



Annual Report 2017/2018

Dear everyone,

The new academic year has already started, which means that our board year is unfortunately coming to an end very soon.

During the majority of our board year, we had five active board members. This was due to Martijn's minor and the unforeseen temporary absence of Yanick. This resulted in a slightly higher workload for the remaining board members. Hence, we weren't always able to go the extra mile. Nevertheless, we are happy with what we have achieved. Updating important associations documents, attaining a room, and introducing the OS trophy and prom are just a few of the things with which we will leave our mark behind on the association. This annual report will highlight everything that has happened in the past year.

We have enjoyed working with all of you and want to thank you for a great year. We have faith in our successors and wish them the best of luck!

With kind regards,

Board 2017-II and 2018-I of the Organisation of Study associations

Yanick Verkerk
Thomas van Tilburg
Martijn Koers
Simon Huijink
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Structure

At the start of our board year, the associations already had quite a solid structure to which we didn't want to make any major adjustments. Nevertheless, we still set out some goals to properly maintain the structure. All the General Member Assemblies (hereafter referred to as "GMAs") were held on the last Thursday of the month, except for the one in July.

However, the June GMA always takes place at the beginning of July due to our annual BBQ and the ending of the academic year. Furthermore, the board decided to not host a GMA in December due to a lack of relevant agenda points.

As for the pre-meetings, EEMCS decided to switch to a bi-monthly meeting as a trial which was rather successful. The other faculties kept their pre-monthly meeting monthly. These meetings were useful as a preparation for the OS GMAs as well as a good channel to discuss faculty specific issues that did not apply to all the study associations.

In our policy plan, we addressed to look into the annual cycle. As already announced at the half-yearly GMA, we decided to keep the cycle as it is for now. A small addition has been made to the "Agenda & Planning" section of our website to show what topics could be expected at a GMA.

Besides the already existing structure, we set out a few goals to make some adjustments. First of all, a first version of the house style is in place. The agenda, minutes, and other OS documents are now in the same style. The house style could be further improved by, for example, picking a font or creating an email template.

Furthermore, the association name has officially been changed from "Overleg Studieverenigingen" to "Organisation of Study associations". As we like to be on the forefront of internationalisation, our own association name could not be lacking behind. In addition, all our committee names have also been substituted for an English equivalent. We, again, would like to thank everybody on their input.

Throughout the year, it was discovered that the guidelines regarding the contribution fee of a study association had gone missing in our archive. Hence, we decided to recreate these documents to make sure that every association's wishes were taken into account in these guidelines. Unfortunately, this was due to a poorly maintained archive.

To keep improving on our structure and properly maintain the archive, we set out to obtain a board room. We are glad to announce that our room is finished and can now be used for, but not limited to, board meetings and storage.

To conclude, our advice for the upcoming year is to maintain the structure, but not feel obliged to host a GMA every month if there are no relevant agenda points. More work could be put into finalising the house style if desired. Furthermore, a tangible archive could now be set up in the OS board room.

Communication

The OS exists to support study associations in their different efforts, but mainly focusing on enhancing collaboration between the different study associations. The OS board wants to keep facilitating and enhancing this collaboration, both actively and reactively. To keep enabling associations to propose ideas and ask questions, the OS board aims to further improve their communications, both from and towards the OS board.

The OS board wants to keep both the documents as the GMAs in English, just like last year. This will guarantee that all board members of the study associations are able to join the GMAs and read the minutes without the need for translation.

Furthermore the OS board wants to create a central base of operations. Right now the OS board has no room or even their own, causing possible uncertainty about how to easily visit the OS board for questions. The board is going to explore the possibilities of creating a OS board room, preferably in the Bastille.

As proposed and approved during the OS GMA of September 2017, all communication from the OSb and her committees has been primarily in English. If meetings or GMAs were held in Dutch due to the attendance of all dutch speaking students, English minutes were made to ensure everyone involved with the OS has proper access to all information. The OSb is content with the current state of affairs and hopes that this will continue to be the standard for years to come.

Since the GMA of february significant improvements have been made by to the OS boardroom. Six working places and several storage for documents and important objects have been created. Because all furniture was arranged via different connections within the UT, no costs were made. The first OS (candidate)board meeting have already taken place in this office. The OSb is pleased with the result and wishes the candidate board good luck with optimising their new office.

Internationalisation

As mentioned in the half yearly report already, a lot has changed since we started this year. The name change of OS itself and the name changes of the committees are starting to settle and more people start calling these by their new names. There have been no problems with holding GMAs in Dutch if no internationals are present and it is not expected to become a problem for next year either.

The SIP meetings have been evaluated to hopefully be more useful for OS next year. These meetings really depend on the mindset of all present parties and thus usefulness differs between meetings. The past year, these meetings were not very helpful, since most of it could be discussed at ICOS instead. Another problem of SIP was that the other umbrellas have different problems regarding internationalisation. They often struggle with issues like trainers who do not want to teach in English and internationals who do not want to join if there is a “derde helft”. In order to make SIP more useful next year it might be good to use generally applicable questions of other umbrellas as input for discussion points during ICOS. The ICOS meetings went quite well the past year. Sometimes meetings were rather short when nothing came up to discuss, but sometimes there was a lot of input and questions from the associations. Focus points were the manifesto, the general Kick-In and association specific topics this last half a year. A very nice achievement happened near the end of the year where a checklist was made for internationals by a few members of ICOS. This checklist has been integrated in the Campus app since August 2018.

The Unite meetings were visited by OS to see what they were working on. This did not really give us extra information and at the end of the year OSb decided not to attend these meetings anymore. A middle way would be to just meet with someone of Unite every once in a while to discuss interesting topics.

Integration

Over the past year, the OS strived to improve integration between its members. The board is content with the overall turnout at the monthly GMA-drinks. The new years activity this year was a cantus, which was a great success. In the beginning of the academic year, the board announced the OS challenge, to further increase integration between the associations. Points were gained for attending activities, or promoting integration altogether. The association that best achieved to do this was S.A. Stress. The trophy was handed to them on the OS barbecue at the end of a year, which was satisfactory. The board thinks this was a good way to improve integration.

The intention of the board to look into the possibility of organising an OS prom has evolved in the actual organising of a prom, which was a fantastic success.

During the monthly CEO-meetings, it turned out that it wasn't completely clear where the responsibility for making the HTHT-minor booklist laid. To take away the uncertainty, the OS representative made the list this year. The cooperation with StudyStore was effective and whether the new way of working is a success remains to be seen.