

Policy Plan 2019-2020



Introduction

Dear members of the GMA,

In the following pages, you will find the policy plan of the OS Board 2019 II and OS Board 2020 I. Instead of having one focal point the Board wants to introduce 4 main pillars

First of all, The Board is striving for internal restructuring of the OS. For example, the way faculty pre-meetings, ICOS meetings and OS GMAs are prepared and held. Next to this, the Board will give more attention to promoting the OS to their members, so that they have a clear idea of what OS can do for them.

Secondly, the Board will introduce the FocOS group. These are sessions that are focussed on a certain topic, each module, to discuss matters that concern many or all associations more in depth than it can be done during the OS GMAs.

Third, there are a couple of aspects that the Board wants to change with respect to the network of brother associations within OS and the connection the Board has with the different study associations. The Board will introduce a renewed OS-cup system including new features and challenges. Next to this, the Board will change the way kegs are used during OS activities to ensure full inclusion of all associations and boards.

Lastly, the Board aims for increasing the provision of information towards freshmen during the introduction period by representing all study associations during introductory moments.

The Board hopes all members of the assembly will read our policy plan, and comment on anything they may have questions about during the GMA on the 5th of September, 2019.

Kind Regards,

OS-Board 2019 II

Jana, Niels, Daniela, Daan, Ramon, Rik

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Structure of the Board

Function	Name
Chair	Jana Bergmann
Secretary & Treasurer	Niels Roosenschoon
Faculty Representative ET (CTW)	Ramon Oppers
Faculty Representative EEMCS (EWI)	Daniela van Meggelen
Faculty Representative BMS	Daan Peters
Faculty Representative S&T (TNW)	Rik Seelen

Committees and Responsibilities

Committee	Responsible Board Member
Activism Grants Committee (AC)	Jana Bergmann
Alcohol Umbrella Committee	Ramon Oppers
Audit Committee	Niels Roosenschoon
Convention of Education Officers (CEO)	Daan Peters
External Affairs Assembly (EA)	Rik Seelen
GalOS	Daniela van Meggelen
Internationalisation Committee (ICOS)	Jana Bergmann
Kick-In Organisation of Study Associations Kommittee (KIOSK)	Daniela van Meggelen
Study trip Committee (SC)	Niels Roosenschoon
University of TThe Boardnte Educational Award (UTEA)	Rik Seelen

Responsibility	Responsible Board Member
BHV/IVA	Daan Peters
FOBOS	Ramon Oppers, Niels Roosenschoon
ICT/The Boardbsite	Daniela van Meggelen
Student Union Meetings	Jana Bergmann
Umbrella Meetings	Daan Peters, Jana Bergmann

1. Reconstruction

Many structures that are prevailing within the sector study are already quite progressive compared to other umbrellas. Nevertheless, the Board of 2019-2020 thinks that it is important to further advance each aspect that shows potential for further improvements. Therefore, the faculty pre-meetings and ICOS meetings, as well as the visual identity, with focus on the website, will undergo subsequently explained changes and updates. Furthermore, the Board has the ambition to create an elaborate year planning which will be accessible to all study association boards.

1.1 Pre-Meetings

The Board want to standardize our meetings so that they have a unified structure.

Reason: During the last year(s), the standard form of pre-meetings slowly disappeared. This had led to an inconsistency in discussed topics which led to less information sharing than desirable.

Plan: In the first quartile, a standard agenda for every pre-meeting is made by the OS Board, in consultation with the different pre-meetings. This agenda will be used during the rest of the year.

1.2 ICOS

Enhancing the potential of monthly ICOS meetings with respect to its structure and level of engagement.

Reason: During the academic year of 2018-2019 board members criticised that due to the imbalance between the need to discuss certain matters related to internationalization and the density of meetings, the usefulness of ICOS meetings decreased over the year. During the last two ICOS meeting of 2018-2019, that issue was discussed and put to a vote, which lead to the decision to continue the ICOS meetings but reducing the number of meetings.

Plan: The general scheme of the ICOS meeting will remain as it used to be, meaning that of each study association the Officers of Internationalization are present, as well as the Internationalization representative of the Student Union, the OS board and representatives of the University Council parties. The Chairman of those meetings was already voted for during the last academic year and will work closely together with the representative of the OS to make the meetings a more valuable asset for the study associations. In total there will be 5 meetings pre-scheduled. During each meeting it will be discussed whether there is a need to schedule additional meetings. To make the meetings more engaging and productive, the OS representative will prepare scenarios and/or discussion points, which will be used to fill gaps of input from the associations. Office material will be used to make the meetings more interactive and structured.

1.3 Visual Identity

The Board want to focus more on the (social) media so associations and their members have more insight in what OS can do.

Reason: The website is currently functional, but not well-known outside of and within the sector study, although it is a very central platform to place information relevant for all study associations. Furthermore, it is not always clear to associations what OS exactly is doing and how they can provide aid for them.

Plan: The website is already partly translated to English, and will this year be completely translated so that everyone has access to it. It will also be used more frequently. The Board will post updates on the news page throughout the year and make the website more slick-looking. The Facebook account will be used for more occasions, and an Instagram account will be made and kept track of, showing some insides in the OS Board-life (both the useful and the fun parts).

1.4 Year Planning

At the beginning of the academic year, study association boards will be given an indication of the approximate time frame in which GMA topics will arise and events will take place.

Reason: Currently, the OS websites presents important dates of events, GMAs and other momentums. It delivers a good overview about upcoming OS activities and conveys the dates of certain brother activities that can be valuable for fellow study association boards. The Board of 2019 - 2020 would like to additionally inform about upcoming GMA -, FocOs group- (see Policy Point 2.) and pre-meeting topics.

Plan: Taking the agenda on the OS website as a convenient basis, a more elaborate year planning will be presented to the associations. This will be done in form of an infographic and/or informational document, which will be sent to the boards in September. The year planning will contain topics that are being discussed at the GMAs, pre-meetings and in the FocOs Groups

2. FocOS Group

One focus group session will be organized per module to discuss matters that concern many or all associations more in-depth than it can be done during the OS GMAs.

Reason: Usually all topics that concern several associations can be either discussed during the pre-meetings or during the OS GMAs. However, both momentums are usually limited in time, to discuss urgent matters and therefore do not leave a lot of space for elaborate discussions. Additionally, during the OS GMAs a rather formal atmosphere is prevailing, which might keep Board members from speaking up or diving deeper into certain discussions. The atmosphere during the pre-meetings is less official but is limited in the sense of diversity of associations. Within each faculty, different problems might occur but also solutions for or ideas about specific topics might vary.

Plan: During each FocOS Group one or two main topics will be examined (see 2.1 to 2.5). All Board members of different study associations will be invited and asked for additional input prior to the actual gathering. Discussion points that do not turn around the main topic will be discussed if there is still time left to do so. Towards the end of each FocOS Group, Board members can share experiences, worries or ideas, which do not have to be related to the main topic, informally. During that part of the FocOS Group, no minutes will be taken whereas the first part will be documented, summarized and sent to the boards.

2.1 Sustainability

Organise a moment to discuss the possibilities for a more sustainable association.

Reason: Sustainability is a hot topic nowadays. Last year, some study associations felt the need to discuss certain topics about sustainability during the OS GMA. Therefore, it is assumed that there is a need to discuss 'sustainability' in a more extensive way.

Plan: In the new FocOS Group, a few meetings about sustainability will be organised. In this focus group, there is the opportunity to discuss ideas and invite others like the sustainability association Sustain and some sustainability developers from the UT. During the year, the need for engaging in this topic will be assessed.

2.2 Mental Health

The Board want to spread awareness for the Red Desk (SACC), psychologists, and other forms of mental support.

Reason: As the pressure on students is only increasing and the burnout rates are higher than ever, it is very important to make them aware of the possibilities of mental support that are present here at university.

Plan: The Board will make an overview of the possibilities of mental support (SACC, confidential advisors) and spread those among the study associations. The Board will also

be hosting a workshop or theme lunch for the Board members about what they can do as a Board.

2.3. Alumni

Initiate discussions with respect to alumni (associations) across different faculties.

Reason: Many boards are facing struggles to get in touch with Alumni or at least prompting those alumni to remain active. At the same time, the university and faculties are expecting the study associations to bridge the gap between alumni, current students and the programme.

Plan: Urging boards of study associations to talk about their experiences, problems and concepts might deliver useful insights and help the associations to face the issue with new ideas. To make this gathering more valuable for boards and provoke networking among different groups within the university, a representative of the Alumni Office will be invited to the first part of the meeting to answer potential questions or receive first-hand feedback. Furthermore, boards of Alumni Associations will be asked to join the FocOS Group.

2.4. Influx of students

Gather data about the influx of students and present the outcome to the study associations.

Reason: For years has the influx of students not only affected, the student life and study atmosphere within the university, but also at other academical institutions of the Netherlands. The number of students in the coming years is expected to increase further and thereby the associated consequences (inefficient room scheduling, insufficient student housing, overcrowded campus facilities). It is not the task of study associations to regulate this influx but due to the fact of being directly affected by it, they might have to adjust to the circumstances.

Plan: The Board will ask different entities within the university for interviews evolving around the impact of an increasing number of students at the UT and the respective role the study associations should play. To complement this research, contact will be made with study umbrellas or similar groups to get insights into the plans and processes of other universities with respect to the influx of students. The outcome of both attempts will be evaluated, presented in a combined document and discussed during a FocOS group. The Board strives for helping study associations facing struggles caused by the increasing number of students. Moreover, this trial is meant to spread awareness about the issue and indicate towards other parties within the UT, that study associations are not only affected by it, but might also be able to contribute to solutions.

2.5. Attention towards smaller associations within OS

The Board want to include and engage the smaller associations within OS more.

Reason: These associations are often more on the background and possibly forgotten by other associations whenever big activities are being organised. As they are also a significant part of OS, The Board want to focus on them to integrate with other associations and be more actively present.

Plan: This will be elaborated on during the quarterly discussion moments as well as in the OS cup. Furthermore, the faculty representatives will be looking out for the smaller associations more, stimulating them to engage in the pre-meetings and share their issues (if they have any).

3. Integration

Working together, you can achieve a lot more. That is why it is very important for the boards of different study associations to get to know each other. To achieve this, The Board is taking a look at how OS can accommodate the networking amongst brother associations.

3.1 OS-Cup - Restructuring

Make the OS-Cup more open and likable to all associations.

Reason: The OS-cup is a way to stimulate integration by handing out points for doing things with or at other associations. While the goal of this competition is clear and very nice, not every association participates actively in this.

Plan: The point system will remain, but besides actual points study associations get small parts of one object whenever they do something that stimulates integration (see GMA document "OS-Cup Point System"). The focus will be put on both useful and more social ways of integration, to ensure all kinds of board members see the use of this cup.

3.2 OS - Kegs

The "Throw in a keg"-system will be evaluated on, to see what most associations prefer.

Reason: During the past years, during the OS activities, OS throws in a keg first, and afterwards other boards can throw in a keg. According to our opinion, this could lead to high financial costs for smaller boards, while they are 'forced' or at least feel they are 'forced' to throw in a keg as boards. Another problem that appears is that there are associations that do not throw in a keg often, so they only 'profit' from the kegs of other associations.

Plan: To get to know what the association's preferences are regarding financial contributions, an anonymous survey will be conducted. For OS activities where the 'Throw in a Keg system' used to be applicable some new systems of contribution will be proposed. The Board is very open for further suggestions, or a combination of options and therefore will ask for input in the pre-mentioned survey.

4. Representation

Study associations are there to represent the students. OS is there to represent all study associations. This is especially important for the new students.

4.1 Freshmen

The Board will be serving as an information source representing all study associations towards freshmen.

Reason: Most of the time it is impractical to let all study associations be present at an informative event for students. Letting OS be there instead, The Board can represent all study associations as every faculty has their representative and have one central point of contact.

Plan: Be present at informative events for freshmen, make sure it is clear to them that The Board are there to provide information. At the opening market of the Kick-In the Board will stand in the centre of all study associations, to help refer upcoming students to their association and answer general questions. Additionally, The Board have been present at the formality market on both the Sunday (for bachelor students) and Monday (for master student) of the Kick-In.