
Policy Plan 2021–2022

Organisation of Study Associations



Introduction

Dear member of the GMA,

The following sections of the policy will elaborate upon the vision for the policy of the OS Board 2021-II and the OS Board 2022-I. In the following parts, three different main themes will be highlighted and explained.

Good communication between organising parties is very important. This goes for communication between study associations, in which OS can play a facilitating and guiding role. OS can also play a guiding role in the communication between study associations and the university, but good direct communication from the top down is even more important.

Good communication between study associations is hugely improved when board members are familiar with each other. Study associations can learn a lot from each other. Because of that, OS wants to focus on integration between Board members of different associations and facilitate more and improved integration activities.

Furthermore there are three committees that need attention in the coming year. For these committees, the policy of 2021-2022 is explained in further detail.

And finally we can say that after a turbulent one and a half years, the end of the COVID-19 epidemic seems to be finally in sight. This means that physical activities will hopefully be possible again soon, as well as that study associations can see and welcome their members again. However, it is expected that the COVID measures will still not be completely lifted at the beginning of the academic year. When the transition from digital to physical will take place, is still uncertain. This requires the OSb to be flexible and prepared for different kinds of situations. The OSb will monitor the transition process closely and will make sure to always have backup plans for activities ready, so a change from a physical to an online setting can easily be made and vice versa when needed.

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Structure of the board

<i>Function</i>	<i>Name</i>
Chair	Friso Nieuwenhuijse
Secretary & Treasurer	Lars van Arkel
Faculty Representative ET (CTW)	Ruben den Hertog
Faculty Representative EEMCS (EWI)	Hannah Ottenschot
Faculty Representative BMS	Dagmar Franken
Faculty Representative S&T (TNW)	Maarten de Groot

Committees & Responsibilities

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Responsible Board Member</i>
Activism Grants Committee (ABC)	Ruben den Hertog and Dagmar Franken
Audit Committee (KasCo)	Lars van Arkel
Convention of Education Officers (CEO)	Hannah Ottenschot
External Affairs Assembly (EB)	Friso Nieuwenhuijse
Internationalisation Committee (ICOS)	Friso Nieuwenhuijse
Kick-In Organisation of Study Associations (KIOSK)	Dagmar Franken
Study Trip Committee (SRC)	Lars van Arkel
University of Twente Education Award Committee (UTea)	Hannah Ottenschot
IT Student Council	Hannah Ottenschot
Book Contract Committee (BCC)	Lars van Arkel

<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Responsible Board Member</i>
1.5m working group	Maarten de Groot
Alcohol	Ruben den Hertog
CantOS	Maarten de Groot
Coordination group KIC	Dagmar Franken
ERO	Maarten de Groot
FOBOS	Ruben den Hertog and Dagmar Franken
FocOS Groups	Hannah Ottenschot
GalOS	Lars van Arkel
ICT/Boardsite	Lars van Arkel
MentOS	Hannah Ottenschot
OS cup	Dagmar Franken

Social Media	Maarten de Groot
Student news	Friso Nieuwenhuijse
Umbrella Meetings	Friso Nieuwenhuijse and Maarten de Groot

1. Communication

1.1 Improve communication UT – OS

In the past, and especially during the last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, problems were found regarding the communication between the study associations and the SU and other instances of the UT. The OSb wants to improve the communication between these instances by being more assertive in the communication with the SU and explaining in an organized manner how the study associations operate so that also the other instances understand better in which way they can help and be helped by the study associations. This all also has as a result that the communication lines can be shortened and information can be distributed faster and more clearly.

1.2 Online platforms

Over the past year, the previous OSb has used Instagram more frequently than before. In the coming year the OSb wants to continue the usage of Instagram for all forms of promotion, while also adding clearer communication about the target audience and who can join the activities that are being promoted. Furthermore the OSb wants to use the existing website and Facebook page for important updates for two reasons. This way associations and/or students can receive updates about OS, without experiencing it as spam and external parties can look at these platforms to get a clear indication of what OS stands for and possibly can do for them.

1.3 Annual planning

Since OS is there for all study associations, it is also important for OS that the associations can be present at meetings/activities. To make sure that the associations are well updated on when meetings/activities will take place, a planning will be shared shortly after the change GMA for the whole year so that the associations know what they can expect. By doing this, the OSb hopes that associations are well informed about this and are therefore able to take the OS meetings/activities into account in their planning.

1.4 GMA involvement

OS GMA's are there for all study associations. While some topics are not interesting for all associations, there are also discussions that can have an influence on every association, while still only getting opinions from a few. The OSb wants to stimulate receiving input from all associations, while still appreciating the input the present study associations are providing. This will be done by, amongst other things, discussing topics also at faculty pre-meetings and taking that input in account when discussing topics.

Furthermore, the OSb noticed that from most of the associations only the chairmen join the GMA's, even when there are subjects that other board members have more knowledge about. This way some subjects cannot be discussed as well as desired. The OSb wants to solve this by providing clear information beforehand what is going to be discussed, and encouraging

chairmen to bring their responsible board member or receive the necessary information beforehand.

2. Committees and responsibilities

2.1 FocOS group sessions

To build further upon the work of the previous two boards, the OSb would like to continue organising FocOS group sessions. These sessions provide us and our members with the opportunity to discuss certain topics that are relevant at the University, as well as a place to ask questions and share problems and possible solutions. Additionally, external parties can be invited to these sessions to give more in-depth information about certain subjects. These sessions will be held next to the OS GMAs and faculty pre-meetings to provide all study association board members with a more informal way to discuss the presented topics. The sessions will be held around once per module, and documented and spread amongst the board to make sure everyone has equal access to the discussed information. The OSb would like to host the following sessions:

1. *The influence of UT policy on study associations*

The University has different kinds of policies in place and new policies are set in place quite often. Without going too deep into loose policies and subjects like sustainability, equality and diversity, the OSb wants to focus on what you should and what you do not have to implement in your association. In this session the OSb wants to discuss how you should treat ideas and campaigns originating from higher organs and find out what can make the difference in picking it up and ignoring it. The OSb also wants to go into when and if policy that is present amongst multiple associations should be picked up by higher organs and what study associations can do to make UT-wide progress.

2. *Student life after COVID-19*

The amount of students willing to partake in activism has shown to be significantly lower than previous years due to COVID-19. Considering that the students who just started their studies have not had the chance to properly get to know study associations and all other possibilities at the UT, this does not come as a surprise. However, since more and more is becoming possible again and study associations are given the task to welcome new students, the OSb would like to discuss with the study associations what their plans are when it comes to activism after COVID-19.

3. *Alumni*

Close contact with the alumni is beneficial for both students and alumni. Students can get in touch with people in the workfield that are close to them. Alumni get a chance to relive their student life, meet their student friends again and share their experiences. Although there are a lot of benefits, it is sometimes hard to actively involve alumni in a study association. Some associations have a very active alumni association while some would like to have one. The OSb would like to facilitate a discussion where associations can learn from each other in the involvement of their alumni.

4. *Free slot*

The OSb would like to keep the fourth FocOS session topic undetermined for now. This gives OSb the freedom to base the session on topics that come up during the academic year. If possible and applicable, the OSb would prefer gearing this session towards candidate boards. This will provide them with the opportunity to already get in contact with OS and discuss a topic that they can tackle in their board year.

2.2 Mental health: MentOS

Especially during the last academic year, mental health has become an even more important topic at the UT. Study associations showed their interest and concern when it comes to mental health, which is why the previous OSb laid the foundations for a mental health committee: the MentOS. During this academic year, this new committee will undergo a trial run. A meeting will be held around every module with all study associations. The contents of these meetings will be determined in cooperation with the study associations. Depending on which topics are discussed, the SAC and/or study assessors could also be invited for these meetings.

2.3 BCC

At the end of this year the current book contract will expire and negotiations will take place to discuss a new contract for all study associations. As the current contract contains an irregular amount of money received by OS, with the last 2 years receiving a significantly lower amount of money, the OSb strives to receive a fixed contribution for OS that does not change throughout the years for the book contract.

3. Integration

3.1 Faculty and function outings

Last year the focus of integration between board members shifted from faculty outings to function outings, with the budget being converted from the former to the latter. Last year, there were indeed more function outings, but barely any faculty outings. Because of this, the OSb wants to stimulate faculty outings as well, as function outings will be organised anyways, with some functions having a tradition of organising function outings. Besides changing the budget of function outings to faculty outings, the OSb wants to have a more active involvement in the organisation of these faculty outings.

3.2 OS cup

In previous years, the OS cup was introduced to stimulate the interaction between study associations. Last year, the OS cup was further improved. A half-year sprint was added to give the boards of the faculty ET the possibility to win the OS cup as well as they change boards in February. This half-year sprint seemed to work in the beginning of the year, so therefore the half-year sprint will stay this year as well.

This year, the OS cup will start on the first day of the academic year. The half-year sprint will again end before February. To make sure that boards do not lose interest in the OS cup after half a year, there will also be a second half-year sprint. This sprint will last from the end of the first half-year sprint until the summer break. There will be a prize for the winner of the second half-year sprint. The big OS cup will be won by the association which has the best overall score.