
Yearly report 2021-2022

Organisation of Study Associations



Introduction

Dear member of the GMA,

After a very interesting year we present you our yearly report. During this year we have struggled with the aftermath of the Covid-19 situation and saw the consequences within every associations, as well in our own board.

In this document, updates on the policy plan that was presented at the beginning of the year are given. The original plans are copied to make sure that new board members can easily see what we are giving updates on.

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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)	Koen Geurtsen
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)	Koen Geurtsen and Dagmar Franken
Audit Committee (KasCo)	Lars van Arkel
Book Contract Committee (BCC)	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
Student Input Digitalisation (SID)	Hannah Ottenschot
Study Trip Committee (SRC)	Lars van Arkel
University of Twente Education Award Committee (UTEA)	Hannah Ottenschot

<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Responsible Board Member</i>
1.5m working group	Maarten de Groot
Alcohol	Koen Geurtsen
CantOS	Maarten de Groot
Coordination group KIC	Dagmar Franken
ERO	Maarten de Groot
FOBOS	Koen Geurtsen and Dagmar Franken
FocOS Groups	Hannah Ottenschot
GalOS	Lars van Arkel
ICT/Website	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.

Status: *During the last academic year, the OSb has arranged meetings once every two weeks between the chairman of OS and the portfolio holder Education of the SU. During these meetings, topics could be discussed that arose from the GMA premeetings or from the GMA itself. Furthermore, during the lockdown period, meetings were also held between the OSb and the Reconnect working group to arrange the possibility for students to study at the University during the lockdown and to see what activities the study associations still could organise during said lockdown.*

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.

Status: *The OSb has not made the usage of online platforms a large priority and due to other more pressing issues has decided to not spend too much time on this. Most promotion was done via email and a dedicated whatsapp group chat. The OSb did indicate clearly while promoting events who are allowed to join, pressing boards to forward invitations to other invitees when needed.*

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.

Status: *Last September, a planning was shared with all study associations containing both when activities and meetings take place and what they can expect from all the different meetings. The most up-to-date planning could be found in the OS calendar, which was also shared at the start of the year. Later in the year, the OSb did experience numerous occasions in which board members were unaware of when yearly events would take place, but were interested in finding out, looking at the number of times questions were asked. The OSb advises future boards to not only provide a year planning at the start of the year but also to mention which events are coming up next, preferably via a different channel as the gma, as that would not reach all board members.*

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.

Status: *During each board meeting, the OSb discussed each topic that was scheduled for the next GMA and also discussed if the topics could be discussed at the next GMA pre-meeting. After each pre-meeting, the discussed topics were relayed to the OSb so all the boardmembers were up to date. However, in the period between November and March, the involvement of the GMA was lacking. After a elaborate and productive discussion during the GMA, the involvement improved again. When topics like the book contract were discussed, a part of the chaimen brought responsible boardmembers to the GMA. However, this is still a part that could be improved upon in the future to make the GMAs more productive.*

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.

Status: *The OSb was able to host 4 FocOS sessions throughout the year with varying attendance. It is believed that the goal of discussing topics and possible solutions was achieved for most topics. For coming OS boards, it is advised to keep the FocOS sessions in place. It should be kept in mind that the SU has also started hosting similar sessions, the Board Sharing Sessions. It is recommended to discuss the preferred topics for both types of sessions with the SU to make sure that these do not overlap too greatly.*

The OSb has organised 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.

Status: *It was decided to give the Student life after COVID-19 session priority over this session since this was more in line with the regulations of the UT. The session on the influence of UT policy on study associations took place in module 2, and was attended by around 14 people. The working group Student Involvement was also present to give a presentation about what*

this group had been doing during the previous half year. The session resulted in useful discussions, even though some were off-topic and often geared towards COVID. Boards were asked which policies affect their associations, after which it became clear that attending boards did not feel that there were a lot of policies influencing the things they were busy with. It was also concluded that boards do not currently think they are being heard by the University in many cases, also because it's often unclear who to contact or since the threshold for contacting certain people is high in some cases. Some boards would like to be involved in UT decisions more often. The OSb received feedback afterwards that the FocOS sessions could be geared more towards discussing actual solutions as well, instead of mainly pointing out struggles each board has.

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.

Status: *Around 12 board members joined this session, renamed to Activism after Corona. The boards were asked about their acquisition of new members, and the status of their active member pool. Additionally, activity attendance, association rooms and traditions were discussed, as well as the prognosis for successfully finding a candidate board.*

Most boards saw no difference in the amount of new members. As always, the first contact moments, such as the Kick-In, were noted as very important for member acquisition. Additionally, many new members showed interest in becoming active, showing up for a lot of activities and joining committees. These new members often say they would like to try out new things after COVID. It is mentioned by the boards that not all new members seem to be interested in mingling with older students as much as before COVID. Additionally, a lot of students were demotivated during COVID, which is still the case for some. It is suggested to have as many physical meetings as possible.

Some regulations for the association rooms were still in place at this point, but no boards had difficulties with this. However, first and second year students seemed more hesitant than normal to go sit in the association room. Communiqué shared their struggles with having an association room in the Cubicus, where students do not have any lectures.

Boards did not seem to have any difficulties with keeping traditions in place or starting new ones, only occasionally disputing with older members about how the association should move forward.

In general, all boards see a lot of enthusiasm from members for applying to become candidate boards.

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.

Status: *The alumni session was not that well-visited, with 5 attending board members. Attending board members were asked about their contact with alumni, and whether specific activities are organised. Most associations have their own alumni association, with Proto being an exception. Often, one or two board members are responsible for keeping in touch with the alumni association. All associations were either looking into or already organising activities just for alumni.*

4. Free slot: Promotion

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.

Status: *Together with the associations, it was decided to focus the fourth session on promotion. The session was very well visited, with around 16 attendees, of which 7 candidate board members. It was discussed which promotion channels associations use, and who within the association is responsible for promotion. Additionally, the frequency of promotion was discussed, as well as whether promotion is done on time.*

It was concluded that all boards use WhatsApp, Instagram and posters the most, as they are found most effective. However, WhatsApp should be used carefully, as it can be experienced as spam quite easily. Alembic also has an app which sends push notifications. Board members (sometimes one dedicated board member) are responsible for posting on social media, but do not always create the promotion themselves. Proto has their own poster committee for designing physical posters, which are sometimes reused for Instagram promotion.

When an event is promoted depends on the event. Often, this is around 2 to 1 weeks before the event takes place. Bigger events get more promotion and are promoted longer in advance. Some associations make a promotion schedule well in advance to regulate which event is promoted when. Most associations stick to max one or two times promotion per day. It does sometimes happen that promotion is not done on time. This is not a direct reason to cancel an activity, but it can cause less members to show up, which can lead to cancellation of an event.

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.

Status: *The OSb believes that the MentOS has successfully completed its trial run, and would recommend continuing hosting MentOS meetings. That is, with the addition of the SWIP to the meetings. Their addition was found to be very valuable, as they could provide more inside information on what policies the UT is currently working on and can answer questions more directly. Due to popular demand, the amount of meetings was increased to once every 6 weeks. The topics to discuss came mostly from the SWIP, with some additions from the study associations and OS. The SAC and/or student assessors were not invited anymore due to the addition of SWIP. However, it could still be considered to invite these groups to the MentOS meetings to enrich the discussions.*

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.

Status: *After proposing different suppliers at the GMA, the BCC has continued the current contract with Studystore for another year. The BCC has looked at other suppliers, but Bol.com and Amazon both did not suit our needs. A new supplier, WO4You, was more promising, but it is still a new company. Because of this, the BCC did not go for this supplier. Next year, new negotiations will have to be done which will take a new look at the different suppliers.*

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.

Status: *During the year there have been multiple function outings which were attended by a lot of board members. Some functions had more frequent outings than other functions. But all the outings were stimulated by the board and when possible the board was present.*

Every faculty with the exception of the ET faculty has organized a faculty outing. All the outings were attended by almost all the board members and made sure that there was a better bonding between the different boards.

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.

Status: *The OS cup started with its first half-year sprint on the first day of the academic year. The goal was to end the first sprint in February. However, due to COVID-19 playing a more active role throughout the year, not many points could be gained during this period of time.*

Therefore, the OSb decided to let go of the idea of splitting the OS cup into two separate heats. At the OS BBQ, the winners of the OS cup were announced. The cup that was used last year has been used as a 'wisselcup', which is engraved with the new winners. Throughout the year, the OSb noticed that the OS cup did not play an active role. This partially had to do with the fact that the OSb did not put much effort in promoting the OS cup, and partially because the OSb feels that the boards of 2021-2022 did not need the OS cup as an incentive to interact with each other. The OSb therefore advises to critically look at the goals and setup of the OS cup, and decide upon the best way to go forward with the OS cup.

Epilogue

Dear reader,

Doing a board year at OS means that you are able to be involved in the study associations one more year. During last year we were able to get out of the COVID-19 situation and we were able to open up again. As OS we were able to facilitate and help with this process, you can imagine how rewarding it can be to see that every association is going harder at it. Sometimes it was up to us to even remind board members to also look after themselves. We want to thank every board member that worked with us to achieve the solid community of study associations we now have. Our time is now done as a board and we are proud of what we achieved, it is time for us to find our next board to fill ;)

We wish the next board the best and we are curious about what they will bring to OS and all the study associations.

OS Board 2022-I

Friso Nieuwenhuijse, Lars van Arkel, Koen Geurtsen, Hannah Ottenschot, Dagmar Franken, Maarten de Groot