

Ten Behoeve van Rechtenstudenten:  
Election Plan 2021-2022



**Your Law Faculty. Your Future.**

## **The consequences of corona for the faculty**

The impact of the coronavirus in our society is abundant, also in education; no physical education, no physical social environment, and no social connections between the different study programs. To ordinary students, it sometimes feels like as if they are not being consulted about innovative plans to combat this crisis in education. Moreover, student welfare has deteriorated during this crisis. When students go to a study advisor with their problems, they sometimes come back empty-handed. In some cases, students are referred to student psychologists who are more qualified to deal with these sorts of problems. Unfortunately, it also often happens that the study advisers refer back to the department of your program, the teacher concerned, or another institution. It is often unclear to the student why and they get the feeling that they are being sent from pillar to post. That is why TBR advocates for a clear policy regarding referrals of student welfare, for both students and study advisers, so that both parties involved know the process.

TBR is dedicated to fight for more transparency regarding the outcome of surveys. If students know what will be done with their feedback for the faculty, the willingness to complete surveys will increase. As a result, the individual student's reflection moments could become more frequent, where the students can be heard and present their own ideas about how education can improve. In addition, it is important to include students in decisions that have an impact on them. This way, the faculty has a better understanding of what is happening among the student communities, and on that basis the faculty can draw up better and improved measures and policies.

The faculty should also encourage students to seek contact with one another. This can be done by facilitating a physical joint discussion of the exam, organizing walks, and organizing a digital room in Nestor where students can discuss things together. The various departments should make more of an effort to stimulate physical get-togethers between students and teachers. A form of social interaction stimulates the student to develop him/herself and thus complements the discussion in a working group. Consequently, a more interactive lesson, filled with various discussions so that the students feel more motivated in this challenging time.

## **Education after corona**

Guaranteeing the quality of education remains a pillar for TBR policy. When corona made its appearance there was, out of necessity, a rapid change to digital education, with some negative consequences as a result. Courses are now often offered in a different form, with different content and a difference in the duration of exams. In the near future, education will take on a new form, where digital and physical education complement one another to form "blended learning". There are signals that large lectures will mainly take

place digitally, whereas workgroups are given physically. When education is redesigned, it will be paramount that students are included in the process. The faculty, together with students and staff, should consider how blended learning should be given shape.

The coronavirus has changed teaching. TBR believes that there are two essential online components that should also be continued after Corona. First of all, TBR is committed to ensuring that lectures will continue to be recorded and made available via Blackboard for students to watch at a later time. Secondly, there are now various courses where lecturers explain certain topics in more detail via so-called knowledge clips. Students view this as a pleasant way of working. TBR wants to encourage teachers to do this more than often. The knowledge clips are an addition to the lectures and workgroups and are not intended to replace them.

Finally, there must be more clarity regarding the expectations of students in the various subjects, since a various number of forms of examinations are currently being used. Some courses use take-home exams, while other courses make use of fairly regular exams take exams. Consequently, it is important to have clarity for students about a uniform way of examining at an early stage, so that the student does not run into unexpected surprises.

## **Active student**

TBR has been committed to the interests of active students since its establishment. Future employers expect more and more from law graduates; good study results, but also social and legal extracurricular activities are of great importance.

TBR, therefore, considers it important that the faculty provides more information about this to students so that they are better informed about all the different and available options. The faculty already provides information, but this needs to be done on a more extensive and larger scale. In addition, it is important that the faculty actually stimulates extra-curricular activities by being more flexible in the event of absences. Consequently, the student gets more room to pursue personal development.

One way to encourage students to become active in study associations is to give them a certificate if they have been on a committee at an association. Points would be awarded for various committees and/or organizing activities, which are explained in more detail on the certificate. Therefore, being an active student during your student life will receive more recognition and appreciation. Such a system is already used in some studies at the Faculty of Arts. TBR believes that this initiative is a good addition to support the active student.

## Sustainability

Sustainability is an extremely important topic in our society and therefore indispensable in our election program. As a result of the pandemic, sustainability has already improved a lot, from making study materials available digitally to digital examinations. This is a policy that must be continued after corona, given that a lot of paper is saved with this approach. That is why we also want the faculty to make more use of digital examinations in the Aletta Jacobs hall in the future.

It is possible to make the faculty greener by reducing the use of paper. Nevertheless, we must also recognize that sustainability also requires a change in behavior, on the part of the faculty and its students. That is why we want the faculty to make an effort to make staff and students more aware of the environment and climate. This awareness can be achieved by introducing students to environmental law or 'the sustainability of the law' in the first phase of their studies. It can be arranged in the curriculum according to the wishes of the department itself.

## Integration

The students of the Faculty of Law Groningen are becoming more and more diverse. This gives every student at our faculty better opportunities to develop themselves personally, precisely because of the different perspectives that internationalization offers. At the moment, many students have the idea that the faculty is split into two faculties due to the international and Dutch student divide. Yet, we are of course one faculty. We must be able to convey that sense of unity!

TBR is committed to both Dutch and international students. That is why we want to make plans with the faculty to close the gap between international and Dutch students. In order to achieve this, more information should be provided during the introduction period for international students about study and student associations. This would provide more opportunities for integration between students. In addition, the faculty should start a pilot where the "Study Start Groups/ Starting Your Academic Career" can be a mixed classroom with international and Dutch students. Needless to say, this initiative would be voluntary, so it is up to the student to register for this pilot. TBR also sees it as an addition to the integration to link international students to Dutch students at the beginning of the year through a buddy system. The Faculty could then match first-year international students with older Dutch students, for instance by pairing three international students with a Dutch student. Hence, they would receive a helping hand so that they can fully experience Groningen student life.