Vinod Subramaniam – Our rector magnificus Vinod Subramaniam opened the seminar. His key message was that when we want to demonstrate the societal relevance of our research ‘the narrative comes first, the metrics are supporting’. The standard evaluation protocol (SEP) is a framework that already is facilitating a multi-dimensional view on valuing science. A small number of departments and the library explore these multiple dimensions.

[slide with program] (no audio)

Peter van den Besselaar – Peter is professor in the dynamics and organisation of science. He argues we should not measure research excellence and impact, but the conditions in which excellent research can flourish. He explained why we measure research performance, the different dimensions it consists of, how they influence excellence, and the toolkit of indicators for measuring the conditions of excellence and impact.

[listen to Peter’s talk + slideshow] (manual next slide)

Pieter van Beukering – Pieter is professor in Environmental Economics. In his talk he explained the importance of researchers cooperating with commercial parties to make a better society, and of researchers explaining to society the importance of that collaboration. He argued that if we want to demonstrate the University’s contribution to society the UN Sustainable Development Goals provide a good framework. The SDG’s are well known and considered important and therefore it is useful to make visible to society how the University and its faculties contribute to reaching the goals. Making this visible may also help to get funding, and increase on- and off-campus collaboration.

[listen to Pieter’s talk + slideshow] (automatic next slide)
Edwin Kanters – Edwin is a senior advisor at the grant office. In his talk he explains why the general public invest in science, and how to keep them interested in investing in science. He explores how funders also struggle with that question and how funding mechanisms are redefining themselves.

[listen to Edwin’s talk + slideshow] (automatic next slide)

Marieke de Hoon – Marieke’s research areas are in international criminal law, human rights law, use of force and aggression. Additionally she is Senior Counsel at the Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) and Co-Director of PILPG’s Netherlands Office. Because of her latter role, she is also a very public figure, constantly interacting with society, and enriching her research area. She argues that researchers are hard working people who are contributing to society on a daily basis, but don’t have the time to administer each public activity of each day. There has to be a smart solution for this. She pleas for the research service organisations to work with the researchers to tackle this.

[listen to Marieke’s talk]

Jacqueline Broerse – Jacqueline is director of the Athena Institute, where they design interfaces between science and society, to improve the health and well-being in a sustainable and equitable way. She argues that, in order to improve the science&society relationship, academics have to 1. Improve their communication by explaining better on the output side and listening better on the input side. And 2. Collaborate better. Numbers don’t tell the whole story. The qualitative indicators are much more insightful to measure societal impact: e.g. Due to interventions of Athena institute’s research, historically autonomous groups of gynaecologists and midwifes now work closer together (= societal impact), This has lead to a significant reduction of the rate of preventable adverse perinatal outcomes (= societal impact) and had improved client satisfaction (= societal impact).

[listen to Jacqueline’s talk + slideshow] (automatic next slide)
Joeri Both – Joeri is head of Research Support at the library. He explained about the importance of PURE as a solid foundation for measuring research excellence and societal impact. On the roadmap are activities to optimize and automate data entry and validation. This should increase the data quality and the satisfaction of the researcher.

[listen to Joeri’s talk + slideshow] (automatic next slide)

Maurice Vanderfeesten – Maurice is Innovation Manager for Research Services at the library. He explains about how policies shaped the strategic plan of the library, with a program on open science and academic value. This program gave room to experiment with Scival and Altmetric to find out the usefulness of measuring research excellence and societal attention. In the coming months the library offers training sessions in the coming months for research staff and research support staff to get familiar with the tooling. We do this, in order to come to an improved evaluation for continuation of the licenses in 2019 and beyond.


[listen to Maurice’s talk + slideshow] (automatic next slide)