

Audrey Giraud, May 8th, 2025

Dear Independent Body, dear Committee Members, dear UCM Community,

On May 8th, 2024, I anxiously sent an email to the Independent Body, attaching my CV and my motivation letter. In an instant, I had applied to become the next Universalis President. Three weeks later, I was elected to the head of the organization, unaware of how much it would ultimately mean to me.

Today, I want to tell you about how this experience has forged me to my core. And how I aim to put the knowledge and perspective I have gained throughout this year into practice for one more semester, if you will allow me, as President of Universalis.

Starting the year with no previous experience of being a part of and leading something this big was rough. Doubt would creep in, and stressful moments were countless. This is the core of the job: putting out fires. Both metaphorically and physically, as I completed a BHV training, and I am now capable of saving everyone's lives, on paper and in practice. On a more serious note, I believe I have managed every issue that came my way and intend to follow this path next semester.

As upon my election last year, promises were made, and I strongly believe in transparency and accountability. As proof of respect for the value of your vote, I want to delve a bit into the work my amazing team and I have been able to accomplish this year.

The first major improvement we have noticed is freshmen engagement in the UCM Community. I believe UCM thrives on its people, which is why we have put in intense work to be seen. Within their first two weeks of arrival, multiple groups of freshmen had already taken over committees, and two new committees, *entirely* run by freshmen, were created. These committees have now come into their own, and student engagement continues to be the finest gift UCM has to offer.

Secondly, as part of my participation in the Management Team, I have been able to achieve many - smaller but significant - wins for the UCM Community and Universalis. The one change I believe needs a mention in this letter is the addition of a twelfth member to the Board of Universalis. After weeks of negotiations, dozens of hours of policy revision, and countless talks with concerned members and the community, the entire Board of Universalis saw an important structure change. I strongly believe in building on experiences, and together with the Executive Board, we have been able to reshape Universalis' positions to foster what I believe will be the association's most fruitful and balanced working structure yet. In addition, in collaboration with the Independent Body, the Executive Board, and the UCM Community, I have fully reviewed and rewritten the policy manual, the association's core document of 35

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pages of rules and regulations, and I am proud to say that it is now the most up to date it has ever been.

Day after day, challenge after challenge, I have stood guard over the interests and rights of this association. Whether internal issues arose, or external pressures had to be faced, I held my ground. I will end the list here, before it grows tedious, but the work and its meaning carry on. Each day, I feel more prepared than the last, and each day brings new chances to rise beyond what came before. For the semester ahead, I believe the position calls for someone who not only understands the process behind the recent policy and board changes but who also carries the vision to guide this new board, still in its trial phase for a year, towards what it can become. And who better to do so than the one who set those very changes in motion?

Finally, I believe that throughout this academic year, I have prioritized transparency, communal growth, and have always put the needs of the association before personal comfort. I have learned to separate my professional and personal life in ways I never had to before. Closeness can be a burden. But managed with care, it leads to respectful communication and powerful dynamics.

Today, I seek your vote to elect me once more, this time for a term of six months, as President of UCMSA Universalis. If granted your trust, I vow to continue putting all my work and strength towards the benefit of all, with an approach rooted in honesty, openness, and willingness to listen and grow and learn from one another.

Best Regards,  
Your President,  
Audrey.