

PrOUT Policy Plan academic year 2011-2012

PrOUT and the PhD candidates

The main focus of the PrOUT policy plan of academic year 2011-2012 is to improve our connection with all PhD candidates of Utrecht University. We want to involve more people in our activities, share information with a wider audience and improve the input we base our decisions on. Therefore, it is important to increase awareness of PrOUT amongst PhD candidates. The goal is not only to achieve this with our current communication methods and social media but also by involving active PhD candidates at the faculty level, such as PhD councils. This group is invaluable for PrOUT's communications and also- aside from PrOUT- essential in serving PhD's interests. PhD councils also have easier access to their PhD candidates enabling us to improve the recognizability of PrOUT amongst them. Therefore, we aim to stimulate the membership of these councils and support their activities. To realize our goals, we plan to do the following in this academic year:

- have at least 2 representatives from each faculty within the PrOUT board, one of which has to be a member of his/her faculty's PhD council. If no PhD council exists, maybe other existing structures can be used in which PhD candidates are presented.
- Invite all faculty PhD councils and the PhD candidates' representatives in the graduate schools twice a year to discuss ongoing issues and provide us with input.
- Organize a free workshop for the same group of people once a year to improve their skills as representatives. This workshop will be accompanied by a free drink.
- Actively distribute our proceedings to this group and report on our activities.
- Actively promote our activities through active PhD candidates and encourage them to use their personal network to inform and excite other candidates, preferably by word of mouth. Naturally, this is in addition to our current efforts using digital newsletters, flyers, posters, and e-mails.

PrOUT and the university

PrOUT has gained the appreciation and support within the higher echelons of the UU such as CvB, BoS', U-raad, PhD- councils, trade unions, PNN and HR. To maintain our position as an official entity and the role we have in the decision making process concern PhD candidates, PrOUT needs to keep in touch with representatives of those entities by offering relevant questions, remarks, and opinions.

- There should be meetings with the Rector Magnificus twice a year.
- Attend official University celebrations (opening academic year/dies natalis)