
Semi - Annual report
2020-2021



Organisation of Study Associations

Introduction

Half a year has already passed where the board has enjoyed getting to know each other and getting to know the associations. During these six months, a part of the policy plan has already been realised and a part has not. The first two FocOS groups were held where interesting insights were shared about mental health and leadership. More effort has been put in social media presence and the website has been updated. All in all, the board loved to represent all the study associations for the past half a year and is looking forward to doing so for the upcoming six months. This time, with a new ET representative, with an old name, who brings new positive motivation to the group. In this report, the board reflects on the policy plan that was made at the beginning of the academic year.

“I think we have done more than any president in the first 100 days” - Donald J. Trump

Kind regards,

OS-Board 2020-ll

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1. External Representation

1.1 Social Media Presence

Social media is a tool that can be used to present what the OSb does, especially for the new boards. The OSb noticed that social media is used quite sparsely and could be used more frequently. To achieve this, the OSb will come up with a social media plan which would be followed and if necessary, altered. Furthermore, by being more present on social media such as Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, the OSb aims to reach out not only to study associations but also other parties within the University.

Status: During this half year, the OSb has noticed that Instagram seems to have the most reach of students of all social media platforms. For every activity, an Instagram post has been made, and the board members were also introduced on the Stories. The social media platform LinkedIn has been used the least, since it is not that important for the OS as an association. The OSb plans to continue with the use of social media as it is used at the moment.

1.2 The Website

The website could be used more frequently by the study associations' boards than it is as of now, which could be a result of both lack of understanding of how and what to use it for and lack of promotion of the website itself. This will be tackled by writing a short guide on how to use the website and promoting it amongst the boards. Secondly, the website is not updated frequently, thus the OSb would post informal monthly updates on the website on what has been achieved. Additionally, the website has a simple, yet outdated appearance. This will be changed by altering the template of the website to achieve more of a professional look. Information for boards can be found easier, and the login will be reviewed.

Status: After a lot of work and long nights with no sleep, the new website has finally been released on the 1st of February. The website now has a more professional look and will (hopefully) be used more frequently by the OS board and association boards. Each association should have login credentials with which they can access all GMA documents from GMAs back to 2014, regulations for the ABC and SRC and other important information. The reader is encouraged to visit the new website: <https://os.utwente.nl/> and take a look for themselves.

2. Internal Integration

2.1 Integration of Board Functions

Every year, the monthly chairman outings ensure a great integration between chairmen of the study associations. The OSb encourages this, but also always sees significantly less integration of the other board functions. Therefore, the OSb will support the integration by organising a function outing for every board function separately at the beginning of the

academic year. These outings have an informal nature and are focused on the integration of boards. For the CEO and EA, these outings could happen after these meetings. The OSb will organize the first outing for each function, and then suggest a faculty to organize the next outing.

Status:

Chairman outing

A chairman outing has not yet been organised by OS. This will be organised online in the near future.

Secretary Outing

To stimulate the cohesion between secretaries, an outing was organized by OSb II. The outing took place on the 7th of December in the evening and was visited by 19 board members, both current- and candidate boards. The outing consisted of a dinner beforehand in which people ordered take-out for each other followed by an online escape room which took most teams around one hour to complete. Afterwards the opportunity was given to still stick around for a drink and play games for those who deemed it amusing. We did notice that there has not been a lot of initiative to organise a next outing by the secretaries themselves.

Treasurers Outing

A treasurer outing has not yet been organised by OS. We will organise it when physical activities are possible again, since the treasurers rather want to wait for the activity than do it online.

Internal Affairs Outing

An Internal Affairs Outing took place. This was, however, not organised by the OSb but by the Commissioners of Internal Affairs themselves. The OSb was very pleased to see the board members take the initiative, as the goal was not to organise an outing, but to let the different boards integrate. From what the OSb heard, the outing was a success.

External Affairs Outing

Since the traditional External Affairs Outing that we planned to organise is not feasible with the current regulations, we have yet to organise the External Affairs Outing. In case the regulations get loosened, we will organise a traditional outing, otherwise we will think of an alternative activity. An External Affairs outing has been organised by the Externals themselves, but we do still plan to organise one with the OSb.

Educational Officers Outing

An educational officers outing has not yet been organised, but is planned for after the break.

2.2 Coffee dates

Coffee dates are an easy way to contact boards of study associations and will increase the visibility of both OS and the board members of study associations. The OSb is planning on doing coffee dates both semesters with associations. By doing this, the OSb aims to be more approachable.

Status: We organised a coffee date with almost every study association around October. Currently the coffee dates with the new ET-boards are organised. We think the coffee dates are a nice opportunity to informally talk to the associations, as well as show the boards what OS does and what we can help the associations with.

2.3 OS Cup

In order to stimulate interaction between study associations, in previous years, the OS Cup was introduced. The OS Cup increased the interaction between study associations as this was an extra reason to have fun together. Nevertheless, the OS Cup can be further improved. The faculty ET changes board in February, half a year shifted from the other associations, which makes the OS Cup less interesting for the ET faculty. Additionally, the winners of the OS Cup only get rewarded after a whole year. Due to this, associations may lose interest in the OS Cup. To solve both problems, a half year sprint will be added to the OS Cup. This sprint will end before February, making it possible for the ET study associations to also have a chance at winning. Next to this, the addition of a sprint will act as a reminder of the OS Cup for the study associations. Hopefully, this results in an even more fierce battle for the OS Cup.

Status: To increase integration between associations a half-year sprint of the OS cup was organised. Instead of the yearly barbeque, a pubquiz has been organised. The rounds reflected on some events and were somewhat personalised to the attending board members. Hopefully, the OS BBQ can take place later this year to have a fun physical activity.

3. Internal Evaluation

3.1 FocOS group

To get better insights into how the study associations view certain topics at university, the OSb would like to extend upon the work done by the previous board and enable FocOS group sessions. In line with the vision of the previous board, the OS GMAs might feel too formal to allow dialogue and the pre-meetings are limited due to the fact they are only held with boards of the same faculty. The FocOS groups will serve as an additional moment beside the pre-meetings and GMA in which board members of study association can share their views on a specific topic. They are meant to be a place where associations can come and talk freely. The aim of these FocOS groups is to help study associations with possible problems they encounter. Additionally, they give the opportunity to help the university hear the voice of the study associations. Depending on the topic of the FocOS group, external

parties can be consulted and asked to contribute to the meetings. The meeting will be documented and spread amongst the boards.

FocOS group: Moving forward after COVID-19

The outbreak of the coronavirus has meant for many boards an anticlimactic end of their year and a challenge for many new boards. The OS wants the new boards to adapt to the situation as adequately as possible and still continue the association as it should be. Therefore, a session will be organized in the first quartile for boards to get together and share their ideas on how to work with the measures and possibly move forward after the virus has slowed down. Ideas about how to re-engage members, committee work, activities, and networks can openly be discussed.

FocOS group: How to be a good Chair

Whilst the Student Union also organizes a moment for future chairs to come together, the OSb experiences that an extra moment later on in the year is useful for the chairs to get information on how to be a good chair and to discuss together what problems they have run into. This will be organized in such a way that the Candidate Chairs of the ET faculty are also able to join and hear the experiences of those who have had some experience already. This is of course possible during the pre-meetings, but the OSb perceives it to be valuable to organize a moment in which board members from all associations can come together and engage in dialogue.

Status: The FocOS groups were intentionally designed to present board members with a separate opportunity than the GMA to delve into a subject that could be either helpful or interesting to their board or them as a person. Whilst the goal is to still attract an external party to these discussions who are familiar with the topic, the aim for these FocOS groups remains on the dialogue between the participants rather than having it be a lecture. The online environment added another challenge to stimulating that dialogue.

Organising FocOS Groups online is somewhat hard, since an online setting does not encourage a discussion too well. The first FocOS Group did have a nice discussion being moderated by the OSb, where the second FocOS Group was somewhat more informative rather than a discussion.

FocOS group: Mental Health

Previously named “Moving forward after COVID-19” the FocOS group held in October 2020 was renamed to “Mental Health”. This change was made to make the topic more broad and more understandable. Additionally, at the time of writing the original document the OSb had a different perception until when COVID-19 would be of influence. For this FocOS group, a total of 18 board members signed up to be part of the discussion. As an addition to the discussion, Annett de Kiewit was asked to participate as she had been working with COVID related mental health issues at the university. In preparation, video’s and links to a canvas page were presented to the board for them to get familiar with the topic before the discussion. The discussion was fruitful and many were actively involved. Some examples of discussion points were related to the mental health of the members, the role of the board in this topic and the role of the university in collaboration with the boards. Following the

discussion, separate meetings were organized to further discuss the role of the board in this topic.

FocOS group: Effective Leadership

Previously named “How to be a good Chair” this FocOS group originally wanted to focus on chairmen and them being able to discuss qualities needed for this. The eventual FocOS group has been restructured into a way in that it is also interesting for other board members as it talked about leadership in a broad sense which could be applied to either a board or a full association. The FocOS group took place on the 11th of December 2020 and was visited by 12 board members. As an addition to the discussion, Celeste Wilderom was asked to give a short presentation beforehand and join the conversation as she has been working with effective leadership and behaviour at the university. The discussion was less lively than the previous FocOS group, possibly due to the combination of the online environment, decrease in participants, inclusion of a mini lecture beforehand or the topic. Following this session, the recordings were shared together with the presentation of Celeste Wilderom.

FocOS group: Motivation

The third FocOS group that is, at the moment of writing this report, still on the agenda has been set and will be about motivation, touching mainly on motivation with regards to the current situation. The FocOS group will again be in collaboration with Annett de Kiewit who features during the Mental Health meeting as well.

3.2 COVID-19

The OSb recognizes that many associations will still face difficulties with the effects of the COVID-19 and the measures taken by the Dutch government and the University of Twente. The OSb wants to act on this in two different ways. Firstly, the OSb aims to stimulate the sharing of knowledge and ideas in relation to the effects of the coronavirus crisis between associations. This will be done by providing opportunities for discussion at GMAs and pre-meetings and by encouraging the sharing of plans and other important information. Secondly, due to physical activities having been limited for a time the bonding between (candidate-)board members will be more important than normal. The OSb wants to stimulate the organization of outings, both faculty-wide, function-wide, and university-wide.

Status: During this half year, the corona measures have changed multiple times. The main problem with these measures is the communication between the University of Twente, the Student Union, Campus Facility Management and OS. When the regulations were changed by the government, it took some time to communicate to the study associations what the new regulations meant for their rooms and physical activities. Therefore, a communication pathway has been set up with the organisations above and the student-assessors. The pathway shows what study associations can expect with respect to communication when regulations change, but also what associations can do if they have questions. In this way, the OSb hopes, together with the other parties, to improve communication about regulations.

4. Responsibility

4.1 Book Contract Committee (BCC)

The current book contract will expire at the end of the year 2021-2022. From the evaluation of the BCC 2017-2018, it is recommended that the new BCC will be formed in this academic year already. Therefore, the Book Contract Committee (BCC) will be formed at the beginning of March 2021. Committee members will be searched for mainly within the OS GMA's, CEO meetings and former OS board-members. The OSb will then start the negotiations at the beginning of the academic year 2021-2022.

Status: The first contact has been made with the study associations and their members for setting up the Book Contract Committee. The aim is to have the committee formed at the beginning of March.