

Annual Report 2019-2020

Introduction

For the five of us, there is no use in denying the fact that we have become too old (too experienced?) for being a study association (umbrella) board member. We have enjoyed working with the associations a lot and are honored that we could represent you this tumultuous year. Times might have not always been easy, but we hope that you felt comfortable to ask us for advice when necessary.

In this report, we look back at the goals mentioned in our policy plan and reflect on them. For the things that happened in the first half of this academic year, more details can be found in the secretarial half-year report presented during the GMA of February.

We are sad to leave but are confident that our successors and Ruben will take very good care of the associations in the upcoming year.

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Table of Contents	2
Structure of the Board	3
1. Reconstruction	3
1.1 Pre-Meetings	3
1.2 ICOS	3
1.3 Visual Identity	4
1.4 Year Planning	4
2. FocOS Group	4
2.1 Sustainability	5
2.2 Mental Health	5
2.3. Alumni	5
2.4. Influx of Students	5
2.5. Attention Towards Smaller Associations Within OS	6
3. Integration	6
3.1 OS-Cup - Restructuring	6
3.2 OS - Kegs	6
4. Representation	7
4.1 Freshmen	7
5. Other topics	7
5.1 Full Grants for 6th Board Member	7
5.2 Activism Grants Model Improvement	8
5.3 Study Tours to Category 2	8
5.4 Part-Time Activism Recognition	8
5.4 Committee Grants Within the COVID-19 Context	8
5.5 Communication Regarding COVID-19 and Study Associations	9
5.6 Collaboration with Marketing and Communication	9
5.7 IT Student Council	9
5.8 ERO and IVA Courses	9
5.9 Faculty Kick-In Goals	9
5.10 YER Workshop	9
Committees and Responsibilities	10
Appendix A: Summary Sustainability Input	12

Structure of the Board

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

1. Reconstruction

The part below is extracted from the semi-annual report as there have been no updates about this topic since then.

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 the potential for further improvements. Therefore, the faculty pre-meetings and ICOS meetings, as well as the visual identity, with a focus on the website, have undergone and will undergo subsequently explained changes and updates. Furthermore, the Board has created an elaborate year planning which is accessible to all study association boards through the OS website.

1.1 Pre-Meetings

The Board wanted to standardize their 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.

Status: In the mid-year report, it was mentioned that the agenda points would be re-evaluated. Due to non-standard circumstances, we were not able to re-evaluate the standard agenda.

1.2 ICOS

The Board aims to enhance the potential of monthly ICOS meetings concerning its structure and level of engagement.

Reason: During the academic year of 2018-2019 board members criticized 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 meetings of 2018-2019, that issue was discussed and put to a vote, which led to the decision to continue the ICOS meetings but reducing the number of meetings.

Status: During three meetings that took place in September, November, and January, the participating boards had the chance to share their experiences and concerns and discuss specific issues. To make the aim of ICOS more concrete, four main pillars have been chosen to be relevant for the academic year 2019-2020. One main focus was on the organization of a culture fair, in which the majority of study associations will take part. Due to COVID-19, that initiative has been canceled. Besides that, ICOS provided constructive feedback for the Kick-In, supported the Student Union with a potential strengthening of the Buddy system, and together with UReka looked into opportunities of a minor dedicated to learning the Dutch language. Finally, a meeting was organized to gather input for an advising document for the following years, which will be set up by the OS board 2020-I.

1.3 Visual Identity

Reason: The website is currently functional, but not well-known, both 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.

Status: As Facebook's popularity is decreasing, especially amongst the younger students, we have created an Instagram account. As the OS is mostly operating behind the scenes, it was challenging to find interesting things to post. However, we believe that the page does add some value, even though it is mostly seen by study association board members. We, therefore, advise our candidate board to keep using the account. As of 05-08-2020, the page has 186 followers. We also suggested to the candidate board to make better use of the OS website and potentially give it a nicer design. During the year we have worked on last translations and uploading missing documents.

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 website presents important dates of events, GMAs, and other momentums. It delivers a good overview of 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.

Status: The year planning has been created at the beginning of the academic year, sent to all associations, and uploaded on the website. Most dates remained accurate and changes have been announced during GMAs or via email contact. The second half of the year also had a planning, but was, due to the pandemic, adapted significantly and barely used.

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 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 the diversity of associations. Within each faculty, different problems might occur but also solutions for or ideas about specific topics might vary.

Status: The first 2 FocOS Group sessions have been organized. These were about Alumni and the Influx of students. Two further topics have been discussed in different manners. In the sub-chapters, these

sessions are further elaborated on. The FocOS group on Mental Health has not yet taken place. The OS board is still working on organizing this FocOS Group.

2.1 Sustainability

Organize 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' more extensively.

Status: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, organizing this FocOS group was found to be more challenging. The sustainability association Sustain would have joined this session, but could not find people willing to join an online FocOS group. Instead, sustainability was discussed during the pre-meetings and a summary of the findings have been presented during the GMA of June (see Appendix A). We think there is still added value in having a FocOS group held in collaboration with Sustain and advise our candidate board to look into this when physical gatherings are possible again.

2.2 Mental Health

The Board wants 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.

Status: One FocOS Group session had been arranged with SACC (the Student Affairs Coaching & Counselling of the UT), where also the Student Psychologists are working. Due to a lack of availability on their side that attempt had to be canceled. Because the OS board considers this topic to be very relevant, especially during COVID-19, the national mental health organization MHFA has been contacted to arrange a paid workshop on this topic. Arrangements have been made but the initial speaker is not available on the proposed date anymore. The OS board is still in touch with the organization to still let a session take place at the beginning of 2020-2021.

2.3. Alumni

Initiate discussions concerning 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 program.

The part below is extracted from the semi-annual report as there have been no updates about this topic since then.

Status: *A meeting was organized; we think that it was a nice opportunity for the associations to learn from each other. An additional benefit was the presence of Arianne Colenbrander from the alumni office. Both the study associations and the alumni office were able to learn from each other.*

2.4. Influx of Students

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

Reason: The influx of students affects the student-life and study atmosphere of the university to such an extent that some study associations and study programs have difficulties managing the increased number of students. Problems like inefficient room scheduling, student housing, overcrowded campus facilities, and study association rooms emerge because of this.

Status: The FocOS group session has taken place at the beginning of the year. Study associations could provide input and have discussions during this session. Student representatives of the university council were also present to provide insights to the university council and executive board. Other

parties within the university were also contacted to get a broad perspective of this issue. The Executive Board took the gathered feedback very seriously. After having had frequent meetings with the Executive Board and the SU about this topic, it was decided that input sessions of students might be one of the possible solutions. Those would aim at all students compared to breakfast sessions, which mostly are addressed towards board members. The exact outlook and timing of those sessions are still a point of discussion with Strategy & Policy. The progress has been slowed down due to COVID-19 but will be picked up again by the OS board 2020-I (potentially 2020-II) and the SU as soon as possible.

2.5. Attention Towards Smaller Associations Within OS

The Board wants 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 organized. As they are also a significant part of OS, the Board wants to focus on them to integrate with other associations and be more actively present.

Status: In our mid-year report, it was mentioned that a FocOS group would be held in the second half of the academic year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this plan was not realized. Instead, a (short) discussion was held during one of the GMAs, during which some points for improvement were found. One concrete idea that was discussed between the OSb 2020-1 and the candidate board was to organize more function-specific outings (next to the chairmen outings) to establish more integration between boards. The proposed idea is to have the OS board organize the first activity after which the associations should take up organizing tasks.

An additional point of focus within the subject of integrating smaller (often part-time) study association boards, was the efforts put into the discussion with the SU about part-time board grants and part-time activism recognition.

3. Integration

3.1 OS-Cup - Restructuring

The OS-Cup was updated to include a more diverse range of integration activities one can participate in, including organizing more serious and educational events. Besides handing out the present (puzzle pieces this time) during constitution drinks, they were also handed out at a certain amount of points to motivate the boards to participate more.

Reason: It was noticed that not all associations participated evenly in the OS-Cup. This is partly their own choice, of course, but the OS tried to make it more accessible by adding more low-key “achievements” as well as more serious ones. Puzzle pieces were also handed out throughout the year to stimulate more participation.

Status: There was still a divide between the actively participating associations and the less actively participating ones as far as can be seen. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were significantly fewer possibilities for integration activities. It was chosen to make an after movie instead of announcing the winner of the OS-Cup during the OS BBQ, which was well-appreciated.

3.2 OS - Kegs

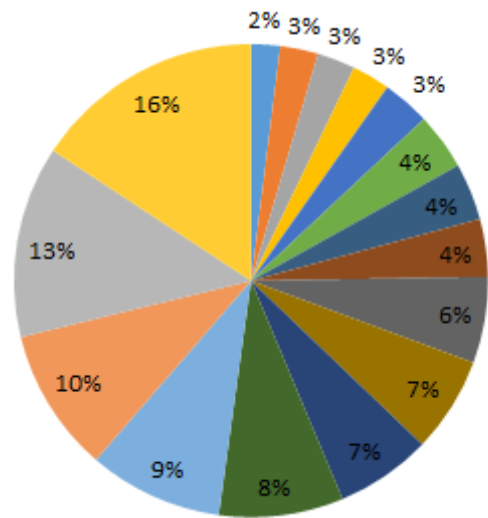
The part below is extracted from the semi-annual report as there have been no updates about this topic since then.

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 afterward 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.

Status: First, an investigation of the “thrown-in kegs” in the last years is made. The anonymous division is shown in figure 3.1. This is the division of all the kegs thrown in over the last 5 years. However, there is no factor used to compare with the attendance of associations. As can be seen, there is a lot of difference between different associations.

To investigate if the current system is still appropriate, a survey was sent around all associations. 14 associations did fill in this survey and the result is that the majority of the associations is in favor of this system (57%). Therefore, it is decided **to not change** the system. However, a very useful remark is that Boards should inform their Candidate-Boards about the system so that expectations become clearer.



4. Representation

4.1 Freshmen

The OS has been present at all informative markets of both the winter and the summer Kick-In to provide information about study associations and their purpose. In the summer Kick-In of 2020, the board and candidate board have also been present at the campus tours to ensure that all students participating at least got the chance to ask questions.

Reason: A centralized way of representing the study associations makes it easier for new students to know who to approach. From the study association perspective, it saves time if the OS board is representing them as a whole.

Status: The board has been present at all informative sessions as mentioned above, as well as the campus tours. Most questions asked were about the purpose of a study association (mostly with relation to social associations) and which association fit their study. Furthermore, the board also collected information brochures from the study association to be able to provide more specific information should those questions emerge. It has not proved to be necessary but is still good to have on hand.

5. Other topics

During our year, several other topics presented themselves to us, some of which we decided to work on. Below you will find a small explanation on the most significant non-policy topics we tackled.

5.1 Full Grants for 6th Board Member

As advised by OSb 2019-I, this topic was brought to the attention of the Student Union. The OS board of the academic year 2019-2020 year gave elaborate reasoning to the SU and other umbrellas why all (full-time) boards with 6 board members should receive sufficient grants for every board member to pay back his or her tuition fee. Several proposals have been set up and potential solutions for part-

time boards discussed. Since then, the SU and OS have been working together into realising it. It is not for certain whether this initiative can be finalized as it is dependent on the decisions of fellow umbrella boards in the future.

5.2 Activism Grants Model Improvement

During former years as well as the last year, study associations and the according Activism Grants Committee faced numerous challenges with respect to grant applications. Misunderstandings and grey areas made it difficult to make clear statements and respectively communicate decisions. The committee had to actively ask for a lot of additional proof and invested a considerable amount of time in details, which could have been avoided. Based on that the decision has been made to among others rename the categories of the document, update information, add clearer descriptions, deadlines and definitions. Including an explanatory document the new model has been discussed during two GMA's and was preliminary approved for the following academic year.

5.3 Study Tours to Category 2

At the beginning of the academic year of 2019-2020 possibilities of establishing a new manner of grant reception of study tours were discussed. Study tours receive the major proportion of all grants allocated to the umbrella OS and thereby also make up a huge part of the overall grants distributed among committees of the UT. Every year OS has to give a thorough reasoning and proof on why these committees deserve grants and how many. To secure those grants and not losing them towards other umbrellas, as well as avoiding time consuming discussions, it was considered to move study tours to the category 2 of the SU FOBOS Policy document, in which among others boards can be found. During the discussion process with the SU, it was decided that for OS and potentially other umbrellas it might have unfavourable consequences to move the study tours within 2019-2020, among others because several other discussions left uncertainties regarding the overall availability of grants. The OS board instead decided to create an elaborate document handed out to future OS boards supposedly making discussions easier in coming years. In that document reasons are listed why study tours are relevant and deserve grants.

5.4 Part-Time Activism Recognition

Since the end of the academic year 2019-2020, it is possible for part-time boards to apply for activism recognition. The BMS study associations and OS have worked together with the Student Union in realizing this by creating a proposal procedure.

5.4 Committee Grants Within the COVID-19 Context

Due to the given circumstances not all committees were able to organize all their events. As grants were applied for previous to the pandemic, new solutions had to be found. After numerous discussions with the SU and other umbrellas, OS has set up a model to evaluate and distribute grants under the given conditions. That model has been communicated to the associations, used as an example for other umbrellas and is being applied at the beginning of the academic year of 2020-2021.

5.5 Communication Regarding COVID-19 and Study Associations

The OS board took an active role in asking for feedback and concerns of study associations and informed them about information the board received via different channels. Among others, a specific WhatsApp group was set up for that purpose and contact held with several entities within and outside of the UT. After OS got to hear that study associations felt left out of the information flow, several meetings with study associations and other entities were set up to find solutions. Among others, a representative of Strategy & Policy will now regularly join at least CEO meetings and study associations will be kept in the loop more efficiently.

5.6 Collaboration with Marketing and Communication

The OS board has been in close contact with several departments and groups of the UT, among which collaboration with M&C was enhanced to the greatest extent compared to former years. On both sides feedback has been gathered and given. One example is the magazine 'Student News', which the OS board has been giving feedback towards. Besides that bigger topics were for example general student communication, communication surrounding Covid-19, the image of study associations and for study associations interesting initiatives.

5.7 IT Student Council

On request from the LISA and CES departments, the IT student council meetings have been restarted. During these meetings, a couple of study association board members and employees from mentioned UT departments come together to discuss current IT-related projects.

5.8 ERO and IVA Courses

In collaboration with the Student Union and the Events Office, more clarity was created on the application process for ERO courses. Additionally, the regulations on IVA courses for bartenders have been adjusted. It is no longer required to follow a physical IVA course.

5.9 Faculty Kick-In Goals

During the Kick-In of 2019, the faculty days were evaluated for the first time. As a result of the evaluation between OS, the SU, and study associations, the goals for the faculty Kick-In have been re-evaluated. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no further steps have been taken on the evaluation.

5.10 YER Workshop

In cooperation with YER, we organized a workshop for (candidate) board members regarding (self)-motivation. The online workshop was a try-out for both us and for YER but it was a success and hopefully useful for all attendees. It is up to the next board to contact them again for another collaborative workshop session.

Committees and Responsibilities

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

Responsibility	Responsible Board Member
BHV/IVA	Daan Peters
FOBOS	Ruben Bos, Niels Roosenschoon
GalOS	Daniela van Meggelen
ICT/Website	Daniela van Meggelen
Student Union Meetings	Jana Bergmann

Umbrella Meetings	Daan Peters, Jana Bergmann
-------------------	----------------------------

Appendix A: Summary Sustainability Input

- Big changes are not welcomed by (most) members. However, some associations do notice that there is a growing need for more sustainable alternatives.
- Therefore, study associations have started taking (small) steps
 - Replacing sugar packages for cubes, wooden stir bars (instead of plastic), paper cups instead of plastic, etc.
 - Personalized mugs
 - Have more mugs available in general
 - Have reusable water bottles (with association logo on it)
 - Print less for GMAs
 - Use actual (reusable) cutlery
 - Promote that members bring their own cutlery
 - Only hand out vegetarian food during activities with free food
- Additionally, the association tries to create awareness:
 - Making signs/posters that either promote the use of sustainable alternatives or help with trash division
- Some associations have put it in their policy to be more sustainable or create more awareness about it.
- Some attempts were made but the study associations do not have a sustainability committee.

Future ideas:

- Work together with Sustain on finding sustainable solutions
- If the university would create guidelines, this might help to convince the members. Then we can refer to something when members complain about having to use sustainable alternatives.
 - Feedback from GMA: The UT should give the right example (e.g. some buildings do not separate trash, so why would we do it?).
 - No strict rules, but do's and don'ts might work.
- Have statistics to show for example how many paper/plastic cups your association uses to make members aware of what their impact could be.