
Annual Report 2024-2025

Organisation of Study Associations



Foreword

Dear members of the GMA,

In this document, we will provide you with a reflection on our policy plan and the execution of it. Each policy point is presented like in the original policy plan, after which it is evaluated and a list of recommendations towards the Candidate Board is made.

We look back on a fun, but at times challenging year. In the face of budget cuts and political discourse, the student culture of Enschede has had its fair share of challenges, something you will probably have seen personally too. However, there have also been highlights, like celebrating our lustrum! Overall, we are satisfied with this year.

Of course, we also want to thank all of you for your input and participation the past year!

Kind regards,

OS Board 2025-I

Jelle Wielink, Tristan van Beurden, Leon Sloodman, 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)	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 Study associations (PenOS)	Tristan van Beurden
Secretaries of Organisation of Study associations (SecOS)	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

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. This also impacted the new StOF system.

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 past half-year, a new Portfolio-holder took their place. It was a smooth transition, and the communication between the Student Union and OS has been smooth as well.

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. However, the general attendance became lower throughout the year, where OS can take a more proactive approach to also engage the Study Association boards to attend.

During the OS GMA of May, the study associations requested the Student Union to give regular updates to the GMA. This came up after there were some questions about the tasks and role of the Student Union around supporting student engagement, and this idea of giving regular updates will hopefully clarify this. We recommend the candidate board to continue this at the GMA's

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. In the past half-year, the chairman worked on this issue and is confident that this has been going well.

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.

1.1.3. Recommendations

- Keep the bi-weekly meetings with the Student Union
- Ask the Student Union to give updates every GMA
- Attend the Constituency Meetings and actively promote attendance to Study Associations.

2. Integration between Study Associations

To facilitate the integration between Study Associations is one of the core goals of OS. The goals, reflections and recommendations for next year will be discussed 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

At the moment, we only have the OS BBQ left and beside that, not much time for any further function or faculty outings. After the start of the year and the subsequent monthly after-GMA drinks, we noticed a declining attendance rate. We did go around after the GMAs to try to gather board members but we also saw that many people were simply busy at the time or not at their boardrooms. Furthermore, we have sadly seen very few declared outings but aside from reminding the functions and faculties, there is little influence we have there.

Our one-off activities, like the GalOS and CantOS were all very enjoyable although the attendance was on average lower than we expected based on the numbers of last year. Some of this we can attribute to timing, such as GalOS being quite a bit later in the year than usual but beyond that it seems to be rising costs and all the boards being quite busy. This did cause us to have to cancel the painting event that we had planned but our other activity, the cake event, did see quite a few board members come by and enjoy our cakes but that was also held before the fourth quartile where, as said before, a lot of our events weren't as well visited.

2.1.3. Recommendations

- Continue to organise integration events but put more effort into ensuring the timing for these events are as appropriate as we can make it.

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.

2.2.2. Reflection

Let's start off by saying that any goal revolving around lessening alcohol consumption is by nature hard to achieve, because the amount of alcohol consumption is, to a large extent, decided upon by people themselves, and we, as OS, only have so much influence on that. That is also why we put the focus of this goal on a) making our events inclusive towards those that do not drink alcohol and b) put less focus on drinking during our events, instead of trying to lower alcohol consumption. That, we would say, has gone relatively well. During every single OS event this year, plenty of alcohol-free options have been available, for the same price or cheaper than options with alcohol: during after-GMA drinks, for example, but lemonade was also plenty available during the CantOS, and we specifically made sure to not make a “lemonade-only” table but let those that drink lemonade mix with the other participants so they don't feel excluded in any way.

As for putting less focus on drinking alcohol during the events, we have tried to do so as much as our capabilities allowed us. During the Lustrum buffet, we did not include drinks in the price, so the focus was on the food instead of the alcohol, as will also be the case with the OS barbeque. We also tried to host some events without any alcohol present at all, such as the free cake activity, and with the OS cup we made sure that little to no assignments revolved around drinking. However, certain activities, such as SinterklOS and EB overleg, still contained quite some alcohol. It also should be noted that sometimes, this is quite hard to change, as people automatically link some activities with drinking alcohol: CoBo's, for example, but when you say “after-GMA drink”, most people also instantly think of beer. Hence, we will continue supporting alcohol-free activities and less focus on drinking alcohol, but this also requires a larger cultural shift to really be successful.

2.2.3. Recommendations

- Continue making sure that alcohol-free options are easily accessible, both in terms of price and social acceptance.
- Try to host activities that do not revolve around drinking at all.

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

Throughout the year, we have had coffee dates with almost all associations. Some were not doable due to time constraints of both the OS board and / or the association board. Nevertheless, we think these coffee dates have been extremely valuable to us and our members and we have noticed that we are more recognisable across the university.

With regards to the better promotion of collaborations, we have continued on with the function meetings SeccOS and PenOS as were introduced halfway through the year.

Lastly, we are in contact with Orbit, the association for ITC, to discuss a potential new membership at OS.

2.3.3. Recommendations

- Continue with the coffee dates
- Continue with the function meetings
- Keep in contact with Orbit about their potential new membership

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 GMAs 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

Overall, the OS GMAs have been running smoothly. There were incidental GMAs where the structure and preparation could have been improved. During the year, the board scheduled sessions before the GMA where the board prepared the GMA together, which really helped to ensure a smooth GMA. However, one point of improvement is the timeliness of the GMA invitations and documents, as these were not always sent a week in advance.

The interaction of the GMA's has improved, which can be seen in the discussions around the FOBOS proofs in November. In the past year, the chairman worked on his discussion-leading skills, which helped to create a good discussion and input session during the May GMA.

As mentioned in the policy plan, all agenda points of the GMA agenda were labeled to indicate their purpose.

Something that came up during a GMA was the request for a general, FocOS-like agenda point on the GMA agenda, where the study associations can discuss anything that is on their minds. This has been introduced as the Open Discussion during the April GMA, and it has been a useful addition to the GMA's.

3.1.3. Recommendations

- Keep the GMA preparation session
- Keep using the Open Discussion agenda point
- Keep the agenda point labels

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. This is the case especially for hot topics like ICOS, StOF/FOBOS or the alcohol covenant, where the Study Associations have an interest in knowing the latest news. At the beginning of the year, there were some frustrations about the lack of communication regarding these topics from the OS board.

During the year, the Board started giving updates regarding the committees and responsibilities during every other GMA. 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/StOF 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.

3.2.1. 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

Over the past year, the Board has attempted to maintain open communication towards Study Associations. We believe that this has improved throughout the year, an example being the implementation of the OS committees and responsibilities update each other GMA.

3.2.3. Recommendations

- Maintain the committees and responsibilities update each other GMA
- Continue asking for feedback from Study Associations whenever possible
- Ask the new Study Association Boards at the beginning of next year whether they have different communication preferences compared to this year

3.3. 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.

3.3.1. Goals

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

3.3.2. Reflection

We had a lovely Lustrum year that technically will only finish during the start of next academic year but we've done our best to have Lustrum themed events to make do with our limited budget for said Lustrum. Aside from the Lustrum buffet, how heavily everything was themed as Lustrum was of varying degrees, particularly harder to notice due to, once again, the lack of funds as the lustrum budget simply allowed us more often than not to reach the budget previous years enjoyed naturally. We also had periods where we ourselves were quite busy and thus couldn't dedicate as much time as we would have wished to be able to for anything Lustrum related. We do hope everyone enjoyed the Lustrum together with us and we all look forward to the next one.

3.3.3. Recommendations

- Set aside a budget each year for the next upcoming lustrum, with the amount to be considered separately.
- Consider the feasibility of forming a Lustrum committee beyond just the OSb

4. Committees and Responsibilities

OS has several committees and responsibilities it oversees on a university wide level. Specific plans, changes, reflections and recommendations for next year within these committees and responsibilities will be explained in this chapter. The committee and responsibilities overview can be found on page X 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

The committee has continued throughout the whole year to consist of 4 members. Although we would have wanted more, the committee worked well together. The internationalisation policy guideline is finished, and was sent to all associations. We will also put it on the OS website. Hopefully (future) candidate boards can take inspiration from the document where they wish to. Other than that, the committee has set out a short, general, 'multi-year' plan for the future of the committee. This is not a set plan, but offers some handles for the next committee to work on.

4.1.3. Recommendations

- Keep promoting the internationalisation guideline policy
- Set clear goals with the committee at the beginning of the year
- Update 'multi-year' plan annually

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

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.

4.2.3. Recommendations

- Look into starting up SOS again next year
- Introduce SOS to candidate board members

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

We have organised 3 FocOS sessions this academic year. A fourth was in the planning, but no topics came up that were interesting to organise a session for.

The first session was about ‘Integration between Boards’ where 16 people were present. The session focused on the needs of the boards for integration, so that OS could take that into account to promote the integration of boards throughout the year. From this session, a new set-up for the OS Cup was made which was successful. We also tried to organise smaller, low-key activities for the boards, such as the free cake and the Bob Ross painting. The free cake was nice, as it didn’t take up much time of the boards, but the events which needed more time commitment were cancelled due to low sign-ups.

The second session was about ‘Structuring Associations with Less Capacity’ with 9 people present. This session focused on how associations can run with less people and / or less available working hours due to the reclining activism trend. This session could be used for the ET candidate boards at the time and for the current boards to consider during their finding CB period.

The third session had the topic “Engagement Trends - Activities that Do and Don’t Work” with 14 participants. The session focused on both popular and unpopular activities, and whether boards notice trends in what type of activities are popular over time. Most associations seemed to share similar experiences regarding which activities are popular among their members. Several board members reported learning some new strategies regarding activity promotion that their association did not try before.

The minutes of all sessions have been sent to the associations. The first session was not shared elsewhere, as it was most relevant for OS. The second session minutes

were also shared with UReka, and the third session was shared just with the associations.

We had received input to put more explanation on the topic in the invitation email, which we applied for the third session.

4.3.3. Recommendations

- Organise FocOS sessions when relevant
- Keep sharing the minutes with all associations
- Keep looking for other interested UT parties to receive the minutes

4.4. Alcohol - Leira

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

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. The idea was to hold another evaluation session at the end of the academic year, but we were unable to make this happen. Hence, we will hold an evaluation session in the first or second quartile of next academic year.

4.4.3. Recommendations

- Stay available for any questions related to the alcohol covenant.
- Plan the evaluation sessions around two to three months beforehand.

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

At the start of the year, we were quite happy with the state of integration between boards. We asked boards for input on how we could further promote integration between them, and we started organizing several small activities, like serving cakes. We developed plans for other activities like painting and flunkyball, but these were cancelled due to weather conditions and an already busy activity schedule.

We also revived the OS Cup, although in a different way compared to previous years. We chose to do a 4-week challenge-based competition, where boards received weekly challenges for which they could receive points. It turned out to be a great success, with Atlantis ending up on top. They have received custom OS (coffee) cups as the prize.

4.5.3. Recommendations

- Implement the opinions of board members when it comes to integration
- Organize smaller, low-key activities during calmer periods of the year
- Keep the OS Cup and involve boards in the development process
- Assign budget to OS Cup

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

Since the beginning of the year there has been an 11,6% increase in followers on our Instagram. At the beginning of the year we attempted to create a regular promotion schedule, but quickly realised this unfeasible for OS, as we have little events or other interesting information to share through social media. We have used the Group Chat more regularly to promote not only events, but also other moments such as MentOS meetings and FocOS sessions.

We have posted pictures of the Constitution Drink of OSb 2024-II and the Lustrum Buffet. We do not have any pictures of the Constitution Drink of OSb 2025-I. Currently, we are working on a fun OS Cup picture overview, and potentially of the GalOS as well.

We have had 3 association takeovers, but during our mid-year we had decided that the OS instagram takeovers will be on an 'request-basis' instead of OS reaching out to the associations. No associations have done this since the change.

4.6.3. Recommendations

- Keep posting event pictures
- Promote only when necessary
- Use the Instagram Stories for events promotion
- Reconsider OS Instagram Takeovers

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. In the two meetings held afterwards, topics like board recruitment tips, board compensation systems and well-being 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.

4.7.1. Recommendations

- Attend the Exedra meetings