Policy Plan 2022-2023

Organisation of Study Associations

Introduction

Dear members of the GMA,

On the following pages you can find the vision of the OS Board for the upcoming 2022-2023 academic year. This policy plan will highlight and explain three big themes OS Board 2022 - II and OS Board 2023 - I would like to focus on.

The first focus is for the study associations. Over the next year, the OS board would like to look over the well-being of the associations by keeping an eye out for activity density, to prevent board members and committees from being overworked, as well as be more approachable as a board. Additionally, study associations responsible for master studies will be approached differently since their experiences in a board year are different.

Next part of the policy plan will focus on the OS board itself, changing the way it uses social media to make it more attractive and useful for member associations and former OS board members. The Board will also be looking at the NPO grants and how the money allocated for activities involving multiple associations can be divided . The last point is the move to the new OS boardroom.

Lastly, the vision for this academic year would be on restructuring the OS Cup and FocOS sessions with the goal of improvement, as well as paying more attention to MentOS.

The OS board hopes this policy plan sufficiently informs the members of the assembly, the OS board is open to questions and feedback on the policy plan during the change GMA on the 7th of September 2022.

Kind regards,
OS Board 2022-II

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Structure of the board

Function	Name
Chair	Anna Aksenova
Secretary & Treasurer	Casper van Dongen
Faculty Representative ET (CTW)	Koen Geurtsen
Faculty Representative EEMCS (EWI)	Rick Ruitenbeek
Faculty Representative BMS	Roy Koers
Faculty Representative S&T (TNW)	Gerard Groot Obbink

Committees & Responsibilities

Committee	Responsible Board Member
Activism Grants Committee (ABC)	Koen Geurtsen & Gerard Groot Obbink
Audit Committee (KasCo)	Casper van Dongen
Convention of Education Officers (CEO)	Rick Ruitenbeek
External Affairs Assembly (EB)	Roy Koers
Internationalisation Committee (ICOS)	Anna Aksenova
Study Trip Committee (SRC)	Casper van Dongen
University of Twente Education Award Committee (UTEA)	Rick Ruitenbeek
Student Input Digitalisation (SID)	Anna Aksenova
Book Contract Committee (BCC)	Roy Koers

Responsibility	Responsible Board Member
1.5m working group	Koen Geurtsen
Alcohol	Koen Geurtsen
CantOS	Casper van Dongen
Coordination group KIC	Gerard Groot Obbink
ERO	Gerard Groot Obbink
FOBOS	Koen Geurtsen & Gerard Groot Obbink
FocOS Groups	Rick Ruitenbeek & Roy Koers
GalOS	Gerard Groot Obbink
ICT/Boardsite	Roy Koers
MentOS	Rick Ruitenbeek & Roy Koers
OS cup	Anna Aksenova & Rick Ruitenbeek
Social Media	Koen Geurtsen

Student news	Rick Ruitenbeek
Umbrella Meetings	Anna Aksenova & Casper van Dongen

1. For the Study Associations

1.1 Activity Density

During last year, the OS board has observed a high work pressure on the study association board members, this pressure was mostly caused by a high amount of activities that were organized by the study associations. After the COVID-19 pandemic, associations were eager to pick up where they left off two years ago, thus committees worked very hard to organize all sorts of traditional and new activities. This high activity density leads to a very high workload for both the working committees and the boards who keep an oversight of these activities. Indications were made by board members about them reaching their limits.

The OS board would like to keep a close eye on the issue of a high activity density, preventing the study association boards facing the same pressure as last year. A lower activity density could lead to less pressure on the board and association committees, making their work more fun and motivating.

1.2 The Approachability of the OS Board

The OS board is quite intensely involved with the different chairpersons of the different associations. Last couple of years it was noticed that sometimes in the line of communication, some subjects and/or requests from OS were lost in the line of communication towards the other board members of the different associations. This results in not every board member feeling connected to OS and as a result was not always aware of what OS can do for them as an individual but also for their function(ing) within the association.

To improve this connection between OS and the boards of the study associations, the board will stress to invite other board members than only the chairperson to the OS GMA. If the board feels that a specific subject requires a certain function to be present at the GMA, the board will invite them to the GMA next to inviting only the Chairperson of the board.

During the pre-meetings there will be more moments where the faculty representative speaks with the whole board instead of only having a moment with the chairperson.

1.3 Bachelor/Master Study Associations

The OS board has noticed that in previous years, some associations differ significantly in functioning and their struggles. These differences are most noticeable between the bachelor and master/minor associations. This is why the OS board wants to have bi-weekly pre-meetings for BMS. A general pre-meeting with all associations to discuss GMA pieces and two weeks after that a meeting with Communique, Dimensie, Sirius & Stress and one with

Komma, Ideefiks and Onwijs. In these more specific meetings the associations can address topics that are more comparative to the other associations present. This way the OS board hopes the associations feel less disconnected from the topics discussed, while retaining a cooperation within the faculty of BMS.

2. For the OS Board

2.1 Social Media Usage

To make students and in particular board members more aware of what the OS board does on a day to day basis. Social media will be used more and in a more informal way, whilst still having a professional look. Now it is mainly used for big announcements, such as but not limited to announcing the candidate board members. In the future the board wants to use this also for sharing information that has been discussed for example in the GMA or showing projects that the board and/or committees are working on. This to give a more thorough image of what OS does at this University and in which ways we can assist the boards.

2.2 NPO budget

Because of the COVID-19 situation the University has received NPO (Nationaal Programma Onderwijs) funds. Every association has received part of this and OS has also received part of this. This part is meant for activities organized by associations together. The board will make sure there are possibilities for associations to pitch their ideas and can receive part of this money. The board will also play an advisory role if associations have questions about how to use the NPO funds.

2.3 OS Room

The OS room has moved to a larger room in the Bastille. The OS board is going to organize the room and make it a work office, so the OS board can be present more often and have board meetings and meetings with external parties. To realize a better working environment, the OS board is going to look for new furniture for the room.

3. Committees and Responsibilities

3.1 OS Cup

The OS board will take a new approach on the OS Cup, focussing its goal to encourage board bonding at the start of their board year. Instead of it being a year-long competition, points can only be earned in a period of one month. The OS Cup will take place during the month of November, starting at the GMA of October and ending at the November GMA. This timing will allow the new boards to get used to being a board member, while promoting bonding among the boards early in the year. The after-GMA drinks of October and November will be used as cup announcement and award ceremony respectively, therefore it is also expected to have high participation on those drinks.

The OS board hopes that these changes to the format lead to more participation and enjoyment from the OS Cup.

3.2 FocOS

This year, there are several improvements the OS board wants to make to the FocOS sessions to make them more valuable to the boards. Firstly, there should be more on-topic experts (preferably from the UT) present to provide input. Secondly, evaluation and preparation of the sessions should help improve the effectiveness of these meetings. By sharing the agenda in advance and doing an evaluation of the last meeting (what did the boards do with the things discussed) the sessions will become more concrete. Since these sessions are only four times per year, we want to make them longer, so the board can go deeper into the subject and discuss more practical/implementation methods. With this, the sessions can become longer, making time to have a global discussion with everyone together. To support this global discussion, the OS board will also encourage the sub-groups to take notes so these can be used for the general discussion. For the FocOS sessions we want to discuss Effective Leadership (Q1), How to get/stay motivated (Q3) and Policy Writing (Q4). The latter one being mostly for the CBs. The FocOS session of Q2 will be on a topic that is preferable by the boards.

3.3 MentOS

For the MentOS, the input of SWIP has been experienced positively by most boards. The OS board does want to focus more on the mental health of the boards themselves. The 'normal' sessions with the SU and SWIP will happen every six weeks and a special session dedicated to the wellbeing of the boards will be held approximately once per module. During the MentOS

sessions of next year, the OS board wants to focus on mental health/confidentiality within their association, for both its members and the boards themselves.