
Policy Plan 2024-2025

Organisation of Study Associations



Foreword

Dear members of the GMA,

This document highlights the vision of the Candidate OS Board 2024-II for the upcoming academic year. This policy plan consists of several overarching themes; *Supporting of Study Associations, Integration between Study Associations, OS Aspirations and Committees & Responsibilities*. Together, these themes form the core of our policy plan.

To support the Study Associations in combating the decreasing student activism and the worrying political developments, the Candidate Board wants to double down on the task of OS to function as a bridge between the Student Union and the Study Associations.

By revisiting the way integration is promoted, having a look at the focus of alcohol in activities and by promoting collaboration between Study Associations, the Candidate Board wants to positively impact the integration of Study Associations.

Besides supporting the Study Associations, the Candidate Board has several aspirations for the upcoming year, concerning the OS GMA's, communication to Study Associations, the prospective finances and the upcoming OS Lustrum.

Finally, there are some points of attention regarding the committees and responsibilities, with a focus on changing the ICOS setup, introducing the Sustainability Committee (SOS), but also providing FocOS topics. The new Alcohol covenant can also finally be introduced, and the OS Cup will be a point of development. Lastly, the Social Media presence of OS will be further developed.

As we are the Organisation for Study Associations, the aim for the academic year of 2023-2024 is to provide the Study Associations with guidance. All in all, we aim to build upon the work done by previous OS Boards while altering it to the needs of the Study Associations.

Kind regards,

OS Candidate Board 2024-II

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Structure of the Board

<i>Function</i>	<i>Name</i>
Chairman	Jelle Wielink
Secretary & Treasurer	Tristan van Beurden
Faculty Representative ET (CTW)	Roan Spits
Faculty Representative EEMCS (EWI)	Leira Jongeneel
Faculty Representative BMS (MB)	Karen Taselaar
Faculty Representative S&T (TNW)	Merel van der Werf

Committees & Responsibilities

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Responsible Board Member</i>
Activism Grants Committee (ABC)	Roan Spits & Jelle Wielink
Audit Committee (KasCo)	Tristan van Beurden
Convention of Education Officers (CEO)	Merel van der Werf
External Affairs Assembly (EB)	Leira Jongeneel
Internationalisation Committee (ICOS)	Karen Taselaar
Study Trip Committee (SRC)	Roan Spits & Tristan van Beurden
University of Twente Education Award Committee (UTEA)	Karen Taselaar & Merel van der Werf
Book Contract Committee (BCC)	Merel van der Werf
Sustainability Committee (SOS)	Roan Spits

<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Responsible Board Member</i>
Alcohol	Roan Spits & Leira Jongeneel
CantOS	Merel van der Werf
Coordination group KIC	Tristan van Beurden & Karen Taselaar
ERO	Tristan van Beurden
FOBOS	Roan Spits & Jelle Wielink
FocOS Groups	Karen Taselaar
GalOS	Jelle Wielink
ICT/Boardsite	Leira Jongeneel
MentOS	Leira Jongeneel
Social Media	Karen Taselaar
Umbrella Meetings	Jelle Wielink

1. Supporting the Study Associations

1.1. Supporting Student Activism

In the past year, the future of student activism has become a point of worry for many students and associations. With the possible reintroduction of measures such as the 'langstudeerboete', the financial problems of the UT and the increased cost of living, many parties are worried that finding new boards and committee members will become more difficult.

1.1.1. Goals

- To proactively continue the role of OS by bridging the gap between the Student Union and the Study Associations.
- To keep an eye on the research started by the BMS faculty and share any developments with all Study Associations.

1.1.2. Methods

Since OS has more of a facilitating role for Study Associations, and the board is part-time, the part where it can make the best possible impact for the Study Associations is in the collaboration with and communication between the Student Union and the Study Associations. Since the Study sector is impacted most by the new government policies, the OS Board wants to play a productive role for the future of student activism at the Study Associations. By accurately representing the importance of student activism for the member associations in meetings with the Student Union, OS can make their voices heard. And of course vice versa, if the Student Union shares insights, tips or news, OS will communicate this to the Study Associations.

Besides this, the BMS faculty will start researching the topic of receding student activism, which OS will keep a close eye on. Any insights and/or results will be shared with the other faculties. What the exact plan is of the faculty to do this research is still being set up by them. We will keep informed on the progress through the student assessor.

2. Integration between Study Associations

To facilitate the integration between Study Associations is one of the core goals of OS. The goals, changes and ideas regarding integration of Study Associations can be found in this chapter.

2.1. Promotion of integration

Through OS, integration activities are organised between board members of different associations. Think of one-off activities like the GalOS and the CantOS, but also monthly activities like the after-GMA drinks. The latter in particular attracted mostly current chairpeople. Besides the activities organised by OS, there was also a budget available for Faculty and Function outings. This budget was not known among all members and was therefore rarely used.

2.1.1. Goals

- To make after-GMA drinks also known among (former) board members other than the current chairpeople;
- To encourage function bonding;
- To encourage faculty bonding.

2.1.2. Methods

In order to attract not only the chairs but also other board members to the after-GMA drinks, we want to try to visit study associations between the GMA and the after-GMA drink. We will invite them to the drinks and possibly already draw them along. We also want to mention the drink more explicitly in the invitation to the GMA. In addition, should the above not work, we want to organise theme drinks that tie in with our Lustrum. We also want to invite former board members to the drinks by promoting in the function group chats.

Apart from the chairs and externals, not all functions routinely have joint drinks. We want to encourage the functions to interact in a casual way. For instance, after the CEOs, we will invite the commissioners of educational affairs to go to a drink together. And possibly review the different drinking locations as an activity with the internals. During such outings, we want to mention that there is a budget to organise function outings and encourage the groups to do something with this.

For faculty outings, we as faculty representatives want to have a standard item on the pre-meeting agendas about faculty integration. This way, we can regularly reflect on cooperation and talk about a faculty outing to be organised.

2.2. Alcohol-focused activities

The Candidate Board has noticed that many of the activities that OS promotes and organises - especially the OS after-GMA drinks - mainly revolve around the consumption of alcohol. As times are changing and drinking alcohol is no longer (or should no longer be) the automatic standard, we want to make the activities more inclusive towards those that do not drink alcohol and, in general, put less focus on the consumption of alcohol.

2.2.1. Goals

- To make our activities more inclusive towards those that do not drink alcohol;
- To put less focus on drinking alcohol during the events.

2.2.1. Methods

There are many events where we do not have much influence over the consumption of alcohol, such as the constitution drinks or outings. However, we can influence the events that we organise ourselves, such as the after-GMA drinks. Therefore, we have decided that besides providing free beer at some after-GMA drinks, we will experiment with different free offers like snacks, and have the majority of the alcohol supply come from the donations of kegs from our member associations. Take note that we are only scaling back the amount of alcohol that OS provides, not completely eliminating it, and we will evaluate and communicate how the initiative is going throughout the year - based on feedback from the associations - and decide how we want to move forward.

2.3. Collaboration between Study Associations

Collaboration between Study Associations is important. It builds a sense of community and it is important for the development of Board members, and the improvements of the Study Associations. Currently, it is noticeable that not all Associations are collaborating with OS or their faculty on a regular basis.

2.3.1. Goals

- To better integrate all associations in our network;
- To better promote the collaboration of associations both within the faculties as within the University.

2.3.2. Methods

To better integrate all associations in our network, we want to focus on planning coffee dates with all associations to make ourselves better known. Next to that, by having coffee dates, the whole association Board gets to know better what OS does, instead of only the chairpeople. Through better understanding of the whole Board of an association of what OS does, we think the lines of contact will be shorter, and communication will go easier regardless of the size of the association or their Board. We expect the previously mentioned improvement of the bond between Study Associations and OS, will help with involving all associations in collaboration within their faculties as they understand the value of collaboration with both OS and other associations better.

3. OS Aspirations

The goals mentioned in this chapter are closer to home; more relevant to OS and how it works as an association, compared to the other chapters which mostly focus on the interaction with and between the member associations. Points regarding OS GMA's, Communication, Finances and the OS Lustrum will be presented and explained.

3.1. OS GMA

Currently, the OS GMA's are functioning quite well, and we would like to continue this. After meeting some chairpeople, we found that there are some points of attention which we want to incorporate. The main point was the interactiveness of the GMA's, something that is quite important when discussing things like FOBOS. Besides that, we want to promote openness in the GMA's, which can positively impact the interactiveness as well.

3.1.1. Goals

- To make GMA's more interactive;
- To create an atmosphere where everyone continues to feel comfortable to share their opinions;
- To continue GMA's running smoothly and effective

3.1.2. Methods

In the OS GMA of October, the Study Associations will be asked for their input for the structure of OS GMA's. Giving them a voice in the way GMA's are organised will hopefully lead to more enthusiastic participation. By also giving everyone equal opportunities to give input, the threshold to speak up will decrease.

By increasing the integration between associations, it will be easier to create a respectful, open atmosphere during GMA's, which will help people feel comfortable to share. However, giving (constructive) feedback will be promoted as well, as this is important to the functioning of the Study Associations. An example of this is during FOBOS-related GMA's.

By continuing to label agenda points with either *informative*, *input* or *discussion*, the attendees of the GMA can properly prepare questions and feedback. This will create a clear expectation for the GMA, which will help them to be more effective.

3.2. Communication towards Study Associations

It is important that the Study Associations stay up-to-date with what the OS board and its committees are up to. Especially for hot topics like ICOS, FOBOS or the alcohol covenant, the Study Associations often have an interest in knowing the latest news. Currently, there were some frustrations about the lack of communication regarding these topics from the OS board.

3.2.1. Goals

- To keep the Study Associations informed about ongoing topics regarding OS' committees and responsibilities;
- To be open to feedback regarding these committees and responsibilities.

3.2.2. Methods

Every other GMA, the OS board will go down the list of OS' committees and responsibilities and give updates where they consider this relevant. Besides this, during these GMA's, it will be encouraged that Study Associations ask questions about OS' committees and responsibilities such that they have plenty of opportunity to stay informed.

3.3. Financial status

Last year there was a deficit in the budget due to massively lower income than expected regarding the book contracts. We do not expect that to change and have since had to look at the new structure of the budget. In summary the budget has decreased greatly and this will impact our ability to enact our policy.

3.4. Lustrum

This year OS is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Of course, this needs to be celebrated! Even with the budget limitations that we will have, we want to highlight this milestone together with our member associations.

3.4.1. Goals

- To celebrate the 5th Lustrum in an appropriate way that suits our target group and with the limited budget.

3.4.2. Methods

We want to celebrate OS' Lustrum in an appropriate way. Our members are board members and they are often very busy already. This combined with limited income means that we do not want to put up big activities.

Instead, we want to have a Lustrum theme and tailor this year's activities, such as GalOS, to it. We also want to give extra attention to the Lustrum during the after-GMA drinks. How we will do this we would like to keep a surprise.

4. Committees and Responsibilities

OS has several committees and responsibilities it oversees on a university wide level. Specific plans and changes within these committees and responsibilities will be explained in this chapter. The committee and responsibilities overview can be found on page 4 of this document.

4.1. ICOS

The ICOS is the International Committee of OS. This committee focuses on internationalisation and improvements of integration within all study associations. In previous years, the committee members were the Commissioner of International Affairs of every study association. This did not work out great, as no one felt responsible for taking on action points. Therefore, last year, OSb decided to change the set-up of the ICOS. This set-up was to have 5-6 committee members, who represented different associations, to actively work on these points. Although there was a committee of 6 members, little to no progress had been made throughout the year.

4.1.1. Goals

- To reselect 5-6 committee members;
- To write a policy about internationalisation and integration points which is applicable to all associations based on effort and impact of the suggested activities;
- To brainstorm new ideas to work on with the committee;
- To ensure continuity of the ICOS.

4.1.2. Methods

The current committee will not continue. If current members want to continue, they have to re-apply. We will open up applications for the ICOS again during the first few weeks of the year.

These interviews will be more detailed than last year to be able to properly select new members who fit together in regards to both personal and professional goals, availability and passion for the topics.

To achieve the goals of working on a policy and creating new ideas, we want to have a bi-weekly meeting with the committee, preferably on a standard day and time (per module), otherwise we will keep a close eye on actively planning the meetings by planning them at the end of the previous meeting. This way there is enough time in

between meetings for members to work on their action points while still being in regular contact with each other.

With regards to ensuring continuity, we want the committee members to be appointed indefinitely, until they decide themselves they want to switch out, or OS deems new members necessary based off of functioning within the committee or the need for fresh input.

4.2. SOS

Sustainability is a very important topic these days and will only become more important in the future. This is why the OS Board will set up a committee for this. The structure of the committee will be the same as the proposed structure for ICOS. The OS Board will aid in finding people to fill the committee and guide them in realising the following goals:

1. 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 workgroup will try to open up new communication routes to the UT.
2. Organising events for Boards to discuss sustainable initiatives, events that open up conversation between Boards and the university and events that aim to inform Board members about sustainability.
3. Developing an OS-sustainability-policy for study associations, providing a red thread for them to follow.
4. Developing a sustainability script that outlines the different sustainability funds, subsidies and certificates available for study associations.

4.3. FocOS

OS organises FocOS sessions, in which board members from all associations can discuss a particular topic and learn from each other. Minutes are taken at these sessions and shared with all associations.

4.3.1. Goals

- To organise 1 FocOS session per quartile;
- To keep sharing the minutes with all associations;
- To start sharing the minutes with other interested parties within the UT so they can get a more in-depth vision on these topics from a student and Board perspective.

4.3.2. Methods

We will discuss with all associations what they think might be interesting topics to discuss with other Board members. We also want to gather ideas from other parties within the UT where they would like to have a more in-depth view on how associations and their students view certain topics.

To ensure something is actively being done with the gathered input, we will not only share the minutes with all the associations, but also to these other interested parties, so they can use it for their UT-wide plans.

4.4. Alcohol

As of now the old version of the alcohol covenant has unofficially been kept in effect for about four years. In the past two years, OS has been in frequent contact with the Student Union and Campus & Facility Management to draft a new version of the alcohol covenant. As of the Change GMA, the new alcohol covenant is announced, which will go in effect at the start of November.

4.4.1. Goals

- To inform the Study Associations of the new alcohol covenant;
- To keep an open ear to feedback regarding the new alcohol covenant;
- To represent the Study Associations opinions towards the SU and CFM.

4.4.2. Methods

The OS board will inform the associations about the new rules during the Change GMA and give pointers on what to improve throughout the year. Besides this, the OS board will hold a feedback session twice a year and aims to represent these opinions within the yearly consultations with the SU and CFM to gradually improve the covenant.

4.5. OS cup

Over the years, the OS Cup has been one of the methods to promote integration between the Study Associations. Last year, OSb 2023-II and OSb 2024-I tried to breathe new life in this tradition, but the event was blown off prematurely due to lack of interest from the Study Associations.

To still promote the integration between Study Associations besides the other policy points mentioned, the Candidate Board wants to look into different ways of keeping the spirit of the OS Cup alive.

4.5.1 Goals

- Find other ways to promote the informal bonding of Study Associations in a fun atmosphere.

4.5.2 Methods

The OS board will hold a FocOS session to ask Study Associations for input in how they want to bond together. Potentially, more focus could be put on making after-GMA drinks more attractive by organising more interactive activities like for example SinterklOS.

4.6. Social Media

OS uses Instagram as their form of promotion and communication to its members. This has been done quite well by the previous board but we would like to expand upon it.

4.6.1. Goals

- To better promote events;
- To have a regular promotion schedule;
- To post photos which showcase the atmosphere at our events.

4.6.2. Methods

To better promote our events we want to start using Instagram stories more often, where 24 hours before the start of the event, our following is reminded of the event. We think this will increase awareness of the events, as Boards sometimes tend to join rather last-minute instead of planned. Next to that we will ask associations throughout the year if they want to do an 'association takeover' as well as celebrating their birthdays on the stories.

For creating a regular promotion schedule we are looking into the exact wanted and needed timeframe for promotional materials which we will base off of the current Boards of the associations. In the beginning of the year it is more important to quickly introduce ourselves on Instagram. Later on, regular promotion is not necessary. However, we do want to increase the use of Instagram. Think of 'did you know..' posts, as board members, outside of the chairpeople, oftentimes are not entirely sure what OS exactly does. Or, as mentioned as a goal as well, post some atmosphere pictures of events, coffee dates and function outings.