
Mid-year Report 2024-2025

Organisation of Study Associations



Foreword

Dear members of the GMA,

With this document, we want to give an update on the progress of our policy plan that was presented at the Change GMA in September 2024. In the past half year, most policy points have been (partially) executed, and this document serves as a reflection on those policy points.

By hosting regular meetings with the Student Union and other Umbrella Associations, and the UReka Constituency Meetings, close contact was kept between multiple parties that are concerned with student activism.

Integration between Study Associations has been going very well, while there are still some steps to be taken with regards to reducing the focus on alcohol during OS activities. We have seen an increase in collaboration between associations, with the new function meetings and other activities together. Besides this, the board has had coffee dates with nearly all association boards.

The GMA's have been going smoothly, with a nice level of interaction. This could especially be seen during the FOBOS GMA. Besides this, the communication towards the Study Associations has been going quite well. Even with reduced income, the financial status is going well, and our Lustrum celebrations have only just started, with many more exciting events to come!

Progress has been made on the development of the ICOS committee, while the SOS has sadly been put on hold. The FocOS sessions have been going well, with some small points of improvement. The introduction of the new alcohol covenant has gone as planned, and there has been an evaluation meeting. The OS cup is in development, taking into account the needs and wants of the Study Association boards, gained from a FocOS session. Social Media use has been going really well, and we have even gained a new Responsibility in L.P.S.V. Exedra, a collaborative platform between the Study Umbrellas in The Netherlands.

Overall we are satisfied with our progress this half year, and we loved seeing everyone grow together with clear results. We are looking forward to the upcoming half year!

Kind regards,

OS Board 2024-II

Jelle Wielink, Tristan van Beurden, Roan Spits, Leira Jongeneel, Karen Taselaar and Merel van der Werf

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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
Candidate Faculty Representative ET (CTW)	Leon Sloodman
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)	Jelle Wielink & Leon Sloodman
Audit Committee (KasCo)	Tristan van Beurden
Book Contract Committee (BCC)	Merel van der Werf
GalOS	Jelle Wielink
Internationalisation Committee (ICOS)	Karen Taselaar
Study Trip Audit Committee Organisation of Study associations (STACOS)	Tristan van Beurden & Leon Sloodman
Sustainability Committee (SOS)	

<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Responsible Board Member</i>
Alcohol	Leira Jongeneel & Leon Sloodman
CantOS	Merel van der Werf & Tristan van Beurden
Convention of Education Officers (CEO)	Merel van der Werf
Coordination group KIC	Tristan van Beurden & Karen Taselaar
ERO	Tristan van Beurden
External Affairs Assembly (EB)	Leira Jongeneel
FOBOS	Jelle Wielink & Leon Sloodman
FocOS Groups	Karen Taselaar & Leon Sloodman
ICT/Boardsite	Leira Jongeneel
MentOS	Leira Jongeneel & Jelle Wielink
Social Media	Karen Taselaar
Teacher Of The Year Award Committee (TOTYA)	Karen Taselaar & Merel van der Werf
Treasurers of Organisation of Student associations (PenOS)	Tristan van Beurden
Umbrella Meetings	Jelle Wielink
L.P.S.V. Exedra	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. Reflection first half year

Since the start of this academic year, there have been many developments surrounding the concerns of this policy point. The Long Study Fine (langstudeerboete) has been called off, while there are still ongoing concerns surrounding the financial situation of the UT.

Within this changing landscape, the OS board has always kept close contact with the Student Union, both in the monthly Umbrella Meetings and in the bi-weekly meetings with the Portfolio-holder Study of the Student Union. This resulted in being able to quickly share concerns and discuss these with the Student Union, and in turn communicate any information to the Study Associations. In the upcoming half-year, a new Portfolio-holder will be taking over from the current person, where OS will now take on a more 'leading' role in the bi-weekly meetings.

OS has also attended almost every Constituency Meeting, hosted by UReka, which serve as a close link between the higher-up parties of the UT and the Study Associations.

Something that the chairman noticed was that, at times, he would base arguments or reasonings on his personal experience as part of his Study Association board, instead of the current situation among all Study Associations. This is something that he intends to improve upon this upcoming half-year.

The research started by the BMS faculty has sadly been stopped due to a number of reasons, but mainly because the Faculty Board thinks this is something that should be picked up centrally. The Student Union is also still looking into things that can help promote student activism.

2. Integration between Study Associations

To facilitate the integration between Study Associations is one of the core goals of OS. The goals and reflections regarding integration of Study Associations during the first half of the year 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. Reflection first half year

At the moment, we have only had one 'normal' after GMA drink, where we did not specifically promote the event to former board members and board members other than chairpeople. SinterklOS was meant for all board members, and despite the large number of chairpeople, many other functions were also present here. The OS lustrum buffet did attract people from older years, we also specifically promoted here that it was for all (former) board members.

Faculty bonding is particularly discussed during the premeets and at many faculties it has already resulted in joint activities, such as TNW and BMS. Function bonding is also taken up particularly well by the board members themselves, for example by setting up a meeting for the treasurers and nowadays even the secretaries. We are very happy to see this. Even though these consultation structures were not devised by OS, we want to continue to encourage and facilitate this.

2.2. Alcohol-focused activities

The 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. Reflection first half year

Here, we have not succeeded so far. At SinterklOS, for example, people were encouraged to chug their drinks. Drinking alcohol was not compulsory, but we can well imagine that a beer is the associated drink. To prevent this happening for the Lustrum Buffet, the costs deliberately only covered the food, and people were themselves responsible for their drink consumption. In general, we have switched from using 'beer and soft drinks' in promotion, and are instead only mentioning 'drinks'.

So far, we have not managed to disconnect alcohol from the after-GMAs. However, we did recently hand out cake as an activity where we deliberately did not serve alcohol, which was well-received by all the attendants. Even though it was hosted in a bar (Beneden Peil), the activity was completely unrelated to alcohol. In the future, we want to look for more opportunities to set up (small) activities completely separate from alcohol, and the OS cup preparations will also keep this vision in mind.

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. At the beginning of the year, it was 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. Reflection first half year

Throughout the first half-year we have had a coffee date with all former ET associations, all EEMCS associations, most BMS associations and are currently in the process of the S&T associations. After the S&T associations we want to plan

coffee dates with the new ET associations as well. For the 2 associations within BMS we have not yet had the opportunity to find a moment, we will keep in contact with to still try and plan them. We see that these coffeedates have a positive effect on the connection with OS. We see that all board members recognize and know all of us, instead of only the contact person of the OS Board. It also helps with the knowledge of the smaller associations, both for OS to know how their associations are run, and what OS can mean for them.

With regards to better promotion of the collaboration of the association, the PenOS and SeccOS have started during the first half year, bringing these functions and therewith associations closer together. Next to that, the faculty representatives have noticed several initiatives in the pre-meets by the chairpeople themselves. For example, EEMCS had a FOBOS working session together and BMS looked into organising a parents day together.

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. Reflection first half year

During the first half year, the OS GMA's have been running smoothly. There were incidental GMA's where the structure and preparation could have been improved, but we are aware of this and already have a plan on how to improve this.

The interactiveness of the GMA's has improved, which can be seen in the discussions around the FOBOS proofs in November. During the UToberfest discussions, improvements could have been made, but there is now a clear plan for the upcoming half-year.

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. Reflection first half year

Each other GMA, an update regarding the committees and responsibilities was given. The OS board has actively asked for feedback regarding these updates and anything surrounding the committees and responsibilities and acted upon this feedback when needed. Specifically for hot topics like FOBOS and the alcohol covenant, extensive mails were sent and reminders were given during the next GMA and via WhatsApp. In general, it seems that the current extensive way of communication is liked by the Study Associations.

3.3. Financial status

There hasn't been a lot to occur in the last half year regarding the finances. KasCOS has checked and confirmed that the bookkeeping is up to date and looking good. Of course, we will have a lot of activities in the next half year that will see us more active in this regard. A few things of note are; we have fixed an error in the bookkeeping between OS and 11 beers tour, the bookkeeping now notes the same amount and we have earned more in regards to our bank account interest than budgeted which is quite pleasant.

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. Reflection first half year

We did not manage to organise lustrum-related activities in 2024, but we did in 2025. We are very happy that the lustrum buffet was so well attended and well-liked, and that so many people reminisced together in the VB. Besides this larger activity, the cake handout was also initially a lustrum-related idea, even though we didn't promote it that way. The CantOS and the GalOS are also still coming up. Besides this, the OS cup is currently in development and this will also be Lustrum-themed. We feel we are appropriately celebrating our lustrum with these activities.

4. Committees and Responsibilities

OS has several committees and responsibilities it oversees on a university wide level. Specific plans, changes and reflections from the first half of the year 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, there were some troubles in setting up this committee and progressing on interesting topics within the committee.

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. Reflection first half year

Currently the ICOS has 4 members, divided over 3 faculties, missing the ET faculty. Throughout the first half-year we have kept promoting joining the ICOS, with no success so far. The goal is still to get 1 or 2 more members, preferably one from ET as well. Next to that, they have a standard bi-weekly meeting and have set up clear goals for the committee. These include: to write a policy guideline on internationalisation for study associations and to set up a multiple year plan for ICOS, to make continuity easier for the following years. Within this multiple year plan they actively brainstorm new ideas to work on with the (future) committee.

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.

4.2.1. Reflection first half year

During the start of the academic year, multiple committee members were either unavailable or not interested in the committee anymore. Due to this, it was quite hard to set up a meeting with the committee to discuss the potential new members. It was then up to the OS board to set up a new committee, however this has not been done yet. This is because this committee was an initiative of a member of OS and the OS board itself had this committee at the bottom of its priority list. Due to this, this has not been picked back up yet. There has been some work done by the committee and this can be picked up again when the initiative is taken again.

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. Reflection first half year

We have had 2 FocOS sessions so far, and are still aiming to organise 2 more this academic year. The sessions had varying attendance. The first one having 16 people present, and the second one having 9 people present. Even so, both sessions offered a lot of input and insights.

The minutes have been shared with all study associations, and mostly with the Student Union as well. However, the first session was mostly related to OS itself. For the second session we are still gauging whether the University Council might be able to work with them.

We have received some input to give more explanation on the topic of the session in the invitation email. This input will be used for the remainder of the sessions to be organised. For topics we actively ask study associations, the student union and other UT parties whether they have topics they would like to get more information on, we will keep doing this.

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 has gone 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. Reflection first half year

As of the first of November, the new version of the alcohol covenant has been in effect. This was informed to the Study Associations via the mail and via the GMA. As it seems, the alcohol covenant and its rules have been applied by the Study Associations sufficiently. On the 27th of January, there was a plenary evaluation session, where all study associations, the drinks committees and the SU were invited. The OS board gathered valuable feedback from this session and aims to represent this towards the SU and CFM later this year, when the contents of the covenant will be improved. At the end of this academic year, there will be another plenary evaluation session.

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 a lack of interest from the Study Associations.

To still promote the integration between Study Associations besides the other policy points mentioned, the 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 Reflection first half year

Firstly, as can be read in section 2.1 Promotion of Integration, we are already quite happy with how the integration between the study associations is going. To improve this even more, we hosted a FocOS session that focused on integration at the beginning of the year. Based on the input from this session, we decided to start hosting several smaller activities throughout the rest of the year – the first one of which was the free cake tasting. This way, we promote integration between Study Associations in an informal, relaxed atmosphere, welcoming all board members and all functions. Finally, the OS Board is currently in the process of reviving the OS cup, taking into account the results of the FocOS session. This project is in development and is planned to take place around March and April.

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 and we are trying to extend this further.

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. Reflection first half year

Since the beginning of the year there has been an increase of 8,3% in followers on our Instagram. We have posted events more regularly on both Instagram and the Instagram story. However, during the first FocOS session we got some input that it could still be extended to more board members than only the chairpeople. This is why we have started promoting the events more often in the OS Associations group chat. From these initiatives we have heard positive feedback from both the current as well as former board members.

With regards to the regular promotion schedule, we noticed after the first module that there were not that many interesting things for us to promote. That is why we have decided to only post when deemed necessary and interesting, instead of a forced schedule.

We have posted pictures of the Constitution Drink of OSb 2024-II, we are working on posting pictures of the Lustrum Buffet, and are planning on doing the same for the Constitution Drink of OSb 2025-I and other upcoming events such as the GalOS as well. We have posted most of the coffeetates on the Instagram story.

We have also had 3 study association takeovers on the OS instagram. We have gathered input of those associations on their experiences. Based on that we have decided to continue offering them, but on a 'ask OS' basis rather than us reaching out to the study associations. This means from now on that all associations can request a week for a study association takeover on the OS instagram.

4.7. L.P.S.V. Exedra

During the first half year, we received an invitation from other umbrella associations in The Netherlands to attend a central meeting, with the goal of reviving the National Platform of Study Associations, Exedra. This meeting took place in January and was very useful. In this initial meeting, topics like the impact of the nation-wide budget cuts, student activism and alcohol covenants were discussed. We noticed that sharing experiences and knowledge is very useful, which is beneficial for everyone. This is why we want to continue setting up this platform and make sure it can be developed in the upcoming years.