
Mid-Year Report 2022-2023

Organisation of Study Associations



Introduction

Dear members of the GMA,

On the following pages you can find OS Board's halfway report for the academic year 2022-2023. For each policy point, the original pieces are followed by our reflection of how it went in the past half year. We hope that our reflection will sufficiently inform you of the board's progress, and if you have any questions or feedback you are welcome to contact us or bring your questions to the GMA on the 26th of April 2023.

Kind regards,
OS Board 2023-I

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Structure of the board

<i>Function</i>	<i>Name</i>
Chair	Anna Aksenova
Secretary & Treasurer	Casper van Dongen
Faculty Representative ET (CTW)	Twan Hendriksen
Faculty Representative EEMCS (EWI)	Rick Ruitenbeek
Faculty Representative BMS	Roy Koers
Faculty Representative S&T (TNW)	Gerard Groot Obbink

Committees & Responsibilities

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Responsible Board Member</i>
Activism Grants Committee (ABC)	Twan Hendriksen & Gerard Groot Obbink
Alcohol Umbrella Committee	Twan Hendriksen
Audit Committee (KasCo)	Casper van Dongen
Convention of Education Officers (CEO)	Rick Ruitenbeek
External Affairs Assembly (EB)	Roy Koers
Internationalisation Committee (ICOS)	Anna Aksenova & Twan Hendriksen
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

<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Responsible Board Member</i>
Alcohol	Twan Hendriksen
CantOS	Casper van Dongen
Coordination group KIC	Gerard Groot Obbink
ERO	Gerard Groot Obbink
FOBOS	Twan Hendriksen & 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	Roy Koers

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 organised 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 organise 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.

In the first half of this academic year OSb 2022-II has kept an eye on activity density in several ways, including GMAs, faculty meetings and personal contact with the board members. At the GMAs the topic of activity density has been briefly brought up in the context of many big association and university-wide events happening in the second half of the academic year, thus making (then) new boards aware of the abundance of events. Through faculty meetings and personal rounds faculty representatives kept an eye on the workload and well-being of the board members. The faculty meetings were effective in sharing the loadwork and concerns of the chairing parties, however, it did not necessarily reach other board members. For that reason, when the OS board became concerned about the workload of the board members, which includes activity density, an anonymous survey was sent out to get more insights into board members' well-being. Afterwards, the OS board has provided some tips and experiences at the February GMA as a follow-up to the survey.

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.

During the past half year, only a few discussion points have been brought up for which other board members have been invited. The book contract is the most important example of this. The OS board has seen that multiple associations had brought their commissioner of educational affairs or the responsible board member for the books within the association. The OS board thinks it is not relevant to invite other board functions more often due to the lack of specific discussion points, but they are nonetheless welcome if they would like to provide input to any agenda points. A reason for this could be that some functions already have their own meetings together to discuss function related topics.

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 Communiqué, 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.

During the last half-a-year, the new set-up of pre-meets has been used for the BMS pre-meets. This involved a GMA pre-meet with all associations and split pre-meets inbetween. The pre-meets were split up with on one hand Communiqué, Dimensie, Sirius and Stress, and the other Komma, Ideefiks, Ockham and Onwijs. Due to the great attendance the first part of the year, this set-up was deemed as a success by both the faculty representative and the chairmen involved. However, as the attendance started to slowly decline and some associations were not able to show up to pre-meets, it was decided to join the pre-meets back up again. Having a positive experience with these split pre-meets, we do think it should be done more often, if the attendance provides a platform for this.

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.

There were plans to use social media more frequently and for additional purposes than it has been used in the past. The past half year this has not been the case. As it was experienced, there was too little time for this as this was also not high on our priority list. The coming half year we will experiment with this, as we assume we might be able to make time for it. After this we will evaluate whether this was worth the time and effort.

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 organised 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.

The NPO funds of 2022 that were assigned to OS were divided among the submitted requests for this money. These requests however came quite late in the year as there was no deadline set, thus the funds were not divided until October. Of the €5000 euros assigned, €2000 went to the winter market organised by BMS, €1500 went to the Lustrum of SBZ and €1500 went to the Basement party of ET. Judging by the evaluations sent in from the organising committees all these events were a success. Since the division of 2022 was quite late, the requests for 2023 had to be submitted before February. This time four requests were made, however one was retracted because of logistical difficulties. The remaining three requests were: Summersounds, Sky is the Limit and UToberfest. Summersounds was assigned €2000, Sky is the Limit was assigned €2000 and Utoberfest was assigned €1000.

2.3 OS Room

The OS room has moved to a larger room in the Bastille. The OS board is going to organise 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 realise a better working environment, the OS board is going to look for new furniture for the room.

The OS rooms have officially been opened at an after OS GMA drink. The OS board was happy so many associations have delivered a contribution to our room. Regarding the professional use of the OS room, the OS board has been holding its board meetings in the OS room. Next to that, the OS room has provided room for some OS committees (ABC, GalOS, etc) to hold its meeting there. At this moment, the OS board is quite happy with the room as it currently is. Due to the new couch and office chairs, the room has really become a place to work, relax and have meetings.

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.

The first round of the OS Cup of the academic year 2022-2023 has gone quite well. The announcement drink was well-attended and the associations were quite enthusiastic about the activities. Towards the end of the month the participation seemed to decrease, but that is also observed with a year-long OS Cup. Unfortunately, the award ceremony drink was not well-attended, so the reveal activity did not go as well as we would have liked. Nonetheless, we believe that the OS Cup has helped the integration between study association boards well. The second round is happening throughout March and April with the purpose of integrating ET faculties to the board community, the award ceremony will take place during the after-GMA drink of May.

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.

We have elongated the FocOS sessions to two hours, which was experienced positively by both the OS board and the SA boards. By doing a general discussion with everyone in the session and taking minutes the sessions became a lot more concrete. With the input from SAs, there were even more FocOS sessions than anticipated, with two sessions in Q2. Inviting on-topic experts was deemed difficult for the first FocOS as the communication was very difficult. Moreover, since the OS board consists of former SA board members, they are already on-topic experts for many of the subjects discussed in the FocOS sessions.

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.

At the MentOS session the information on mental health, where to find it and what the SAs can provide have been the main point of discussion. There are guidelines on the content for mental wellbeing pages. Moreover, the lunch lecture of SACC will be organised again this year and hopefully be taken up into the yearly cycle of the SU focusing on wellbeing.