

VU Elections: Call for Candidates for the Works Council and Departmental Subcommittees

If you feel involved with VU Amsterdam and its policy, your department or faculty, then participating in employee participation is something that will interest you. Stand for election to the Works Council (OR) or the Departmental Subcommittee (ODC) of your department or faculty.

At VU Amsterdam, employees influence university policy through the Works Council (OR) and faculty and department policy through the Departmental Subcommittee (ODC). You can do this by voting for one of your colleagues in the MZ elections every three years, or by standing for election to the OR and ODC yourself.

Why become a member of the representative body?

Employee participation is important for good decision-making. In the coming years, effective participation will be particularly important at VU Amsterdam because we will be faced with the choice of how VU Amsterdam should deal with the substantial budget cuts imposed on us by the government's plans. What will VU Amsterdam continue to do, what will VU Amsterdam do less or differently, and what will VU Amsterdam no longer do? These are choices that will have major consequences. The Works Council and ODCs play an important role in decision-making as representatives of the employees. They influence the decisions of the university administrators through advisory and consent procedures. By standing as a candidate for the Works Council or the ODC, you can contribute to this important work.

Do you recognise yourself in the profile below?

- I feel connected to VU University Amsterdam and its staff.
- I am able and willing to contribute constructive criticism to policy at VU University Amsterdam.
- I am able to work well with colleagues from different disciplines and together provide substantiated advice on proposed decisions, such as organisational changes, personnel policy and budgets.

Then apply to become a member of the Works Council or ODC.

Is this something for you?

The work is not tied to job levels; staff from all job levels can make a valuable contribution to the representative body. Even if you do not yet have any experience in employee participation and the tasks and activities that go with it, you can still apply for the Works Council or ODC. There are always experienced members who will help you get started in the early stages.

What do you get in return?

- You will gain a broader perspective on the entire VU organisation and the composition of our VU community.
- You will delve into interesting dossiers, exchange ideas with colleagues and discuss them with the administrators of the university, the department or the faculty. You will receive training and development for representative work, either in a group or as an individual member. In short, you will gain new knowledge, skills and abilities. Representative work is an enormous learning experience.
- There is also compensation in terms of time. Your current duties will be temporarily adjusted to accommodate the time required for participation. For Works Council members: at least one day per week; for ODC members: at least two hours per week.

How do you apply?

There are a number of conditions and options associated with standing as a candidate for the Works Council or the ODC.

- All employees with an appointment at VU Amsterdam can stand as candidates, including employees with a temporary contract and PhD students on scholarships. Only those in positions of responsibility, such as members of the Executive Board, members of the faculty boards and directors of services, are excluded.
- You can register as a candidate for the Works Council via the three trade unions FNV, AOb and CNV, even if you are not yet a member of one of these trade unions. Their response addresses are:
FNV: fnv.vakbondsfunctionaris@vu.nl
CNV: e.dijkstra@vu.nl AOb: f.p.wagenaar@vu.nl
- You can also draw up your own list of candidates, known as a free list. To do so, you will need at least one other employee who is willing to be included on the joint list with you. For more information, please contact the Works Council's administrative secretariat at: or@vu.nl.

Any questions?

If you have any questions or would like to talk to one of the Works Council or ODC members, please contact us at: or@vu.nl. See also: vu.nl/or