

Requirements and policy choices for a UvA-VU Department of Informatics (DoI)

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The document

Three purposes:

1. Advance with agreeing on the design of a combined UvA-VU Department of Informatics
 2. Provide a starting point for dean and CvB's to create a suitable governance and financial environment, that enables such agreements to work in practice
 3. Kickoff the discussion with representative bodies of students and university employees (“medezeggenschap”)
- 18 subjects
 - Fixed structure per subject:
 1. Requirement
 2. Principles for regulations implementing the requirement
 3. Issues that need to be addressed in the regulations
 4. Suggestions for concrete regulation choices for a Department of Informatics

Basics

- No AFS, instead 1 (Virtual) DoI of/with 2 universities/faculties/deans
=> asymmetric choices need to be made
 - with whom to discuss budget?
 - with whom to discuss staff appointments?
 - etc.
- No changes for student (other than the existing and ongoing collaborations)
- All regulations should be in place by 2019
- If it turns out to be infeasible, then we will not have a joint department
 - And continue to collaborate as we're doing now

Terminology:

- (Virtual) Department of Informatics, abbreviated as **DoI**
- **SP-East, SP-South** (plus neutral name for UvA and VU campi)

SELECTION OF POLICY CHOICES

Finances

*Note: all full cost, including model for educational revenues.
Ongoing process within VU, independent of this document*

- Founding departments should be financially viable
- DoI has one single budget
- Regulations for using financial reserves (commitment CvB's)
- Cross subsidizing of curricula in other domains should as much as possible be avoided
- Strict deadline for detailing financial agreements
- Request EU status of “Joint Research Initiative”
 - Request similar status for NWO/STW/.... grant applications

Organizational structure

- Head of Department
- 6-8 research clusters
 - Max 50 people per cluster
 - Six research themes are starting point
- No predefined substructures
 - Minimal hierarchy
- Teacher group
 - Teachers who are not part of this group can only become member on a voluntary basis
 - Members can leave this group under certain conditions
- Group for programmers
- Group for other support staff
- Possibility for additional virtual organization forms, across clusters/groups

Education

- Joint educational portfolio management from 2017 onwards
- Bachelor College (BC-IS) and Graduate School (GS-IS) for Information Sciences (VU + UvA)
 - Educational Colleges and Schools are a recent phenomenon at the VU
 - Information Sciences is broader than Informatics
- Educational director for College and School
- MT College/School: educational director plus curriculum directors (“Opleidingsdirecteuren”)
- College/School may employ support staff; academic staff is employed by DoI
- Harmonization is required of educational rules and regulations
 - Action dean, commitment CvB’s
- Joint alumni policy

Governance

- Legal format: “samenwerkingsinstituut” (collaboration institute)
 - ex art 8.1 of Dutch Law on Higher Education (WHW)
- MT = Head of Department plus
 - Educational director(s) as advisory members
- Staff council(s): to be decided
- Regular meeting between MT and Dean
- Educational director has direct contact point in Faculty Board

HRM

- Strong preference for null-appointments for all at “other” university
- New appointments: option is alternating between UvA and VU (ACTA model)
- Requirement: same position => same HRM policy
- Possible distribution of work load:
 - Salary scale 13+: UvA
 - Others: VU
- Assistant/associate/full professors participate in principle in education, research and management
 - No absolute requirement for 40-40-20 distribution

Other issues (selection)

- Housing
 - clusters have a physical presence
 - one entry pass for all locations
 - space for guests, students, start-ups
 - office space for 10 people at SP-East
- Infrastructure
 - Choice of UvA or VU system voor project administration, education,
- Representative bodies

Risks

- Timeline towards 2019
 - Long list of actions
- Financial viability
 - Due diligence
 - VAT issues
- Legal constraints
 - First indications are that the legal format should work
- Workable governance
 - DoI ↔ Faculties
 - DoI ↔ Bachelor College & Graduate School
 - UvA dean ↔ VU dean
- Representative bodies