success, where the activities organized by the AUCSA provided a lot of fun and bonding for the new students. This would have not been possible, of course, without the incredible effort from all the lovely student mentors, who volunteered to guide the new students throughout the week. We also received lots of help from our committees, most of which were also present at the AUCSA committee extravaganza. This week was a true collaborative effort, so we want to express our immense gratitude to everybody who got involved.

On Friday of Introduction week, we left for the Introduction Weekend, which took place at the camping site Passheuvel near Austerlitz. There we spent the days relaxing and exercising, and the evenings partying and bonding. We came back on Sunday after a morning meditation in the woods, exhausted from the fun of the weekend.

In February, we organized a second, slightly smaller Introduction Week for the Feb starters and incoming exchange students. In these 3 days, we explored the city with the newcomers with a canal boat cruise and a crazy 33. Together we Pangea we made efforts to introduce sustainable thinking to the new students, and cooked a dinner for them at AUCafe/Jeugdland. A lot of credit also has to go to the student mentors, who were there for

all the activities, and even picked up the exchange students at their hostel. Thanks again to all involved students, for helping us in successfully welcoming these new students!

WINTERFORMAL

As the first semester was coming to an end of a new academic year it was time to escalate that everyday magic that happens in the AB everyday to a full-on, sublime magical evening; The Yule Ball. Gathering inspiration from the Harry Potter series, coins could be bought at Gringott (read: coin sale), butterbeer was sold at the bar run by AUCafè to be enjoyed fellow students, staff and alumni of AUC. Almost at danger of lifting the AB's magical roof for the occasion, performances took place on stage all night by some of our impressive AUC talents. The best part? You could even make the night last forever by visiting Yearbook's photo booth. Thanks to everyone who made the night happen!

DORMFEST

Dormfest 2017 presents: Treasure Island was a pirate's dream of a treasure hunt beyond compare – the rain drizzling brighter than gold as the courtyard was transformed into an escapade of a party. Mostly due to its celebration of everything the AUC community entails, ranging from committees to performers to painters to builders to shell collectors to each and everyone who vibed with the rest of us on the 17th of June. Being a festival for students, by students there was a lot of display to make the daylong festival something everyone could enjoy and make people really feel like they were at a festival. Therefore much attention was paid this year to big decorations that went with the theme such as the pirate ship bungee castle, barrels as tables, self-made palm trees and in-crowd performers, among them a knife-juggling pirate on stilts.

We expected the activities (make your own flag, face paint, hoola-hoop area, silent disco + all what the committees had to offer) to make people both hungry and thirsty, so a large part of the budget also went to ensure people could stay energized until also the umbrella-

girls stopped dancing. We decided to use the same catering company as used for Domfest 2016, Square events. Thanks to their culinary skills people could enjoy Caribbean-inspired food, among them coconut soaked pineapple served in a pirate ship. Moreover, there was a beer-bar, two cocktail bars and even an ice cream stand provided by our Diversity Commission who at the same time raised awareness for Pride Month. Moreover, the drinks were served in re-usable cup as an attempt to make Dormfest more sustainable.

For the rest of the time most of the crowd could be spotted dancing in front of one of our two stages. The main stage saw an upgrade from last year as this year team's invested a larger part of the budget to a slick design, black lights and other various lights to aid the court-yard transformation to a real party. Additionally, Webradio ensured a perhaps sicker vibe in their in-built stage for the occasion providing solid tunes to be enjoyed Webradio-style. We also wanted to include some pirate music vibes, which especially rose to the occasion in our promotion video which this year was filmed professionally.

Looking back at Dormfest 2017 we feel proud to have created a treasure of a festival itself, offering an escape from the final stress of the academic year as well as a celebration of all it has brought the AUC community on every other level.

Pots of golden thanks to the Team who it could not have happened without and for elevating it even further, everyone else who contributed or participated in some way, our partners, volunteers and sponsors; you were perhaps the biggest treasures.

Dormfest Team 2017:

Name

Petra Karlsen Stangvik	<i>Chair</i>
Danielle Wagenaar	<i>Secretary, sponsors, permits, volunteers</i>
Jacob Van Der Ham	<i>Treasurer</i>
Wino Carter	<i>Promotion</i>
Suzanne Broer	<i>Food & Beverage</i>
Anette Maletjarv	<i>Stage & Activities</i>

Lena Rohmer
Evi Sifaki

Off-stage performers, creative
Creative, arts & crafts

UCSRN

The University College Student Representatives of the Netherlands (UCSRN) is the umbrella organization for all the university colleges in the Netherlands. The function of this organization can be illustrated through understanding its structure. Namely, the three organs of the UCSRN are the Executive Board, Social Committee, and the Academic Committee. Firstly, the Executive Board is the overlooking body consisting of elected members from any of the university colleges. Their function is to represent the interests of all the UCSRN colleges to external parties. Secondly, the Social Committee is comprised of a student from each university college (traditionally a student association board member) and their main task is to plan and facilitate social events that bring all the schools together. Lastly, the Academic Committee is responsible for organizing academic conferences and discussion academic issues. This body is a collection of one student council from each school.

The 2016-2017 year was one of growth for the UCSRN. On an administrative front, there were alterations made to budget to better accommodate smaller university colleges and there was a concerted effort made to ensure that past failings of the organization were identified and addressed appropriately. Arguably, this year was the best in regards to social events because the Social Committee hosted the usual events with great success and was even able to create a new event, “Districtfest”, that was critically acclaimed.

In relation to the AUCSA, we were able to continue to be an influential member of the UCSRN and lead by example as the largest university college. Representing us in the Social Committee Heleen Vos, who dedicated more than the expected amount of time and effort to ensure that the social events of the year were of the stellar quality that they were. In addition, Fatiya Munkaila was a strong member of the Academic Committee showing great leadership and innovativeness. Also, the AUCSA was benefited by one of our own members being elected as Chair of the Executive Board. Joris van Schie was a faithful servant to the UCSRN and represented the interests of the university colleges to the outside world with great poise.

A very special note must be made for the USCRN Tournament (Olympic Edition), which was this year held at our very own AUC and ended up bringing us our unprecedented third victory in a row! More importantly, this could not have been achieved without the tireless and dedicated work of our Tournament Team that worked for over five months in order to ensure that all the university colleges could experience the best tournament yet. With more events than ever, and over 700 people attending, it was not without difficulty that the tournament was organized. Despite the challenges that faced the team, they stuck together and continued to act selflessly for the greater good. On the day of, the event was an utter success and we can only hope that future years continue to bring such well-organized and exciting UCSRN events. A million thanks to the Tournament Team: Heleen Vos and Ilen Madhavji (Co-chairs), Muzi Ndiweni (Secretary), Susan van Hijfte (Treasurer), Louise ten Bosch (Head of Logistics Team), Suzanne Broer (Logistics Team), Kristjana de Ronde (Logistics Team), Janica Hacken (Head of Sports Team), Julian van Witsen (Sports Team), Sophie Smeets (Head of Arts & Academics Team), Thomas Litan (Arts & Academics Team), Evi Sifaki (Arts & Academics Team).

CONTACT

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“GETTING ON BOARD”

Amsterdam University College
Student Association
info@aucsa.nl
www.aucsa.nl
+31205258836

Visiting Address
Science Park 113
1098 XG Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Postal Address
AUCSA
P. O. Box 94160
1090 GD Amsterdam
The Netherlands