

SOS

May 17, 2023

As sustainability has become an ever more relevant topic in the world, it likewise has become very prevalent in the day-to-day affairs of the study associations at this university, with some boards even employing 'commissioners of sustainability' as sub-functions (with my own association, Newton, going as far as to employ two such commissioners), to further focus sustainability efforts. Sustainable subjects have come up during OS GMA's more than once, and likewise, the GMA's of many study associations have harboured healthy discussions regarding sustainability. Despite this, there is still no central place for associations to discuss their findings and potential difficulties. Therefore I would like to launch and chair an OS sustainability work-group, centralizing sustainability efforts for study associations at the UT.

The tasks of this work-group would include;

- Voicing the concerns and difficulties of study associations regarding sustainability to the UT, ensuring that the association and student perspective does not get lost. To facilitate this the work-group will try to open up new communication routes to the UT.
- Organising events that allow boards to discuss sustainable steps they take, events that open up conversation between boards and the university and events that aim to inform board members about sustainability.
- Developing an OS-sustainability-policy for study associations, providing a red thread for them to follow. The intention of this policy would be only to provide steps forward, not to provide strict rules for associations.
- Developing a *sustainability script* that outlines the different sustainability funds, subsidies and certificates available for study associations. This script may include options for the printing of sustainable merchandise, sustainable events and other resources that might be relevant.

This work-group was inspired by the likes of ICOS and MentOS, that aim to do similar things for their respective topics of focus. The main difference being that this work-group would not be a committee, and not joined by representative members of *every* association. This choice was deliberately made as the outlined goals require a lot of commitment from the members, and large committees simply do not work well in this regard. Instead I'd like to form this work-group with a few motivated (candidate-) board members, forming a group of 3 to 6 people. It might be valuable to immediately involve the university, but I would like to make this choice at the time of setting up the work-group.

This proposal consists of my vision of the work-group, based on my short experience as a board member. Nothing in this document is set in stone however, and I would love to hear any and all opinions about this plan. Finally, I would like to propose the name SOS (Sustainability OS), as a nod to the direct action needed in this climate emergency.

Kind regards,

Kik Hoekjen, Vice-chairman and commissioner of sustainability of the 66th board of W.S.G. Isaac Newton