



AUCSA

Amsterdam University College
Student Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 -2018

“ALL HANDS ON DECK”

Ishvar Lalbahadoersing

Louise ten Bosch

Charlotte Kroese

Berend Jansen

Gerold Sewcharan

Noana Smits

“IT TAKES A LOT OF PEOPLE TO MAKE A WINNING ‘SAIL’
TEAM. EVERYBODY’S CONTRIBUTION IS IMPORTANT”

GARY DAVID GOLDBERG (WITH SLIGHT MODIFICATION)

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INTRODUCTION

Amsterdam, October 12, 2018

Dear Members,

Thank you for the past year, to (with a hint of irony) quote myself, it can only be described as an: 'It was an emotional rollercoaster with only highlights. In this annual report we will try to elaborate on our experience of the last year, evaluating not only our struggles but also our successes. Our successes coincide with the evaluation of our achievements, which will allow us to look back on this last year with pride.

From the first meeting as a board, the diversity between the members was clear; from our backgrounds, to our approaches, to our different strengths and qualities. Never had I thought that the 6 of us - such differing people - would be able to complement each other as well as we have over the past year.

When we were elected, I knew I had found myself amongst a particularly ambitious group, "Just as well" I thought as it would certainly a tall task to fill the large shoes of the boards before us. Luckily, we were all driven by passion, self-motivation and mostly each other.

So, what kept us sailing? You, our members. In the past year, you have all, collectively and individually, worked so hard to creatively come up new ideas. Ways to cut the budget whilst still manage to increase the quality of our community and events that were held in the association. That resulted in various amazing events, which made AUC a university we are all proud to call home. Without you by our side, we wouldn't have managed to accomplish everything that we have done in the past year, and for that, we will always be grateful.

Lastly, I would like to thank Louise, Charlotte, Berend, Gerold and Noa, my fellow board members; I could not have wished for better companions on this journey.

On behalf of the AUCSA Board 2017-2018,

Yours
Ishvar Lalbahadoersing

Sincerely,

LETTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

16-10-2018

Dear AUCSA member, Amsterdam, 17-10-2018

Four times a year, the Audit Commission aims to stimulate the financial potential of the AUCSA by analysing the financial administration and providing both short term and long term recommendations. The tasks of the Audit Commission include checking up on the financial administration of all the committees' treasurers and the treasurer of the AUCSA, as well as providing independent financial advice on spending policies and the budget. In this final letter of the budget year 2017-2018, we present our findings and recommendations for the month of June and the transition months during the summer break. The AUCSA's Treasury of the 2017-2018 academic year consisted of Charlotte Kroese as Treasurer and Berend Jansen as Vice-Treasurer.

First, we would like to thank Charlotte and Berend for all the hard work they did last year. Their job was not easy, as they had to start with a very large deficit at the beginning of the year (as was previously explained by treasurer Willemijn in the White Letter). Despite this, the AUCSA managed to pay off all these deficits and was still able to support all of the committees in organising their events. We congratulate the AUCSA on this achievement. The Audit Commission enjoyed working together with the treasurer and vice-treasurer and are very grateful for all the long hours they have put in on behalf of the AUC community.

Last week we concluded our final audit and have thus finished our review of the budget year 2017-2018. Although the period was short, June was a very busy month with a lot of events like Foodyard and Dormfest. The treasurer finished her administration shortly before the October GA, so this meant that we had little time to do the complete audit before finalising the budget year this week. Unfortunately, there were quite a few discrepancies found in our audit. The Audit Commission needs to see every receipt, invoice, transaction and reimbursement as part of her audit. On multiple occasions the budget was not transparent and we could not check off all the items we need to see to make sure that everything is correct. Usually after an audit, we get explanations from the treasurer about these discrepancies and she has the chance to fix the mistakes that we found. However, this audit there was very little time for this. Up until last evening, Charlotte, Berend and the Audit Commission did their best to go over all the different budget codes. We managed to finish this process, just in time for the presentation of the Annual Report at the Budget GA. We could however, if we were given more time, have more thoroughly finished this process to ensure complete transparency.

This audit has taught us to be very clear about setting the audit deadlines and about the importance of close collaboration, so that we can prevent a situation like this from happening. For closing the financial year, it is very important that all aspects of the financial administration are consistent and corroborated by the Audit Commission on behalf of the AUCSA members. Besides that, last year has also proved to us that a good transition is very

important. The transition between the treasurer of the board year 2016-2017 and Charlotte did not go smoothly and this caused a lot of problems because of all the liabilities that had to be paid. We would like to compliment former treasurer Charlotte for the immense improvement she made in for this year's transition. We believed that she has prepared Willemijn de Hoop well for her year as treasurer. Furthermore, in contrast to the treasurer of the year before, Charlotte is more approachable and is open for questions we, as the Audit Commission, might have about last year's administration.

In addition, we conclude again that good and smooth communication between the Audit Commission and the treasurer is key, to allow us to perform our tasks as an independent advisory commission to the treasurer and to keep the financial situation of the AUCSA healthy. We are glad to say that we already had a couple of constructive meetings with both this year's treasurer Willemijn and vice-treasurer Siem. In these meetings we have discussed the deadline for the first audit of 2018-2019, discussed organisational details for keeping up the financial administration and looked over the budgets for all the committees. The Audit Commission is already pleased about this cooperation and has great confidence in both Willemijn and Siem.

We were very glad to see that most committees were able to realise their events and did not overspend. For this year, the Audit Commission wants to encourage all committees to send in their reimbursements on time, hand in clear receipts and most importantly stick to their budget, to make sure that the financial situation stays as healthy as it is now and

everybody can go organising all the events that define the excellence of the AUC community.

If there are any questions or remarks about the content of this letter, the financial procedures of the AUCSA, or about the Audit Commission itself, you may approach us in person or by email to audit@aucsa.nl.

Kind regards,

The Audit Commission 2018-2019

Laura Gerritse, Ludovica Schaerf, Leander Schagen and Twan Stegeman

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 6 major themes that we had promised to prioritize in our work.

Committees

With the introduction of two new committees at the end of 2016-2017's board year —SlayUC and RAW — we were tasked with ensuring that these two new boards blossomed, a task which was well fulfilled. However, with the welcome of two new committees, we sadly had to say goodbye to Spoon, our food and health journalism committee.

Ensuring the financial stability of the association was a top priority for our board year, which translated into taking stringent measures; both in boards finances, as well as those of the committees. The financial measures that were taken manifested themselves in the following areas: adapting the structure of some of the committees to ensure future stability, budget cuts, raising awareness for both over and underspending, adopting realistic projected incomes and expenditure. All these measures were again taken to ensure a change in spending culture amongst the committees to ensure the future survival of the association.

The effects of these financial measures often surprised us. For example, the cuts led to a significant increase in collaborations to reduce costs, supplying the members with brilliant new ideas. In addition, several committees dedicated themselves to increasing or creating an income. The reduction in funds from the previous years also resulted in some innovative ideas by the committees and we were often delighted by their creativity in the organisation of their events. All in all, upon implementation the financial measures were not necessarily met with cries of joy, however, with time came understanding and eventually it can be said that it resulted in the strengthening of the community.

Moreover, diversity was still a hot topic throughout this past year, with it also being the integral point for all the opening speeches at the AUCSA elections debate for the new board. The Diversity Commission, founded at the end of the previous board's year was still very much in its infantile stage, meaning that it required extra attention. Attention that was necessary to ensure the continuation of such a vital commission.

The First Year Experience

September 2017 presented us with the largest group of first years to date. This made our job both easier as well as presenting us with new problems. The size of the group meant that there was an increase in attendance at committee events, especially during introduction week where on the committee night every event on offer, from the pub quiz to the PlayUC

game night was full to the brim. However, the size also made our job of creating a tight knit group harder.

Excitement for committee involvement stemmed firstly from the new format of the committee market during introduction week, which allowed the committees to really promote their work and recruit more first years. This is highlighted in the extremely high number of first year applicants for all the committees.

External Network Building

Although our focus this year lay predominantly with ensuring the financial stability of the association, we were still very active in connecting with the world outside of “the Bubble”. This can be illustrated with a number of examples. The first being the very successful setting up of acquisitions commission which worked relentlessly throughout the year to acquire sponsors for the association. Secondly, your AUCSA was extremely active in the newly introduced engagement council at AUC. Thirdly, the relationship with Maslow was contractualized for AUCafé, giving them a new home in which they blossomed, gaining a faithful following. Fourthly, the board's relationship with Zeeburgia became stronger over the year, with our chair Ishvar working closely with the management team of Zeeburgia and AUCoaching to sustain and develop ties between the different parties for the benefit of our members.

Outside of creating new relationships, we also worked on maintaining old ones. Your AUCSA again fostered collaborations with AIM PPPE at the UvA and was also very involved in the UCSRN. Due to the structural shift at the end of last year within the UCSRN I (Louise) was now part of the social committee of the UCSRN as a board member. This allowed the association to be even more involved with the UCSRN than in previous years. Furthermore, your AUCSA was (very) vocal during UCSRN GAs and debates, playing a hand in many of the further changes that were recently implemented in the UCSRN. Simultaneously, we

reinforced our connections to our sister UCs in other cities, such as UCU, LUC, and UCM. Although our existing relations with other student associations stayed strong, and a start was made in fostering new relations with student associations from the UvA and VU, we encourage the new board to continue this trend and venture out more.

Internal Communication

Internal communication was an integral part of our board year. We persistently strove to improve communication with our members. This improvement in communication was threefold: the boards communication with the members, the communication between the board and the committees and the committees and the members. Our direct communication or availability was fulfilled through the continuation of daily office hours, as well as becoming marginally addicted to our phones in an effort to respond to all the members' needs. Direct communication with the members was also improved through increasing feedback opportunities. For example, we organised a number of focus groups, as well as a google form with performance related questions which we disseminated amongst the members half-way into our board year.

In regard to methods of communication, Facebook has been the main method of communication for the association over the last years. Over the course of our board year we witnessed a significant decline in Facebook usage in general and there was a feeling that to be active as a member, you had to be active on Facebook. We spent the year trying to find new methods of communication for the association, for example the promotion of events or opportunities. The opportunities page was created at the start of our board year on our website to provide the members with a clear overview of all the committee board openings available to them. Moreover, alongside new promotion spaces around the academic building, we created a weekly overview of all the events which was always posted on Facebook, as well as on the screens around the academic building. The discussion surrounding Facebook

was further entertained with the organisation of a focus group. Whose discussion resulted in the implementation of an app by the new board. This gave us great hope for the future, and we are sure that the new board will constantly strive to improve internal communication within the association.

AUC Spirit

AUC spirit was newly introduced by last year's board of 2016-2017. As was mentioned previously, AUC spirit is hard to measure. That said, having won the UCSRN tournament for the fourth year running is a good testament to the passion our members have for their association. Here's to hoping that your new AUCSA can lead us to victory once more with the chant "AUC's on fire, all UC's are terrified" forever being heard.

Transparency

Our last and newest pillar this year stemmed from the ideas that not only is communication key, but transparency in its own right is integral to the running of the association. This year we aimed to be as transparent as possible, from making of key decisions to the making of the budget. The clarity of the budget was especially important as we wanted to ensure that the students not only had a good understanding of the budget, but also that they understood why certain decisions were being made. The latter being crucial in the tough financial year that we experienced as a board.

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 Marik, Jasmijn, Willemijn, Grace, Siem and Berend: 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,

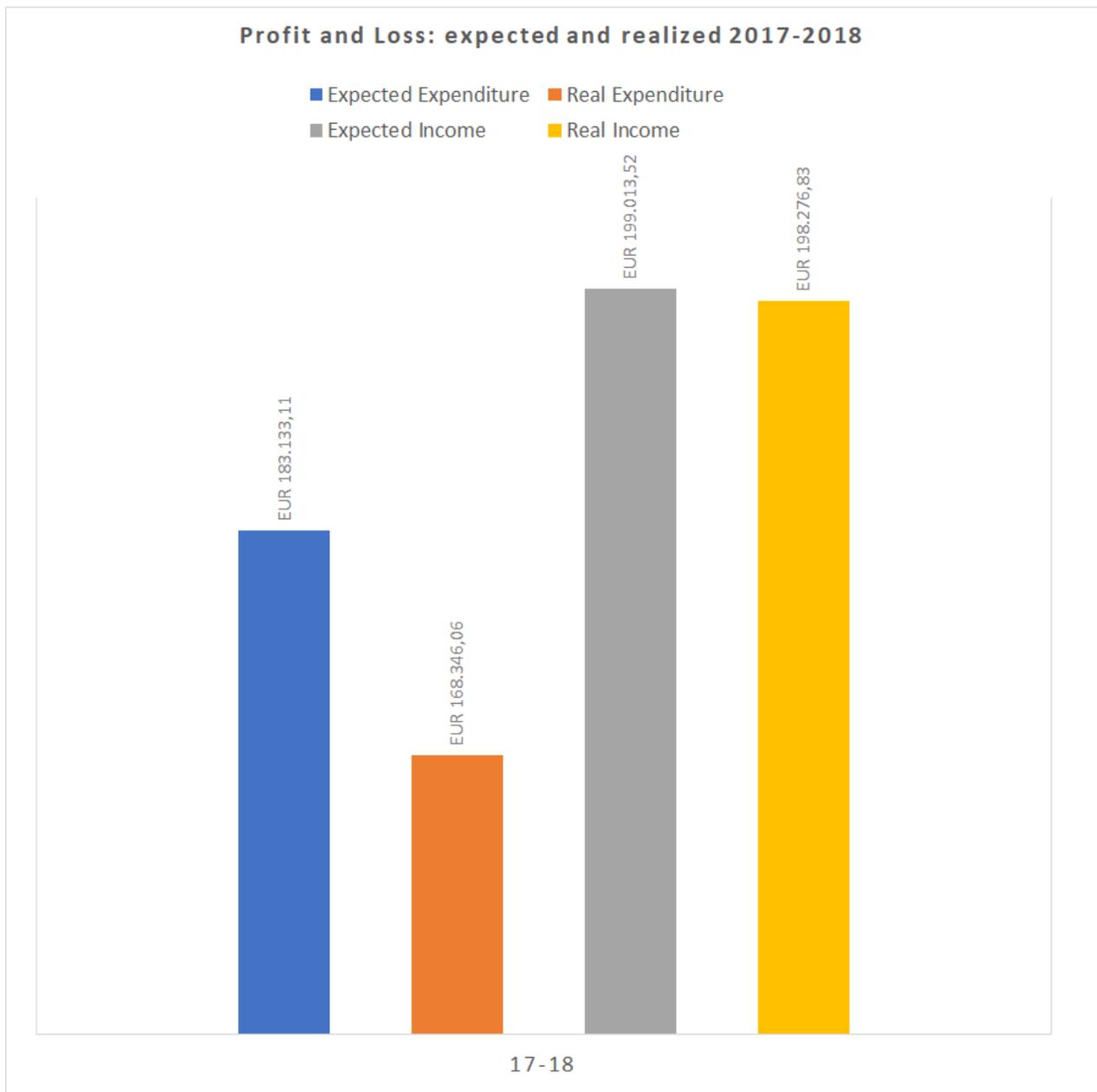
Your AUCSA (2017-2018)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2017-2018

Balance -- 01-08-2018

AUCSA: Balance 01/08/2018			
Assets		Liabilities	
<u>Accounts</u>		<u>Accounts payable</u>	
Bank account - AUCSA	€744.17	Dormsessions Festival Decorations	€44.00
Bank account - TEDxAUCollege	€72.58	Dormsessions Festival Location	€309.50
Savings	€0.00	Yearbook	€2,473.85
		Scopophilia Artist	€150.00
<u>Receivables</u>		OnStage OpenStage	€181.50
Gemeente contribution Jeugdlab 17-18	€1,200.00	Dormfest Makro	€624.31
UCSRN Reimbursement Busses	€385.00	ZEN Yoga Retreat	€150.00
		Graduation Bags (16-17)	€719.95
		Hands On Donation ChangeMakerz	€38.00
		Board Allowances 17-18	€3,673.49
		Dormfest Vergunning	€374.50
		Dormsessions festival artists	€70.00
		Equity	-€6,792.35
<hr/>			
Total	€2,016.75	Total	€2,016.75

Profit and Loss 2017-2018



Summary and reflection on the financial year 2017-2018

As can be seen in the overview above, we started the financial year of 2017-2018 with an equity of € -37000 euro. In the beginning of the year, we gathered during budget weekend to look at the possibilities for the coming year. The goal we set during that weekend was to change the culture of spending within the AUCSA. It was never the plan to bring us back into the positive numbers within a year; we decided that we would take it step by step, start at the root of the problem, and work our way up to a financially stable association.

As you probably will have noticed, this approach meant eliminating unnecessary costs, increasing ticket prices and closely working together with the audit commission. We believe these measures were necessary because our association can and should be more conscious on how money is spent. We are proud of our committees, teams, and commissions, for not letting these measures affect their creativity, dedication and the quality of their events.

Together with all the members involved, we managed to have one of the most successful financial years in the history of our association. It was fantastic to see that all committees were on board, ready to make a change that will define the future of the AUCSA. We are proud to say that, together, we booked a net result of roughly € +30.000,- and we brought our negative equity back from € -37.000,- to € - 6.800,-

We are confident that the AUCSA Board of 2018-2019 is capable of continuing this trend and will succeed in maintaining the financial health of the Association, keeping its budget realistic and further improving the Treasury.

Finally, as Treasurer of the Board of 2017-2018, I want to thank Berend Jansen, my Vice-Treasurer who has helped both me and my successor tremendously throughout this year. Secondly, the importance of the Audit Commission to the Treasury cannot be forgotten: their tireless efforts to advice and comment on the financial administration are of great value to the Treasury and the Association. Moreover, I want to thank all committee, commission and team treasurers for their cooperation with and passion for the fine art of treasury. The finances are sexy and so are you. And last but not least, I want to thank my fellow Board members, Ishvar Lalbahadoersing, Louise ten Bosch, Noana Smits and Gerold Sewcharan, for their steadfast efforts to lighten my task as Treasurer.

Without your dedication, motivation, comments, feedback and help we could not together have achieved the things we have.

For one last time, with love,

The AUCSA Treasury 2017-2018

Charlotte Kroese and Berend Jansen

AUCSA EVENTS

INTRODUCTION WEEK

Our very first, and probably biggest event was the Introduction Week. Before and during the summer we planned this event, with the help of the past Board and AUC's communication team. This year we came up with something new; a clear division between the academic and the social activities, and a point booklet that turned the whole week into a sort of scavenger hunt with a dash of healthy competition and prizes at the end. This worked out extremely efficient and all both the new students as well as the mentors and AUC preferred this outline. Some examples of our activities were: The crazy 44, a pub crawl in the Oost and a committee evening in the dorms.

Because of this new academic first, then social activity after focused format, the week had a very good flow, in the sense that the incoming students had more time than in previous years to sort out things for themselves e.g. bank account set up, registering with the municipality etc. and could then participate in the social activities with that stress of off their minds. All in all, the week was a success, with the only points of difficulty having been the tour around science park, which was mainly due to unfortunate weather, and the trip to the VU. The latter was difficult mainly due to having to be there that early in the morning, with little to no knowledge of how to navigate the city. But thanks to a strong volunteer mentor effort and coordination planning everybody made it there in the end and it can only get better from here on out. With that being said, thanks to positive energy, solid coordination, strong team effort and excited participants, this introduction week was one to remember.

On Friday of Introduction week, we left for the Introduction Weekend, which took place at the camping site Paasheuvel 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 (2) Feb starters and incoming exchange students. In these 3 days, we explored the city with the newcomers with a bar crawl of Amsterdam Oost, a canal boat cruise and a tour of the Van Gogh Museum. In the evening we brought them to the traditional Dutch student society building of LANX where we introduced them to (some spiffing) Indonesian food with AUCafé manning the bar! A lot of credit also has to go to the student mentors who ensured that the new students really got the most out of the weekend. Thanks again to all involved students, for helping us in successfully welcoming these new students!

WINTER FORMAL

In December, we celebrated the end of 2017 in style during Winter Formal: Frosted Formal, our biggest Winter Formal ever. Over 700 members, alumni and teachers came together to enjoy the unique opportunity to turn the AB into a frozen dancefloor. It was a night with beautiful decorations, fantastic performances and great dance moves. All thanks to our wonderful volunteers, performers and AUC housemasters. But no AUCSA event can happen without the help from our committees, AUCafé kept everybody hydrated throughout the night, and Yearbook supplied us all with photos to remember our night by. But most importantly, this evening would not have happened without the AUCSA members. Thanks to everyone who helped organising and thanks to everyone who attended the event, it was a special night.

DORMFEST

DORMFEST PRESENTS: *THE MAD TEA PARTY*™(lol), was an all-round success. Thanks to a strong concept, critical budgeting, and a hard working team, the development process, the day itself and the post festival errands all went smoothly.

This year, in particular due to the liabilities carried over from the year before, more than ever we had to focus on minimizing expenses and really making Dormfest happen on a tight budget. With that being said, though in the beginning we had our worries, thanks to our strong acquisitions team, and utilizing all the resources we had; from our personal networks, to using what Dormfest is as a brand to get the entire mainstage artist line up for free for example, it all worked out in the end with a significant profit made as well.

We had several committee activities, cocktails by solace, giant pong by catch, baked goods by diversity commission, HandsOn to name a few. We had snack food outsourced to a food truck parked behind the dorms, we had an amazing beer sponsor in Poesiat & Kater, and we hope to have them in future editions again as they were very keen to work with us again. The stage & A/V equipment provided by Live Support again as the edition before, thankfully at a discount price once again. Most importantly in terms of having access to the building and operating smoothly during the day we worked closely together with Adel, the DUWO housemaster and he was a big help particular in terms of sorting out the power plan so that we had access to electricity wherever we needed. We had a bouncy castle, a high striker, the AUC Webradio booth behind the dorms with performances and DJ's on their stage as well. Besides the P&K's beer bar and our own bar for mainly wine and soft drinks facilitated by bar crew, the solace cocktail bar was an overwhelming success, as they made several trips to AH throughout the day to restock as they were selling out time after time again.

All in all, this edition of Dormfest was truly by the students for the students as we had an amazing extended decor team that helped make all the decorations, volunteers that helped with everything from running the silent disco throughout the day to cleaning up after in the evening and again the next day, and not to forget the photographers and filmers who shot the photos and video that captured the experience but also those who edited the after movie that has come out since. Dormfest 2018 was a banger, ask anyone and they'll tell you the same, read the evaluation document written by the chair or look at the final budget in case you need more convincing. We out.

P.S. Let it show on record that Dormfest 2018 would not have been possible without the constant support, critical evaluation and attention to detail of Dinte Braaksma.

Dormfest Team 2018:

Name

Gerold Sewcharan	<i>Chair</i>
Dinte Braaksma	<i>Secretary, permits, volunteers</i>
Willemijn de Hoop	<i>Treasurer & acquisitions</i>
Alice Martin	<i>Promotion</i>
Phoebe Mullis	<i>Food & Beverage</i>
Berend Hilberts	<i>Stage & Activities</i>
Marron Loods	<i>Off-stage performers, creative</i>
Emilie Ostmo	<i>Creative, arts & crafts</i>

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 (from 2017 onwards this became a board member) whose main task is to discuss topics affecting the different UC's and share knowledge, the second task is to facilitate social events that bring all the UC's together. Lastly, the Academic Committee is responsible for facilitating academic events organised by the different UC's and discussion academic issues. This body is a collection of one student council from each school.

This year saw an additional change to the structure of the UCSRN, adding onto the drastic changes that had been carried out at the end of the year before. Your AUCSA played a large part in these changes which resulted in the clear distinction being made between UCSRN sponsored events, and UCSRN events which are hosted by the Individual UC's, the latter ensuring that the UCSRN would take

on all the liabilities of their own events, not the UC's themselves. Sponsorship requests were put to good use with TEDx and AUCMUN becoming significant benefactors of the UCSRN sponsorship fund and we ourselves hosted the Spotlight event this year at AUC. Both these examples highlight the high level of involvement by the board, we hope that the new AUCSA board will continue with this trend.

CONTACT

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