How do you like having a seat in the USC?
Michelle: I love it! I still find it very interesting to learn about all the different topics we discuss and I like the variation of ways we work in. There are a lot of different meetings behind the scenes and of course the public joint assemblies. It creates many opportunities to achieve good things like for example the research into student well-being which I find very important. The USC is also a fantastic group this year which creates a good atmosphere throughout the year.

What achievement are you most proud of?
Isa: At the moment there isn’t one specific achievement that stands out. There are a number of things that we have been doing this year with the USC that I am very proud of. I think the most important examples are: the board minor, which people are currently working very hard on, the pilot for flexible studying, which we are devising with the Executive Board and policy makers, and our research into student well-being, of which the first steps towards a proper research have been made. The personal achievement I am very proud of is that I have managed to secure a seat in the programme sustainability because I think students are not involved enough with the plans concerning sustainability at the RU. Also communication to students has to be greatly improved. All of this has caused me to strike up a conversation with the vice-president of the Executive Board which secured me a seat in the highest body working for sustainability at the University. I love being able to put in effort for an important theme like this in this manner.

Update from the University Student Council
In the last joint assembly with the Executive Board the topic of internationalisation took up most of the agenda. The international Office presented a status update of internationalisation at Radboud University. In the 2013 “Policy Paper on Internationalisation” certain goals were set. One of these goals was that the number of outgoing exchange students from the Netherlands should be at 50% and the number of exchange students from abroad to the Netherlands should be 21%.

At the moment these percentages are 40% and 31% respectively. Our party leader Dinja asked if there are any measures to guard the quality of education because the focus seems to be on quantity instead. The Executive Board answered that numbers are a way to measure success but that we should not lose sight of the quality. Something to keep monitoring!

Another topic was student communication. Questionnaires showed that students graded the services of the Radboud University with a 6.8. They said they receive too much, double, and sometimes irrelevant information from many different places and on top of that it is not clear where the relevant information is to be found on the website. Last year the Executive Board already indicated they would do something about it but so far very little actually happened. During the joint assembly it was determined that it is important to talk about a contact strategy very soon. This will undoubtedly be continued.

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