

Annual Report

AUC Student Council 2023-2024



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Preface

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Report. As our term ends, we want to reflect on a year that has been quite unforgettable, to say the least. At the start of our term in September 2023, we published our Policy Plan, and with this Annual Report, we aim to look back on our journey since then.

To maintain transparency and accountability, we have written our Policy Plan for staff, lecturers, other stakeholders, and most importantly, the student body. While we have made significant progress and delivered on many of our plans since September 2023, we also encountered unforeseen circumstances and considerable resistance and challenges inherent in advocating for change within institutional structures. This Annual Report summarises our term, exploring how we deviated from our initial goals and expectations, highlighting our successes, and acknowledging the unexpected challenges we faced. It also offers a vision for the future. We hope it serves as both a reflection of our term and a guide for future councils as they continue the essential work of student representation.

As we pass the mantle to the next Student Council (SC), we are confident they will continue championing student rights with vigour and dedication. The journey towards a more equitable and responsive Amsterdam University College (AUC) will continue, and we encourage all stakeholders, especially the student body, to support and engage with the Council in this mission.

We are deeply grateful for the trust and confidence the AUC community has placed in us. It has been an honour to serve as your representatives, and we are proud of what we have achieved together.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the AUC Student Council at info@aucsc.nl.

With love,

Cat, Ema, Emma, Mickey, Wanji
AUC Student Council 2023-2024

Financial Overview

During our term, the Student Council was allocated a budget of €1,600 by AUC to cover the various costs associated with our activities and responsibilities. This budget was intended to support a range of expenses, including board hoodies, subscriptions for our Zoho emails and workdrive, website maintenance, food and drinks for events, as well as the constitutional borrel and transition weekend for the incoming Student Council board.

<i>Budget Proposal Student Council 2023-2024</i>			
Expected expenses			
1. Student Council Representation	SC Hoodies	€175,00	Costs are lower than the previous year because of size changes
2. Domains and Communication Platforms	Zoho Workdrive	€166,98	Annual subscription in order to maintain SC visibility
	Website	€210,54	Annual subscription in order to maintain SC visibility
3. Internal Communication at AUC	Event/office hours refreshments	€200,00	Estimation based on the previous Student Council budget and also on the introduction of new events
	Introweek Promotion Material	€28,00	To increase the visibility of the Student Council to incoming first-year years
	QR code	€60,00	Subscription for the QR code we use in our promotion materials (such as banners, website, and social media) to maintain SC visibility
	Transition Weekend	€200,00	Based on the previous Student Council amount and adjusted for inflation
4. External Events	Constitutional Borrel	€300,00	Based on the previous Student Council amount and adjusted for inflation
5. Board Bonding	Team bonding activities	€90,00	Based on the previous Student Council amount and adjusted for inflation
6. Miscellaneous	Unforeseen Costs	€150,00	8% for unforeseen costs that may arise throughout the year based on events or inflation

Total Expenses	€1.580,52
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By the end of the year, we utilised €1.358,94 of the allocated budget, leaving a remaining balance of €221,58.

Expected expenses		Type of expenses	Actual Expenses	Total	Remaining
1. Student Council Representation	SC Hoodies	Hoodies	€ 175,00		
				€ 175,00	€ 0,00
2. Domains and Communication Platforms	Zoho Workdrive	Zoho Workdrive Subscription	€ 166,98		
				€ 166,98	€ 0,00
	Website	Website Subscription	€ 210,54		
				€ 210,54	€ 0,00
3. Internal Communication at AUC	Event/office hours refreshments	Open Assembly F&D	€ 12,70		
		Voices of AUC F&D	€ 17,67		
		Info Session F&D	€ 11,93		
		Open Meeting F&D	€ 13,22		
		Coffee Date (Mickey)	€ 9,45		
		Coffee Date (Mickey)	€ 6,75		
		Coffee Date (Emma)	€ 6,30		
		Coffee Date (Ema)	€ 6,10		
		Coffee Date (Emma)	€ 7,00		
				€ 91,12	€ 108,88
	SC Posters/Promotion Material	Introweek Material	€ 28,73		
				€ 28,73	-€ 0,73
	QR code	QR Code	€ 60,00		
				€ 60,00	€ 0,00

	Transition Weekend	Groceries	€ 199,16		
				€ 199,16	€ 0,84
4. External Events	Constitutional Borrel	Cobo Drinks	€224,50		
		Cobo Snacks + Personal Drinks	€65,90		
		10% discount	-€29,04	€ 261,36	€ 38,64
5. Board Bonding	Team bonding activities	Fun Forest Climbing	€ 90,00	€ 90,00	€ 0,00
6. Miscellaneous	Unforeseen Costs	Transition Weekend Transport Cost (Ema)	€ 30,00		
		Transition Weekend Transport Cost (Catherine)	€ 9,20		
		Transition Weekend Transport Cost (Malou)	€ 14,68		
		Extra Transition Weekend Groceries	€ 22,17	€ 76,05	€ 73,95
			Total	€ 1.358,94	
			Remaining Budget in total	€ 221,58	

One of the main reasons the entire budget was not spent is that we initially planned to hold more frequent events throughout the school year, such as monthly Open Assemblies, which would have required additional funds for food and drinks—key attractions for student participation. However, due to the unpredictable nature of the year, our workload increased significantly, leaving fewer opportunities to organise as many events as we had anticipated. We did incur some unforeseen costs as part of our efforts to ensure a smooth and effective Transition Weekend for the incoming Student Council. While we were

fortunate enough to avoid accommodation costs during the Transition Weekend by using available facilities, there were additional, unanticipated costs for groceries and transport to the location. These costs were necessary to ensure all participants were adequately supported throughout the weekend.

Despite not fully utilising the budget, the Student Council budget should not be reduced. The current allocation is modest, and any decrease would likely result in future council members having to cover expenses out of pocket if they wish to organise more frequent events or talks. Maintaining or increasing the budget would enable future councils to engage the student body effectively and continue to enhance the AUC community through their activities.

Council Year 2023-2024 Characterised

Navigating an ever-changing world marked by institutional resistance

Reflecting on our year as the AUC Student Council, it would be easy to simply evaluate our Policy Plan and measure our successes against our initial goals. However, to do so would disregard the sheer complexity and challenges of the past year that significantly shaped our actions, priorities, and dynamics.

Our term was defined by navigating a multifaceted and often challenging environment. So, while we set ambitious goals in our Policy Plan at the beginning of our term, the need to respond to emerging issues and institutional resistance led us to reprioritise our objectives. We adapted our focus to address the newly changed and most pressing issues students face, such as safety and well-being, while recognising that some goals, like sustainability initiatives and canteen improvements, would require time and effort for a strategy for a long-term approach, which we did not have. This flexibility allowed us to concentrate our efforts where they were most needed.

While we aimed to maintain a healthy work environment and function cohesively as a board, the reality we were faced with was that our board dynamics were anything but usual. The 2023-2024 term required us to confront and engage with difficult conversations and decisions, particularly in response to global events, local protests, and institutional pressures. From us, it required resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to our mission.

External Environment

The ongoing international dialogue surrounding the genocide in Palestine has had a profound impact on our activities and decisions. It required numerous internal discussions about our stance and response as a council. We faced a dilemma between maintaining political neutrality, as expected and demanded by the administration, and advocating for social justice, as our principles dictate. This internal conflict initially caused a divide within our council as we weighed the potential repercussions of taking a political stance. While AUC expects us to represent the majority, we have recognised the importance of standing by the minority and addressing their concerns. Accurate student representation, which is extremely important in all discussions and decisions, involves amplifying the voices of those who are overlooked and not cared for. In this way, advocacy for equitable treatment and inclusivity becomes inherently political and aligned with the mission of the Student Council. So, in the end, our commitment to transparency, accountability, and empowerment of the student body compelled us to stand by marginalised voices, demonstrate solidarity, and advocate for social justice.

Ultimately, being political in this institutional climate meant dealing with its repercussions, as many others may have also experienced. In our case, we faced accusations of not fulfilling our responsibilities, were unofficially and illegitimately threatened, and individual council members' integrity was questioned. From the outset, we encountered resistance from some stakeholders reluctant to deviate from the status quo. This resistance hampered our efforts to implement meaningful, timely changes addressing student needs. To promote transparency and inclusivity while faced with scepticism, we had to be diplomatic and strategic, which proved difficult. Still, when witnessing a genocide and seeing the violence and threats faced by our peers, the necessity to act became undeniable, and we resolved to persist despite institutional pushback.

Amidst these challenges, the strong commitment to activism and advocacy demonstrated by the AUC student body was a source of inspiration and motivation for our council. Students' willingness to engage with complex issues and demand accountability from the administration reinforced the importance of our role as representatives. This environment of active participation encouraged us to push boundaries and challenge some of the institutional norms, affirming the need for a council that advocates fiercely for its constituents.

Internally

Internally, we tried prioritising and fostering a collaborative and resilient council culture. Solidarity amongst each other was what got us through the year. However, the demands of such a challenging year took a toll on our mental health and well-being, with many members facing burnout. We had to adapt our priorities throughout the year to address the emerging issues and the mental strain that came with them. As a board, we sought ways to support each other through this demanding environment. We learned the importance of acknowledging and addressing mental health issues both individually and collectively through regular check-ins to maintain our effectiveness as a council. During this time, while we would have preferred that members who experienced complete burnout could immediately step back from their duties to recover, we regret that we could not achieve this outcome due to the demands and responsibilities of our roles. We redistributed duties among the other members and sought additional support, for example, with the Student Association Board (AUCSA Board), where possible. We hope for the next Student Council to establish the same supportive environment we created for ourselves, both for its members and the broader student body.

Despite all obstacles and resistance, the environment in which we operated was characterised by an urgent need for change and a relentless pursuit of transparency, accountability, and justice within the AUC community. We were challenged to be innovative and determined to ensure that the university's actions reflect its stated values and that all students are supported and

empowered. By embracing the complexities of our context, we hope to have made strides in representing the interests of students and laying the groundwork for future councils to continue this vital work. Most importantly, with our experiences, we hope to have shown the importance of resilience and courage in the face of adversity and the power of collective action in driving positive change.

Key Achievements

In this section, we look back at our year and highlight the main topics we worked on and how these were implemented.

Transparency and Visibility

When preparing for our term, we recognised that the Student Council needed to be better known among the student body. Many students were unaware of its existence or confused it with the AUCSA Board. Given that visibility is crucial for our role as student representatives, we prioritised increasing student engagement and awareness of our activities. To achieve this, we focused on enhancing our public relations (PR) efforts through consistent posts on social media, including Instagram stories and reels, newsletters, and emails. We also maintained a strong presence by organising ongoing SC projects such as Voices of AUC, Office Hours, Introweek, and Graduation.

With many minutes and reports available online, one of the challenges we faced was ensuring that students knew they had access to this information. We introduced the "Toilet Paper" instead of the previous monthly newsletter to address this and engage students in the changes. The Toilet Paper became a creative tool for informing students about the Council's activities, decisions, and upcoming events in a fun and accessible format. It gained popularity and positive feedback from students, showing that it was both read and appreciated. In the future, the Student Council could introduce more innovative and interactive formats into this paper to communicate with students, such as including crosswords or puzzles to further engage the audience.

Another tool for transparency was our first Open Assembly for students. The Open Assembly allowed us to update students on what we were up to at the time and gain their input on policy changes. At the same time, we tried to make Office Hours, which we held three times a week, more accessible by introducing "Da Box." "Da Box" was created to provide students with an anonymous platform to voice their concerns, suggestions, and feedback on various aspects of their academic and social experience at AUC. The comments collected from "Da Box" offered unfiltered insights into student experiences and concerns, which informed our decision-making processes and priorities, for example, with the Tutor System, accommodation and the 55%-in-class rule. Sometimes, we had up to 40 responses, which showed more engagement compared to previous Office Hours. The next Council could consider placing this box somewhere else during office hours so that students do not necessarily have to come up to us to write down their concerns. Moreover, introducing a digital version of "Da Box" to allow for remote feedback could increase participation further and accommodate students who may not be on campus frequently.

Although burnout and emotional challenges sometimes made it difficult to remain consistent, we believe our efforts were largely successful. For instance, we held elections with seven outstanding candidates with an increased turnout (regardless of some technical issues on Vrije Universiteit's (VU) part) and received over 100 responses to surveys on the 55% in-class rule and the tutor system.

Mental Health and Well-Being

We recognise that the well-being of students is fundamental to their academic success and overall experience at AUC, so we aimed to institutionalise key initiatives and introduce new measures to ensure that mental health and well-being were prioritised throughout the year.

Continuing the amazing work the past Student Council did in including free menstrual products in the AB, this year, we institutionalised this initiative at the beginning of our term. By setting up a partnership with the brand Yoni, a sustainable company that produces 100% organic products, we sent a formal proposal to Management requesting 1) an overall higher budget for the purchase of menstrual products and 2) that this budget comes not from the Student Council's budget but rather AUC's Quality Assurance Fund (QAF). Our proposal was accepted, and since then, we have worked with Yoni to provide free access to menstrual products for all AUC students and staff. The next Council should look into consistently filling up the dispenser, which proves to be difficult considering our schedules.

Additionally, we were able to begin the process of creating a Consent Board at AUC. This long-overdue initiative is crucial for fostering a safe and supportive campus environment. Given previous unsuccessful attempts from the organisation Our Bodies Our Voices and the SLOs of AUC to set up a student-led Consent Board responsible for tackling issues of consent, sexual awareness and well-being, being a specific place to discuss and educate students on these matters, it was clear that for this initiative to take place, there was the need for student engagement beforehand. Because of this, we gathered students interested in participating in such a board and, with the help of the SLOs, have sent a proposal to make the board official. The proposal is currently being assessed, and hopefully, the board will be operational by next year.

Diversity and Inclusivity

In our commitment to making AUC more academically and socially accessible, we have focused on improving accommodations for students with disabilities, neurodiversity, illnesses, and other personal circumstances that may impact their academic performance. Since there is a significant need for more awareness among teachers regarding accommodation matters, we wanted to take proactive steps to address this issue. Early on, Pauline Lütticke, a student committed to this topic, spearheaded efforts to increase teacher awareness and improve

accommodation practices. As our workload increased, we assisted Pauline where needed, allowing her to lead these initiatives. This project is in the beginning stages, and a proposal is being worked on. Important to address here is the visibility of the Framework and Action Plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (FAPDEI); this document and its revision will be vital in making AUC more accessible.

Moreover, this year, we thoroughly examined the Academic Standards and Procedures (AS&P) to identify and amend any articles that used negative or restrictive language regarding accommodations. With help from DivCom, which is officially a commission that helps AUUSA be inclusive in their events, we collaborated to ensure the AS&P reflects a commitment to inclusivity. In December, we asked DivCom for any changes they would like to see in the AS&P and included these in our proposals. While there is still much room for improvement, we hope our efforts have laid a foundation for creating a more supportive academic environment at AUC. We encourage future councils to continue this work, refining and expanding upon the changes we have initiated to ensure that all policies embody the values of equity and accessibility that AUC strives to uphold.

Academic Advocacy

Recognising that academic policies and practices directly impact the quality of education and student experience at AUC, we took deliberate steps to ensure that students' voices were heard and their concerns addressed. One of the most direct measures we took was setting up the first Open Assembly (OA) on the topic of the new changes in the academic calendar. With the OA results, we could draft formal advice to Management with students' ideas and ensure the new Academic Calendar endorsed is aligned with students' preferences.

Moreover, during the fall semester, we were able to make course manuals accessible to all students. We aimed for students to gain more insight into courses they are interested in. In this spirit, we worked with the academic administration to find a way to make this happen, and now the course manuals can be found via the "Student Information" Canvas page, which is accessible to all students.

Lastly, throughout our term, the 55%-in-class rule was a significant point of discussion among students, faculty, and the Student Council. We recognised that while the rule is intended to uphold academic standards, it also raised concerns about its impact on student well-being and academic freedom. At the beginning of the year, we were part of the AI-Week, where lecturers could ask us, as student representatives, any questions about the impact of GenAI and rules to prevent its usage on students. During this event, we already voiced our concerns about the potential adverse effect of the 55%-in-class rule on Humanities and Social

Sciences students. Later, as the year started, we noticed the rule's diverse impacts across different academic disciplines, so we took proactive steps to address student concerns and advocate for necessary adjustments. We conducted a survey to gather student perspectives on the rule. The feedback revealed that while some students appreciated the structure it provided, others, particularly those in Humanities and Social Sciences, expressed concerns about the negative impact on their ability to engage deeply with course material. In disciplines like Humanities and Social Sciences, deep engagement with course material often requires time for reflection, critical thinking, and iterative processes such as drafting and revising written work. These subjects typically rely on assignments that allow students to develop complex arguments, engage in critical analysis, and explore nuanced perspectives. The 55%-in-class rule poses challenges to this learning process. Based on the feedback, we advocated for more flexible and discipline-specific assessment approaches. While immediate changes to the policy were not implemented, we hope our efforts laid the groundwork for ongoing discussions about the role of AI in education and the need for flexible assessment practices. As we conclude our term, we recommend that the incoming Student Council continue to monitor the implementation of new rules regarding GenAI and advocate for policies that prioritise both academic integrity and academic freedom.

External Relations

This year, our efforts in external relations aimed to ensure that AUC students have access to and know the resources, support, and networks available. We took steps to enhance the accessibility and understanding of Off-Campus course opportunities for AUC students since these courses can be necessary in meeting Master's requirements and filling gaps in AUC's course offerings. A significant achievement was making Off-Campus courses available to first-year students in the AS&P revision cycle, allowing them to explore a broader range of academic interests from the outset of their AUC experience. At the same time, we developed a comprehensive guide detailing the process for enrolling in Off-Campus courses at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and the VU. This guide was made accessible to all students, explaining how to apply for these courses and ensure that the credits earned would be reflected on AUC transcripts. We also continued the practice of having a presence at the Course Market, where students could ask questions about Off-Campus courses and receive advice. Although time constraints limited our ability to hold a workshop about Off-Campus courses, we recognise their value based on past success. Therefore, we would encourage future councils to organise workshops in collaboration with tutors and students who have previously taken Off-Campus courses.

Moreover, we decided to explore how to set up a DUWO Residence Committee (RC) for the dorms and how it would work and be structured by looking at the other DUWO RCs. The goal of such a committee would be to bring up structural

issues to DUWO and hold DUWO accountable. We made an interest form that we sent out in December. Because of continuing difficulties with DUWO and with the help of Duwoners, after a few months, some students expressed interest in being part of the AUC dorms' RC. The RC was set up in April, and we passed it on to the AUCSA Board for them to oversee and keep up with. From next year on, the RC will include an SC and AUCSA Board member.

Lastly, while AUC can often feel and be quite isolated from its parent universities, this year we managed to strengthen the relationship with the Centrale Studentenraad of UvA (CSR). The CSR was very open to hearing what AUC students were going through this year, especially with the repression of those standing in solidarity with Palestine, and repeatedly helped by bringing our issues up to the UvA Board throughout this past academic year.

Institutional Advocacy

During this academic year, we have identified several areas where the current policies and practices could be improved to reflect the AUC values better, as included in the FAPDEI, AS&P, and on the website. To address these issues, we submitted a series of unsolicited advice to the AUC Management Team (MT), highlighting key concerns and recommending actionable changes. These documents served as a strategic tool to influence institutional policies and ensure that student voices were not only heard but acted upon.

Firstly, we recognised the need to address the arbitrariness of decisions regarding placing students who showed solidarity with Palestine on social probation. We felt it was crucial to prevent similar situations in the future by advocating for a more transparent and structured approach to student discipline and engagement. For this reason, we sent unsolicited advice to the Management Team (MT) advocating for a regular revision cycle of the Social Code of Conduct, among other things. We emphasised the need to involve students in the drafting and revising the Social Code of Conduct to foster a sense of ownership and ensure the document reflects the values and concerns of the student body. Upon receiving our advice, the MT agreed to initiate a revision process, provided that the Student Council would spearhead it. We drafted a detailed proposal outlining how the revision process would be conducted, including timelines and stakeholder involvement. The first revision cycle is set to begin in the upcoming academic year, marking a significant step towards ensuring fairness and accountability in student conduct policies.

Secondly, in another unsolicited advice, we addressed the restrictive interpretation of the UvA House Rule regarding cultural, political, and religious expressions. We argued that the rule, as currently interpreted, undermines academic freedom and personal autonomy by restricting expressions inherently intertwined with cultural and political identities. We called for a review of the rule

to align with the principles of inclusivity and freedom of expression, urging the MT to advocate for its revision with the UvA Executive Board. In both documents, we recommended that enforcement procedures be clearly outlined, ensuring students are informed of specific charges and have avenues for appeal.

Thirdly, in light of the genocide and severe human rights violations occurring in Palestine, we joined forces with the Centrale Studentenraad (CSR) and other UvA student councils to call for an academic boycott of Israeli institutions complicit in these actions. We urged AUC to advocate for the parent universities (UvA and VU) to sever ties with Israeli academic institutions that support military operations and human rights abuses and emphasised the importance of aligning institutional rhetoric with tangible actions that reflect commitments to social justice and ethical responsibility.

As this shows, we adopted a proactive and critical approach to engaging with the institution's administration. Our efforts were characterised by direct communication, advocacy for systemic change, and a commitment to ensuring that the university's actions align with its professed values. We encourage our successors to build on these efforts.

Moreover, throughout the year, we sought to establish open lines of communication with a range of stakeholders, namely the Management Team, but also, quite notably so, staff and students. The most important example is the Tuesday during the week of the AUC pickets. We facilitated a student-staff conversation to bridge the gap between students and faculty, address tensions and foster open dialogue on campus. Following the session, many participants expressed that while having an open dialogue was beneficial, it was also challenging and, at times, frustrating. On the one hand, addressing pressing issues directly is essential to prevent them from being ignored or glossed over, especially in an environment where transparency is often lacking. On the other hand, there was a palpable sense of scepticism about the impact of these conversations without concrete agreed actions. Students and staff alike questioned whether merely talking about these issues would lead to meaningful change or whether it was just a way to soothe growing frustrations.

From these conversations, however, the idea for the Staff-Student Platform (SSP) emerged, which has since become a crucial vehicle for ongoing dialogue and collaboration between students and staff. Through the SSP, we have worked to build alliances with faculty members, reinforcing our position and fostering a culture of mutual understanding and cooperation. The SSP has organised numerous events, drawing participation from both staff and students and has become instrumental in addressing the concerns raised during the conversations. Despite these efforts, we recognise that the SSP and similar initiatives must continue to evolve to ensure that they are not merely forums for discussion but

become catalysts for action. The challenge remains to translate dialogue into tangible outcomes that reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of the AUC community. Moving forward, the Student Council must continue to push for accountability and follow-through on the issues discussed, ensuring that conversations lead to impactful and lasting change.

Future Directions and Recommendations

After working at AUC for an entire academic year, we have several important reflections and insights to share. Some of these are lessons we have learned; others are messages we hope the whole student body will take to heart; and some are points we would like the next Student Council to consider as their term begins.

Firstly, we deeply understood that academic institutions can teach one thing while practising another. Do not let AUC get away with being so-called "apolitical" and brushing away responsibility. There is a rich history of activism and standing on the right side of history in AUC, UvA, VU, and Dutch academia as a whole. Instead of embracing this legacy, we are often treated as transient students who will be here just for a few years (or one Student Council year) before moving on with our lives. We are led to believe that this makes advocating for change unworthy of our time here and that our sole interest should be graduating while setting everything else, including our values, aside. This undermines our potential impact. Student collectives in the Netherlands and worldwide have consistently shown that they do not stand for and will actively fight against injustice. Do not let the apathy of the institutions get to you, and do not be discouraged. Anything you can offer to a good cause helps the bigger picture. Never underestimate the collective power of the student body. Our voices and actions united can enact significant change. Stay engaged, and remember that our strength lies in our numbers and our shared commitment to justice.

To the next Student Council, we hope you continue fighting for justice and human rights. Be confident in your role as student representatives, and effectively use your power to advocate for these values. Your role is crucial in ensuring that AUC remains a place where these principles are upheld. Additionally, we hope you can increase your engagement with the student body. Foster greater interaction and involvement through more Open Assemblies, Voices events, and other student-led initiatives. The more you connect with students, the stronger and more effective your advocacy will be. Importantly, we hope that every Student Council to come will continue getting the recognition and appreciation they deserve for their dedication and hard work, often carried out behind the scenes.

Finally, as student representatives, we had the opportunity to witness the many students involved in initiatives aimed at improving AUC for the student body. Students have been incredibly resourceful, and we hope this remains the case regardless of AUC's response. Future Student Councils should embrace this spirit and actively work to support and collaborate with fellow students on these initiatives.

Final Goodbye

To conclude this report, we extend our deepest gratitude to all those who have supported us this year. Our appreciation goes out to our colleagues in the Medezeschapsraad (MZ3) – the Board of Studies and the Works Council –, all the faculty and students we have had the chance to work with, and, especially, all the staff members who stood by us and guided us during this term. We are also eternally grateful to our wonderful student assistant, Natal Zaghali, who helped keep our morale high and brightened all our meetings with her positive energy. She truly was a ray of sunshine. Lastly, we must thank the student body for collaborating with us and trusting us as their representatives. The resilience and determination of the student body continually inspired us. Your efforts exemplified the strength and spirit of the AUC community, and your voices have been a powerful force for change.

Looking ahead, we have complete confidence that the incoming SC board, composed of five remarkable students, will achieve great things. The next Student Council will be:

- Co-Chair: Thomas Jurgens (he/they)
- Co-Chair: Mathilda Gustafsson (she/her)
- Visibility Officer: Areebah Huq (she/her)
- Communications Officer: Malou Petersen (they/them)
- External Relations Officer: Catherine Lebieczińska (she/her)

They will not be alone and will have the support of the Advisory Council, which includes Ema Torcato (SC '23-'24), Wanji Kabanga ('23-'24), Marcello Benedetti (SC '22-'23), and Amelija Sokolovskaja (student assessor to the Management Team in '23-'24 and '24-'25). We wish the Council the very best and look forward to seeing the innovative and impactful changes they will bring to AUC. We do not doubt that they will inspire and empower the student community, continuing the legacy of advocacy that defines the AUC Student Council.

As for our council, we were perhaps the most stubborn, heartwarming, hopeful, crazy, and loving council imaginable. We have given each other a lot of comfort over the past year and have grown together through every challenge. We will miss experiencing the daily chaotic, disorganised functionality that somehow worked perfectly for us.

Thank you for an unforgettable year. Lastly, once more, it was an honour to be your Student Council.

All the Best,
Cat, Ema, Emma, Mickey, Wanji