

# AUCSA

## Annual Report

### 2020-2021

#### “Resetting our course”

*No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new heaven to the human spirit.*

Helen Keller

*09 October 2021*

*By the AUCSA Board 2020-2021,  
for the Association and its members.*

—

*This document contains an overview and assessment of the AUCSA's goals and efforts during the entire office year of 2020-2021. While this document was created with the aim of it being as complete as possible, in order to avoid an overabundance of details not every matter pertaining to this board year was included. Should you wish to know more about a specific topic, please get in contact with the AUCSA Board currently in office.*

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*For any questions about the content of this document, please contact the AUCSA Board by emailing at [info@aucsa.nl](mailto:info@aucsa.nl).*



In memoriam of  
Dasha Gavrilova  
† June 25, 2021



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## 1. LETTER FROM THE AUCSA BOARD 2020-2021

Dear Reader,

Our year together was challenging, creative and very different from a typical year at the AUCSA. We sailed through some uncharted waters and were tasked to reset the course many times. Not only were we, the AUCSA Board, challenged in unexpected ways in our efforts to keep the Association running, you as (committee) members and students of AUC will look back on '20-'21 as a strange chapter in your college years. We were, however, amazed, surprised and so proud to be part of an association that is so full of devotion, dedication, and drive to keep a community going, even during the toughest of times. The over 200 events that we organized together during the past year not only brought us together as students, but also as supporters, organizers and luminators in times of need. Many new ideas were born out of the limitations set upon us this year, which we are very grateful for. Thank you for trusting us to represent you as your AUCSA Board and to facilitate all of your ideas, initiatives, and dreams for our Association, the AUCSA.

When we were elected in May 2020, we set off into stormy waters, not knowing the direction that the circumstances of our Lustrum year would push us in. And what a ride it would be! We organized our first ever online Introweek, had our first events, held Office Hours in the dorms lobby, created COVID policies, organized a record-breaking 12 hour-long GA, organized a CO and a BO (CO for committees in November, a BO for external boards in June), revamped the AUCSA website, brought gezelligheid through a redesigned Winter Formal, Winter Families, and finally Dormfest! And of course we welcomed five new CCTs (as well as this abbreviation).

Throughout the entire year we tried to improve the running tasks of the Board and frequently evaluated our progress. We did our best to handle every situation with the care it deserved, even during unprecedented times like these. We succeeded and we made mistakes, we evaluated, reached goals, rephrased goals, and learned many lessons that we will take with us for life.

Now, before you is our last official task as the Board 2020-2021, the Annual Report. The report contains the efforts, innovations, and passion projects of our team. In it we discuss and reflect on the events that we organised, the progress of our goals, the financial year overview and the way we handled the COVID-19 crisis. We invite you to read these reflections on our Board year and hope you feel as proud as we do.

With love,

Your AUCSA Board 2020-2021,

*Stijn Maathuis, Onè Mikulskytė, Bram Mak, Ellie Swan, Ignacio Sanchez Abenante, and Blanca Gonzalez*



## **2. EVALUATION OF PILLARS**

### **2.1 Inclusion**

The member body of the AUCSA is diverse in many different ways and it was in the interest of the AUCSA Board to act in all of these interests. Even more so, the inclusion of all different nationalities, cultures, genders, abilities, sexual orientations and religions was of high priority for the AUCSA Board and for this reason, Inclusion was a key pillar of the AUCSA 2020-2021. We, alongside the rest of the Association strived to fulfill this pillar through the following means:

Committees, commissions and teams were a crucial part for the inclusion of the AUCSA member body, by having 37 different student boards, each having a different purpose and serving a different niche. We also pursued to encourage members to create new committees in areas they felt were unrepresented, with this happening a few times this past year. You can read more of this in the section *3.5 Committees*.

Throughout the year, there were events held on a weekly basis. Effort was made to make each event as inclusive and accessible as possible for the whole member body. This was done first by balancing out the type of events over the academic calendar, to ensure that each different interest was continuously represented. For all possible events, prices of participation were set as low as possible in efforts to make them accessible for the widest possible audience.

With high involvement of our members through General Assemblies and other modes of contact, the association strived to be an area where everyone is included. With Collaboration of the Diversity Commission, the Anit-Racism Initiative was continued in order to strive the AUCSA as an anti-racist association. This was carried out with a number of guest lectures discussing the issues of race and racism, plus, the creation and implementation of the Diversity Accessibility and Inclusion (DAI) checklist. The former resource provides guidelines and recommendations that committees, commissions and teams can use when planning an event to keep a mindful approach of accessibility for our diverse community.

Lastly, we want to wish the new AUCSA Board best of luck with continuing with making everyone feel included and safe at AUC. We are most happy to see them carry through with their Accessibility pillar in mind during the mex Board year.

### **2.2 Spirit of Engagement**

One of our goals was to engage with (committee) members in order to foster the creativity and community spirit within our bubble. This spirit of engagement manifests, in part, in the several new committees that were formed during our Board year. Creating the framework in which students feel comfortable to bring ideas to the table and are supported in breathing life into them in the form of CCTs was important to our Board. An additional means to pursue this pillar was strengthening the ties between CAOs and their respective committees. Despite corona measures being extremely limiting in this regard, our CAOs strived to reach out to their committees more often than needed, to create a trusting relationship between CCTs and the



Board. We created group chats per position (Chair chat, Secretary chat, etc.) which facilitated the growth of several small sub-communities within the committee member family, who could thus more easily communicate and support each other in their tasks. Finally, we held a casual committee assembly at the start of the year, where committee members were able to socialize with one another and with the Board, to explore collaboration ideas and network with other committees.

## **2.3 Sustainability**

This year, we continued with the sustainability pillar. We worked towards increasing the sustainability of our Association, many of whose members are passionate about using environmental resources wisely. A large part of this week included raising awareness for areas of the AUCSA which could improve in regards to sustainability.

A key player is the Sustainability Commission (SUSCOM) which had its second board year in 2020/2021. The main projects were to expand and update the decorations swapsheet and make it accessible to members, so that the decorations purchased for AUCSA events can be reused by all committees, to host a Sustainability Month in order to raise awareness for sustainability issues within the community, to write a Sustainability Report, to catalogue our Association's purchases and their environmental impact and to give committees advice for how to improve. A major event were the individual committee workshops ("Greenshops"), which were held in two rounds and in which committees set achievable goals to improve the sustainability.

We also kept this pillar in mind when making decisions as the AUCSA Board. For example, we discouraged the use of stickers in committee promotion and reduced the amount of printed paperwork. These new rules were enforced at the first Budget GA.

## **2.4 First Year Experience**

For us, engaging first year students was of vital importance, especially given the fact that we started the year already with COVID restrictions. We wanted the first years to feel like we were doing our best to include them in a community that they could barely see or talk to. We found several ways to do so:

1. Introweek. We made sure to plan introweek as well as we could given the restrictions so that students would meet both each other and their mentors.
2. Committee market. We hoped to make committees attractive and available for first years to join. This was done by advertising in the committee market both committee activities happening soon and open positions.
3. Beginning of the year events. We tried to encourage committees to get their events rolling as soon as possible so that first years could 'put a face' to all the committees they had heard about.
4. Making sure first years are aware of the possibility of proposing their own initiatives. We did not receive any particular initiatives this past year, but we made sure to refer people that approached us with ideas to the initiative budget.



## 2.5 External Connections

Especially during a year of lockdowns and smaller social bubbles, maintaining our connections with external parties associated with the AUCSA was a priority for us. Throughout the year we kept in close contact with the Management Team of AUC as well as the AUC student representative bodies Student Council and Board of Studies. We also developed some ties with student/study associations in Amsterdam by joining the ASVA Besturendag as the Board and by inviting other association boards to our Constitution Borrel. At the same time, we exchanged experiences with other university colleges in the Netherlands, either through UCSRN committees, GAs or events, or through direct relationships with SA Boards, such as the UCSA in Utrecht. We actively participated in new and old UCSRN traditions, such as Pen Pals, Spotlight, Voice of UCSRN and the Online Tournament. Furthermore, through several projects that are mentioned under 3.6 as well, the AUCSA developed a closer working relationship with DUWO.

## 2.6 Internal Communication

In the year 2020-2021, the AUCSA had around 850 members. With so many members, Internal Communication was an important pillar as clear, active, and transparent communication had to be assured. While the Academic Building was closed for the larger part of the year, we focussed on digital communication more this year rather than promoting in person.

The only in-person location that could be used for promotion was dorms. For that, with permission from DUWO, we had a special place next to each of the 6 elevators to hang AUCSA's posters. All committees could use it, as well as the weekly overview was placed on the new 'poster boards'. Next to that, whenever possible, committee boards could have their lunchbreak stands at dorm entries inside as well as outside. Committees would be provided with their banners, disinfection tools and other materials that they would need.

At the beginning of the year, while it was still possible, we held office hours in person at dorms, where the Board would be available for questions or a chat, as well as buy merchandise or participate in different initiatives. After COVID regulations got stricter, we tried hosting office hours online, however, due to lack of attendance, it was temporarily suspended until it could go back in person.

Due to pandemic, however, we got a chance to focus and thus improve the Association's communication digitally. We continued using Facebook for AUCSA Committee Feed, however, general use of Facebook decreased significantly. Instead, Instagram was used a lot more by all committee boards and members of the Association. Instagram was used to share the weekly overview as well as to repost committee posters and other promotions. Newsletter was continued to serve as not only the overview of all events, but members could also find signup forms there and external opportunities were promoted.

Additionally, together with the AUC Communications Team, we reopened the conversation with Unilife. This happened for several reasons: the app has significantly improved since its last use by the Association, the app would be used to provide students with all opportunities around AUC, not only AUCSA, and the app would increase the accessibility of information for all





members of the association, especially those who do not have social media accounts and don't visit the AUCSA website often. The next AUCSA Board will decide on whether Unilife should be used for the next academic year.

Finally, the biggest attention was placed on the website as it was the centralised platform that contained information about all the events happening within the association as well as signup forms. We also continued the project of revamping the website, read more about it in section 3.4 Website.

As part of internal Board communication, Slack was introduced. For any internal matters, we used Slack channels and threads within them. That significantly increased transparency in internal communication while reducing oversharing unnecessary information as every board member could choose which channels they wanted to be part of.

Slack has future potential of centralisation of internal communication with all committee boards in order to facilitate communication among committees as well as the board. However, this should be further discussed and analysed with the relevant parties. Another improvement in internal communication could be made by changing the newsletter platform as the free version of Mailchimp does not offer the features that other platforms offer for a very low price as compared to the same features on Mailchimp.

## **3. PROGRESS AND GOALS**

### **3.1 Finances**

#### **VISMA**

Although switching to accountancy software is an important and much needed leap, functionality vital to the functioning of the Treasurer was missing. Over the summer of 2020 many hours had been spent to learn how to use the software, and to employ it within our association. Continuing this path however, would require both VISMA and the current Excel administration to be kept updated throughout the year, which would result in an unfeasible workload for the treasurer.

#### **Internal improvements**

Although on the long-term the search for suitable administrative software will continue, a lot of systemic upgrades have been implemented:

- We have made a switch from Google Sheets to Microsoft Excel, allowing for the implementation of the features mentioned below, on top of a performance increase.
- The consolidation of all budgets has been automated, preventing a discrepancy between the global net result and the results of all sections in the budget. There is no longer a possibility that a post of €1000 could accidentally not be incorporated into the overview.
- Bank statements are now automatically imported, reducing the possibility of transactions being lost or duplicated during import.
- An extensive discrepancy detection system has been developed to check if all transactions have been accounted for properly.



- The tracking of costs per post is fully automatic.
- The automatic attribution of transactions has been improved.
- Transactions can now be attributed to multiple posts, or even different budgets, allowing for more transparency.

### **Making the administrative workload feasible**

Apart from the reliability issues, the AUCSA treasury has also historically been limited by the enormous amounts of administrative workload. We have reduced the workload in these ways:

- Once reimbursement requests are approved, they can be exported directly to the bank as a PAIN XML file. This alleviates a lot of manual error-prone manual work.
- Committee budgets can now be automatically consolidated into the large AUCSA budget. This used to cut away a lot of time that could be spent on evaluating the budgets themselves.
- A lot of time was spent on writing emails for erroneous reimbursement requests. Follow-up messages are now standardized with all technical information automatically summarized, so that more effort can be put into the personal part of the message. The system is now being used for the first time, by the Treasury team 2021-2022.

All these improvements have resulted in the fact that the discrepancy between the realisation of 2020-2021 and the change in balance between 2020 and 2021 is exactly 0. Consequently, every mutation throughout the year is sure to have been properly accounted for, with extreme levels of certainty.

## **3.2 Quartermastery**

### **Tents**

Our largest equipment investment this year has been the acquisition of professional grade party tents. In the past, some party tents had already been acquired, but these were not user friendly to set up.. Additionally, two of them broke or were found to be incomplete at the beginning of the year. In line with our pillar of sustainability, we decided to invest in highly durable party tents, which can be used at all kinds of outdoor events throughout the years.

### **Sustainability of equipment**

In the past, equipment would wear off quickly, due to the frequent transportation and lack of any proper casing. Furthermore, a proper method of storing equipment was lacking. This is why most new equipment acquisitions have been coupled with the acquisition of bags or cases to store or and transport the equipment. To exemplify: the bag for microphone stands allows us to access them without the risk of tumbling over, the new speaker stands are stored in a protective bag, and cable ties allow for easily accessible and organised cable storage. The sound mixer is now stored in a protective flight case.

## **3.3 AUCSA 5 year plan**

### **3.3.1 5 year plan**

Following the initiative from the AUCSA Board '19-'20, the Board of '20-'21 further developed the five-year plan of the Amsterdam University College Student Association for 2020-2025. Here,



ambitious goals for the future of the Association are defined to ensure continuity over an extended period of time. The 5 strategic objectives are goals that we would like to achieve over the next five years.

1. Reduce the environmental impact of the Association.
2. Increase outreach to Amsterdam.
3. Create a communal space where events can be held and people can come together.
4. Create an interactive online platform where members can find all the information about and activities of the Association
5. Managing the Association's growth and professionalizing the Association's administration.

### **3.3.2 Advisory Council's involvement**

To maximize the continuity aspect of the five-year plan, the Board decided to include supervision and evaluation of the five-year plan within the tasks of the Advisory Council. Considering that this body of the AUCSA consists of (past) active members with much relevant experience in with the AUCSA and with Board life, they are well-suited to guide and reflect on the implementation of the five-year plan goals by AUCSA Boards to come.

## **3.4 Website**

The AUCSA website has been an important focus of the AUCSA Board for a few years now as it serves as a central platform for the communication within the Association. The AUCSA Board'19-'20 started the project of revamping the website, which was continued and implemented by our Board. It was financed by the leftover funds of the academic year '19-'20.

There were various reasons to improve the old website. First, the page builder was very outdated, and committees struggled successfully updating their information on the website. For that, different templates were created and the page builder changed so that it would be easy to use for everyone, especially those unfamiliar with website management. Next to that, the design had to be renewed for a better user experience. After a successful collaboration with external web designers and developers, the website was finally published.

For future improvements, we would recommend developing a better calendar integration with Unilife. Next to that, the website should be further promoted as a central platform for information regarding all the updates and events happening within the association.

## **3.5 CCTs**

### **3.5.1 Restructuring of Committees, Commissions & Teams**

#### *Commissions*

During the Board year, we have concluded that it is unsustainable for the AUCSA Board member to be actively involved in Commissions' daily tasks, especially (co-)chairing a Commission. Being an AUCSA Board member requires a lot of commitment and work on other tasks, not to mention



taking care of the unexpected issues that arise throughout the year. This often leads to the Board member being unable to fulfil the responsibility of being an active part of the Commission.

Thus, we strongly recommend the future Board to refrain from becoming an active part of a Commission. This by no means implies that the AUCSA Board should detach itself from the Commissions. We envision the future relationship between the Board and a Commission as the following:

- During the Transition Weekend, the liaison from the AUCSA Board would be selecting.
- At the start of the academic year, the liaison would help to set up the commission and advertise its open positions. Next to that, the new Commission, in consultation with the Board, defines its goals for the coming year.
- Throughout the year, the liaison has monthly or bi-weekly meetings with the Commission members in order to assist where needed, provide new ideas, and evaluate the progress.

We expect that this structure will improve both a Commission's as well as a Board member's well-being and effective functioning.

### *Nepotism*

According to the Policy Manual Article 12.12: "All vacancies of Committee board positions should be announced clearly and openly to all AUCSA members. Vacancies within the board may not be filled based on nepotism."

Due to the vagueness of the statement, and in order to avoid mistreatment of open positions, the Board has decided to better define the concept of nepotism in committee boards and to introduce the following rules for committee boards transition:

1. Every position must be opened for all students at least once a year;
2. However, if you joined your position after Winter Break (January to July), you can stay until the July after (leading to a year and a half at maximum).
3. Every committee board is strongly recommended to keep at least 1 position for a first year open. In those committees who have teams, this could also refer to team positions for first years (TEDx, Springboard, AUCMUN, AUCafe, Catch, InPrint [editors]).
4. The new board must be selected by at least two old board members that are not reapplying. The new chair may also be (but does not have to be) involved in the selection of the remaining new board members, however they must always do this together with at least two old board members that are not reapplying. If there are less than 2 old members available to be involved in the selection process, reach out to your CAO for assistance.
5. If you are reapplying for your own committee, you cannot be involved in the selection and reflection process of the new board. However, you can give advice ahead of time to help the selecting board members with asking position specific questions to candidates.
6. The AUCSA Board must get a list of board positions and who is filling them.
7. The standard size of a committee is 5 or 6 people. If you think your committee needs more or less than that, contact the AUCSA Board and provide a brief justification (this counts for all committees wanting to keep less or more than 5 or 6 board members going into the next academic year).



8. For unexpected/special circumstances, please contact your CAO explaining the situation.

No large complaints were received about the new system, and the rules have proven to be useful in preventing nepotistic situations to arise.

### **3.5.2 New Committees, Commissions & Teams**

#### *AUInvest*

This committee was assembled during the last weeks of our Board year, with the intention of breaking the barriers between students and the world of investments. We hope they are able to educate members of the SA through their many workshops and guest lectures planned for the next academic year.

#### *Couture*

AUCouture was created, as the name implies, as the fashion committee for AUC in order to fulfill a niche that was previously missing in the community. The main project of Couture was to develop a fashion show with the works from members of the association. Unfortunately, and although there was plenty of development forward for this project, it had to be cancelled due to the restrictive corona regulations by the end of the academic year. However, throughout the year Couture was most active within the community hosting a number of fashion-related workshops and cloth swaps that were very welcomed by the members of our Association. With new-earned experience and a new goal to achieve, the fashion committee will hopefully succeed to plan and ensemble the fashion show for the following Academic year, with full support from the Board of '21-22.

#### *Gaze*

The Gaze committee invited the community to refresh their individual experiences with a newfound perspective of intrigue; their goal has been to uncover hidden peculiarities and wonders that surround daily life experiences. Focusing on a new theme each month, Gaze offered the opportunity for adventure investigation, alternating between events, activities and excursions, alongside reflective discussions of the multiple themed-workshops hosted throughout the year.

#### *Merchandise Team*

The idea to create a merchandise team came from the high workload that the task merchandise involves. Additionally, the merchandise endeavors were heavily limited by the other multiple tasks of an AUCSA member. As a result, a 'trial' team was established and it was very successful. The Limited Edition Merchandise sold twice as much as the year before, the Drive was structured for future teams, new brand deals were made, etc. It was established in January 2021.

#### *Lustrum Team*

The Lustrum X Team was established to celebrate the second Lustrum of the AUCSA. While our main events couldn't take place due to the pandemic. The main project was the production of a documentary about the Association which contains interviews with many past Board members and figures that are important to the AUCSA. The documentary is still under production and will hopefully be screened this year.



### *Campus Commission*

The first initiative to revive the Tenants Association (a.k.a. Campus Commission) was taken by the AUCSA Board of '19-'20 and the Student Council of that academic year. In our Board year, we worked together with the Student Council as well as the Resident Assistants and Peer Support to create a clear framework for the Campus Commission to be established and recruit its first board members over the summer of 2021.

## **3.5.3 Removed Committees, Commissions & Teams**

### *Press Team*

The Press Team last year lacked student engagement. We attribute this to three main things: 1) the fact that other committees perform very similar tasks individually, which led to confusion about the tasks of Press Team; 2) the fact that it was a new committee and it had not been provided with a good member transition (the year started with no members in the committee) and 3) a lack of need for such a team in a year where almost all events were online. As a result of this, the committee was suspended for the year.

### *Jeugdlab*

While Jeugdlab was a well-functioning committee last year and is still a vital part of our community, their relationship with AUCSA was unnecessary at some point. The organization Jeugland started providing Jeugdlab with both funding and resources, so in the end they did not need the help of AUCSA in any way. As a result, and in order to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy on their side, they detached from the Association.

## **3.6 Student Life Improvements**

### **3.6.1 Living Rooms**

In collaboration with DUWO, we started the living rooms project this year, in which several common rooms around the dorms were renovated in order to provide nicer spaces for student community life. The renovations took place in the form of a design competition, where students could submit proposals for how to change their common room into a more comfortable and useful space. The top 7 proposals received several hundred euros. This project is part of the ongoing goal to keep common rooms nice and to make a system for their use by committees.

### **3.6.2 Event Space**

The goal to have an AUCSA event space has been an idea for many years. This year, our Board worked together closely with DUWO representatives to brainstorm ideas for creating such an event space at the dorms. The project proved very complicated due to the need to get an alcohol license (to sell drinks at the AUCSA bar in order to support the finances of the event space) and the sound proofing, as well as the difficulty in procuring the funds for such a large project. While we were not able to finish the project this year, we hope future AUCSA Boards will continue to work towards this goal.



## 4. EVALUATION OF EVENTS

### 4.1 Introduction Period

Due to general COVID regulations but also specific rules around student introduction periods, unfortunately, we were forced to organize a hybrid/online Introduction Week with AUC and cancel the Introduction Weekend altogether. Additionally, some incoming students were still stuck in their home country which meant that all social events needed an online alternative as well. Luckily, we managed to redesign most social events to still stimulate social interaction between the incoming students and people from the older years who were a great help as the mentor team (<3). Together, we organized (online) String Dinners, a Science Park Challenge with a cooking workshop, the Amsterdam Livestream with all the mentors at different locations in Amsterdam, the Mentor Challenges and finally the Awards Night. Thanks to the efforts of many committee members, first year students were also able to enjoy many different activities in their free time throughout the week.

### 4.2 General Assemblies

#### 4.2.1 Online GA

As in-person events were not allowed to take place, all three General Assemblies were organised online. We aimed at making them engaging, well-informed, and inclusive.

The online platforms used for the Assemblies were: for the call we used Google Airmeet, which was later switched to Zoom Webinar, while for voting we used NemoVote. At all times we made sure that the number of voters matched the number of attendees to assure fair counting of votes.

#### Organisation of the GAs

After receiving feedback about the October Budget GA that took a record amount of time - 11.5 hours, the Board has decided to introduce various measures to make the GA more efficient:

- Motion pre-submission: prior to the GA, members received a form where they could submit a motion prior to the event;
- Regulated speaking time: each question, answer, or comment had a limited amount of time to be expressed;
- Committee clusters: committees were divided in 4 groups, based on their similarities in terms of size, budget, and activities. Each cluster was assigned a limited amount of time (including buffer time) that could not be exceeded. Each committee member had to stay at the GA throughout the entire time of their cluster;
- Using chat for questions: to reduce the amount of time spent while providing access to speak, etc., all the questions were asked over the chat function, while the committee members were on the virtual stage ready to answer questions. To raise a motion, a member would also be invited to speak.

These measures significantly increased the efficiency of the remaining General Assemblies.

Next to that, after receiving feedback from the community, we implemented a form in which members could submit their preferred name as otherwise the official name, provided by AUC,





would have been used. This adjustment was made due to Zoom Webinar not allowing users to change their name once the session had started.

#### **4.2.2 GA video**

Given the length of General Assemblies, we decided to make an instruction video this year, which was shown at the beginning of the GAs to explain the voting procedure, etc. The idea was very well received and increased attention to the instructions while simultaneously decreasing the time needed for these explanations.

### **4.3 Constitution Borrel**

Our CoBo this year had to be split in two due to the COVID restrictions. First we did what we informally called a Co, for Committees Commissions and Teams. This took place on November the 5th on Zoom and Discord. We organized a night with online games for people to join and have fun over Discord, and every committee would have a time slot to join the Zoom call and talk to the Board. It was a well-attended event for the circumstances.

Later on in the year, when restrictions loosened up, we organized the Bo, for external Boards. This consisted of an outdoor meet-up with external associations from Amsterdam and other UC's in the Netherlands. It was a great success as well (although the weather made it a bit difficult) and we got to network and meet people we had only spoken to on Zoom thus far.

This year, due to the already-complicated nature of organizing two separate events, we did not partner with the Student Council for CoBo. We leave it up to the next Board to remain in contact with the SC and throw a joint CoBo.

### **4.4 Winter Formal**

This year's Winter Formal had to be completely readapted in order to fit the sanitary conditions during the month of December. With this in mind, the Winter Formal Team intended to preserve the key characteristics that make up the WF gala; live music, interaction within the SA members, warm wintery goodies and the memorable photo booth.

Henceforth, and with help of Committees such as the AUCafe, Cuisine, Pangea and Yearbook, we restructured a number of features that provided the cold winter night at dorms with some cosiness and festivities. We assembled a live stream with homegrowth AUC talent, including dancing from SlayUC, singing duets and bands. We organized a secret santa between over 100 people from the community to foster engagement between members of the SA and make new friendships. The AUCafe provided warm wintery drinks throughout the night whilst Cuisine and Pangea baked some delicious vegan sugar cookies for the people that signed up to the event. Lastly, the yearbook idealized a 'portable photo booth' that allowed them to capture the special moments during the night with the advanced social distance stipulated during this time.

Overall, the event was very welcomed and provided the dorms with a warm musical night that many people got to enjoy from the comfort of their own homes.





## 4.5 Dormfest

Dormfest Presents: Summer of Love had to completely reinvent itself as a concept. With the date of the event being weeks just before needed relaxations, it made the most out of the circumstances by separating out its diverse set of activities to multiple physical and online locations. Although everyone could not be physically present at the same place, the Dormfest team has worked effortlessly to emulate the feeling of a shared Dormfest experience. As usual, the middle courtyard was beautifully decorated. Many of the activities became a great success: The silent disco turned out to be almost too successful, and had to be temporarily shut down to prevent group formation.

We would like to thank the committees and volunteers who put in a lot of effort to make this Dormfest edition extra special: Pubquiz and CUT for their screening and quiz, warming us up for the day after, COUTURE, Pangea and SlayUC for their workshops, GAZE and Junket for their challenges throughout the city, Catch for their sports activities in Flevopark, Webradio and Solace for providing the music at night, and the whole decorations team for the beautiful courtyard! Some committee members and volunteers did far beyond what is reasonably expected. So, on a last note, a special thanks to those volunteers, some of which are in the Dormfest team:

Ellie Swan	Chair
Bram Mak	Chair
Oliver West	Secretary
Sacha Gyapjas	Stage manager
Lili Kurcz	Logistics Manager
Lourien Snoek	Decorations Manager
Margaux Bouniol	Treasurer
Daniela Morris	PR manager

## 4.6 Winter Families

To support those students who, because of COVID restrictions, were unable to travel back home during the winter break, the AUCSA Board organized the Winter Families. This initiative grouped interested people in small 'families' of 4 to get to know one another through weekly activities leading up to the break as well as some events during the first week of the break. The aim of Winter Families was to bring students together in a time that the AUC dorms are usually rather empty and to share their personal winter traditions with each other.



## **5. COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

### **5.1 Community Feeling**

With the anxieties that come from a pandemic outbreak, our Board was adamant in preserving and fostering the community feeling that characterizes the AUC experience, both at school and at the dorms. For this, we made sure to maintain ‘traditional’ events such as the welcoming *Goodie Bags* at the start of each semester. Moreover, we also introduced new ideas to the community, such as *Winter Families*; which involved a planned set of cosy activities for students to enjoy during the Winter break at dorms. Moreover, we worked on maintaining the board visibility high and accessible in order to provide a sense of stability and centralization during the troubling times. Overall, our Board intended and succeeded to not only maintain the continuation of the association, but provide the community with a sense of belonging and familiarity.

### **5.2 Corona Proposals**

In order to provide the Association and all its committees with clear guidance through the landscape of ever-changing COVID regulations, the AUCSA sent relevant COVID updates to the Association following each major update in national regulations. To ensure no outbreaks would happen in the dorms, the AUCSA Board’s policy would always follow government guidelines. All individual committee events were approved or sent back with feedback by the Board on the basis of a filled out Corona Proposal form (checked and approved by the GGD) which contained all the relevant information about the event as well as the efforts to minimize infection or response to an outbreak.

### **5.3 Events during the Pandemic**

Without a doubt, translating the regular AUCSA year program into a pandemic situation and all the lockdown measures that go along with it was immensely difficult. Making an event corona-friendly was different every month, depending on the current measures. The changing rules required our Board to be up-to-date with the corona measures and to be in close communication with the committees planning events. Over the months, we learned to check cancellation policies for events very closely and to add corona paragraphs to all the contracts we signed. Many events could host a smaller number of people than the location would usually host, which increased total costs for many budgets. Due to the difficulty in budgeting for events that might be cancelled at the last minute (which happened frequently), we introduced a change to the budget template, where we added scenarios (best-case, worst-case etc.), in order to be able to plan for different levels of corona measures. Despite the regulations, many events were held, in in-person, hybrid or online format. The added challenge in translating traditional in-person events like Winter Formal and Dormfest into a hybrid format required a lot of creativity and time, but also gave us great ideas which can be implemented even at in-person versions of these events in the future. The shift away from the AB put the focus more on the dorms, where students joined online events with a few friends in their room, where committee promotion took place in the form of posters at the elevators and lunch break stands/office hours took place just outside the dorms.



## 6. AUCSA BOARD

### 6.1 Accessibility

Another challenge that our Board had to overcome was increasing the Board's accessibility towards all the members of the Association. It was particularly difficult as the Board would not be visible at the AB (which used to be the main place of visibility for the previous years) and thus we had to come up with different ways of reaching members and promoting the Board activities for them.

- As much as possible, we attended committee events to not only support committees in their activities but also show up and chat with other members of the Association. Next to that, we participated in various committee initiatives, such as Movember.
- We tried making AUCSA's Instagram account more personal and informal by renaming it to f.r.a.u.c.s.a ("Friends of AUCSA") and sharing various moments from Board members' experiences of being on the Board. We also created vlogs on Instagram, such as "Day in the life of" or random tips & tricks for studying, etc.
- We hosted office hours, read more in 2.6 Internal Communication.
- We continued having a "Life of Oné" section in the newsletter, to share more personal details of the Secretary's experience of being part of the Board. Other Board members would also sometimes write about their life as well.

### 6.2 Workload

With a fast-growing and ambitious association comes an increasingly demanding task for AUCSA Board members to run the Association. While the number of committees has grown exponentially in recent years, the number of Board members that manages all those committees has not. Over the past few years, this pressure has led several Board members to end up severely overworked. In an effort to combat this trend, during our Board year, we made efforts to reduce commission involvement by Board members, we automated much of the treasury system and we shortened meeting times. We hope future Boards will continue taking this issue seriously and will keep working on ways to mitigate it.



## 7. LETTER FROM AUDIT

To all the members,

First of all, we would like to welcome all new members, we hope over the next three years, you will create unique memories and experiences within AUCSA. Three times per year, the Audit Commission aims to stimulate the financial potential of the AUCSA by analyzing the financial administration and providing both short-term and long-term recommendations. In this letter, we present our findings and recommendations for the months of April, May, June, July, and August. The treasurer and vice treasurer that we worked with in the past months were Bram Mak and Stijn Maathuis respectively.

Audit wishes to acknowledge the amazing work that Bram Mak and Stijn Maathuis have done for the community. The past months have been very difficult for AUCSA. Regulations briefly opened up meaning a lot of committees suddenly wanted to have new events however very few of these events went through either due to a lack of initiative from the proposal party or regulations tightening up. This created an unusually high workload for the treasury and audit during the summer. An increase in transactions and an increase in proposals lead to a systematic issue of delayed work. However, our findings during the audit show that the treasury was able to handle this workload and help AUCSA remain financially healthy.

We are happy with the results of the audit, we found no discrepancies or mistakes and we believe the current financial policies of AUCSA are sound. In close collaboration with the treasurer, we were able to analyze the transactions for the last period. Despite the difficulties of the pandemic, AUCSA remains financially healthy. Some transactions and payments have been delayed however we trust that the new Treasury, in collaboration with the new Audit, will supervise these transactions. The new audit team will consist of Veronique Molenaar and Emma Bocaletti, both of whom have done amazing work for Audit this year. Despite a difficult and unpredictable year, AUCSA closed the financial books, with a healthy balance.

Finally, we wish to thank all the committees, commissions, treasures, and members for their dedication and commitment to AUCSA. It has been an amazing experience to work closely with AUCSA and we are hopeful that this year, we will be able to enjoy more events and regain the spirit of AUCSA.

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 whilst following the COVID regulations or by email to [audit@aucsa.nl](mailto:audit@aucsa.nl).

Kind regards,

The Audit Commission, 2020-2021

Juan Castro, Rosa Wijnen, Benjamin Wagenvoort, Emma Boccaletti and Veronique Molenaar



## 8. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### Reflection on the financial year

The financial year started on the first of August 2020 in a financially luxurious position. Due to the underspending in the previous year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our equity at the beginning of the year consisted of € 13,253.27. We have acted on the advice of the AUCSA Board 2019-2020, and allocated € 4800 to the upgrade of the website, € 1000 on anti-racism initiatives and around € 2300 on our lustrum, although this was adjusted in February to around € 1300. Apart from these allocations, we were able to use the extra equity for long-term investments.

Even though the AUCSA has been financially healthy for 2 years now, we must not forget the lessons learned from the large debt that used to burden the AUCSA. In line with the mature financial leadership during 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, we have decided to allocate 5% of our membership fee for the emergency reserve.

However, this positive financial outlook was in no way a certainty. If no additional corona measures had been issued at the end of August 2020, we would not have deemed it possible to organise an introweekend with 1.5m distance, while being held liable for all the cancellation costs. Such a scenario would have entirely negated the benefits of the large starting balance.

This was the first example of the volatile effects of COVID measures on our budgetary outlook. In case of strict COVID measures, the inability to do physical events implied probable underspending. However, if looser measures were in place, an extra risk of cancellation would have been present, on top of the often reduced capacity of venues.

For all bodies within the AUCSA, the financial planning has been challenging. In September we expected the second wave of COVID to be present for a few months at most. Hence, in preparation of the October GA approved budget, we planned for the possibility of physical events around the start of the first semester. Even with these optimistic expectations, a lot of time was spent to make the budgets realistic enough: for optimistic scenarios, we wanted to have enough funds allocated, while at the same time we wanted to prevent allocation to events that could never occur.

To give more structure to this uncertainty, we provided all committees with a fixed set of expectations to work with for the February Approved Budget, based on the national “routekaart”. Although the framework was not always used, it slightly eased the process of evaluating proposed budgets. However, at the time all budgets were approved, these expectations were based on information from a month before. Even though the framework was intentionally made more pessimistic, it too turned out to be not pessimistic enough.

Keeping the financial door open to physical events, stemmed the significant underspending this year. On top of that, the possibility of physical events started only just before the 2nd semester



had ended. The COVID crisis also caused significant increases in administrative workload. Not only for the AUCSA Board, but also all the committee members involved in financial planning. We would therefore like to thank everyone involved in the treasury this year for their commitment and flexibility.

Even though a lot of uncertainty was present during the year, we have finished the year financially healthy, and fully prepared for a new year full of physical activities! Hopefully, the association can taste the fruits of investments made possible by this unique situation!

A lot of gratitude is deserved towards the Audit Commission, who have been incredibly flexible and collaborative this year. Additionally, the guidance and advice from the previous treasury team has proven to be incredibly helpful and valuable.

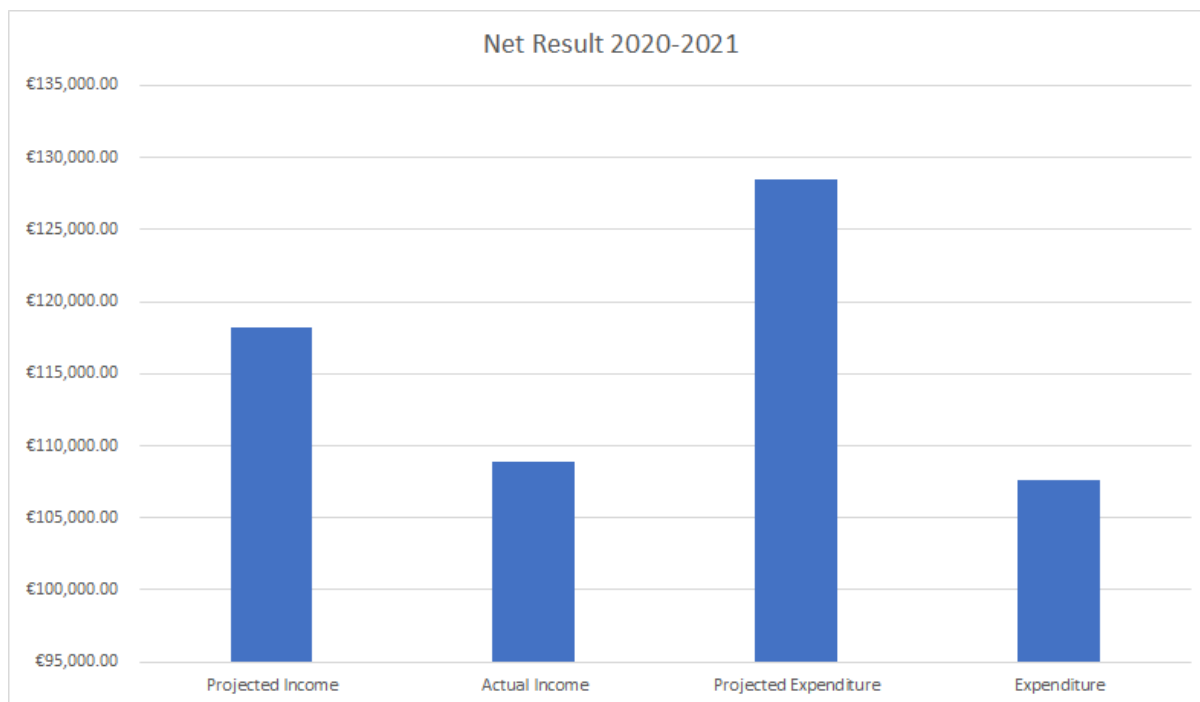
The Treasury Team 20 20 20 20 1,  
Abraham Mak & Constantijn Maathuis

### Balance 1st of August 2021

<b>Assets</b>		<b>Liabilities</b>	
<u>Accounts</u>		<u>Provisions and Reserves</u>	
Bank account - AUCSA	€ 19,438.97	Emergency Reserve	€ 7,287.50
Bank account - TEDxAUCollege	€ -	Anti-Racism Fund	€ 1,000.00
Savings account	€ 4,926.00		
Zettle Saldo	€ -		
EventBrite Saldo	€ -		
<u>Creditors</u>		<u>Debitors</u>	
Contribution AUC for Commemoration	€ 500.00	Reimbursements	€ 2,405.86
Payment graduate yearbooks	€ 2,700.00	Committed Donations	€ 1,497.81
Participation Fee Catch Basketball	€ 5.00	Refunds	€ 234.66
Deposit Paasheuvel	€ 2,000.00	Board Allowance Unpaid	€ 2,041.66
Delayed Merch Payments	€ 164.28	DivCom Workshop Lecturer Fee	€ 80.00
		Location Fee Commemoration	€ 566.90
		Travel Costs DF Artist	€ 50.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>€29,734.25</b>	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>€ 15,164.39</b>
		<b>Equity</b>	<b>€ 14,569.86</b>



## Net Result 2020-2021





## 9. CONCLUDING REMARKS

We are incredibly grateful for having the opportunity to be in the AUCSA Board 2020-2021. It was an honor to serve you. Before we end we would also like to especially thank:

- The many *committees, commissions, and teams of 2020-2021* that with their incredible stamina, their energy and creativity carried our community through a difficult time with so many moments of togetherness and appreciation.
- The *AUCSA Board 2019-2020*: our parent Board consisting of Jet, Maurits, Julien, Rosa, Alexander and Boris for their guidance and support.
- The *Advisory Council 2020-2021* consisting of Rosa, Boris, Maurits and Thekla for their support and advice throughout the year.
- The *AUC Housemasters, AUC Security and AUC Management Team*, for assisting the AUCSA on behalf of AUC wherever possible.
- The *AUCSA Board 2021-2022*, our successors: Clelia, Ankita, Rein, Oli, Lena and Sarah. Thank you for your work and for continuing to facilitate this beautiful bubble of ours. We wish you all the best with adjusting the Board's sails in a group of 6 people you never knew you needed.

Thank you for reading this report and for your involvement in the AUCSA community.

Your AUCSA Board 2020-2021,

Stijn Maathuis	President, Vice-Treasurer
Onè Mikulskytė	Secretary, Vice-President
Bram Mak	Treasurer
Ellie Swan	Committee Affairs Officer
Ignacio Sanchez Abenante	Committee Affairs Officer
Blanca Gonzalez	Committee Affairs Officer, Vice-Secretary