# Annual Report SamenwerkingsOverleg Faculteitsverenigingen 2021-2022 XXXIst board





## Preface

Dear reader,

Before you, you have the annual report of the XXXIst board of SOFv. In this report, the board looks back on the past year and reflects on its actions. The report will also contain some points that can be taken as advice for the XXXIInd board of SOFv.

The XXXIst Board would like to thank you for your input, criticism and presence during the year. We have, despite everything, enjoyed the year because of you board members. The many physical events and GMAs have ensured that we could continue to dedicate ourselves full of energy to study associations.

To Rianne, Chris-Jan, Sebastian and Anne, we would like to wish you a lot of success and fun in your future board year. They have already taken a lot of steps to make it a great success, so we are convinced that everything will work out.

Kind regards,

Elsze van den Wittenboer - Treasurer and Executive Chair

Rense Steijns - Secretary

Matthijs Sparreboom - Political Commissioner

SamenwerkingsOverleg Faculteitsverenigingen 2021-2022





## Summary

The annual report consists of six parts. In the first part, the board discusses general matters, such as the general meetings, the policy regarding social media and administrative matters. The second part looks back at the policy points of inclusivity and diversity. In the third part of the report, the board will discuss the constitution drinks. The fourth chapter looks back at the collaboration and examines how it can be improved in the future. The lustrum and activities are discussed in the fifth part of the report. Finally, in the sixth part, the political chair will look back on the year in the USC and looks ahead to the most important matters for the coming year.





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## 1.0 General

In the past six months, the board has changed, continued or initiated a number of general matters which are reviewed in this chapter.

#### 1.1 GMAs

The General Members' Assemblies (GMAs) were held as planned approximately every six weeks. As in previous years, the GMAs were held on different days of the week so that member organisations with weekly activities on a fixed day could attend the GMAs as much as possible. The GMAs that SOFv organised this year took place the first half year via Zoom and the second half year physically in the Elinor Ostrom building. The board noticed that physical GMAs provided more input and that people found it easier to speak up. The board hopes that online GMAs will be a thing of the past. The board itself had some trouble finding the right rooms during the physical GMAs, because the doorman would not accept reservations well in advance. This is a point for improvement for the XXXIInd board. In general, the board is of the opinion that the physical GMAs went better than the online ones. These GMas were more structured and there was more interaction with the member associations present.

The voting function was used several times during the GMAs, both online and in person. At Zoom, this was done via an online voting programme called Polys. Physical voting often took longer because the ballot papers had to be counted physically. However, this did not cause any major problems. Once, there was an unanticipated voting and it was held by a show of hands.

The SOFv tried to tie a theme to each GMA in order to provide the member associations with an interesting speaker, after which a discussion would take place. Some theme discussions were cancelled at the last minute because the speaker turned out to have Covid-19, sometimes these themes were rescheduled. The themes that the board dealt with were: wellbeing, sustainability, social safety and internationalisation. At the suggestion of member associations, discussions were sometimes held using a Mentimeter. This tool provided a lot of input from the associations present. SOFv advises its successors that welcoming speakers was a great success and has a clear added value prior to theme discussions. The language of the AGMs is discussed in chapter ...







#### 1.2 Room Visits

This year, as in previous years, SOFv has opened up the possibility of a room visit over two periods for its member associations. The SOFv board was pleased that many associations made use of this possibility and found the conversations very useful as well as pleasant. If possible, two or more SOFv board members were present during these room visits, alternating the roles of speaker and note-taker. Although it is not absolutely necessary for two SOFv board members to be present during the room visit, this is preferred.

Information gained during the room visits was used as much as possible as topics for theme discussions during the general assemblies. For example, a theme discussion on diversity and inclusiveness was organized at a general meeting, a subject that many associations wanted to work on but did not have a concrete plan for. The room visits were also useful for directly approaching member associations with information about the subsidies, which was often received with great enthusiasm. The internationalization of the SOFv has also been discussed a lot and the opinion of associations about English-speaking GA's was sought.

The room visits were spread over September and October, before the second round took place in February and March. Associations could indicate a preference for a meeting in the boardroom of the association, the SOFvice or an online call. All three options were used and the board would recommend that associations be offered several options again in the coming years.

#### 1.3 Career Central

At the start of the academic year, the political chair was closely involved in the further set-up of Career Central. Career Central is the new, general career platform of Radboud University. There have been several information meetings and Career Central was discussed at the general meeting of November 22, 2021. A working group has been set up so that associations can make their wishes known to the makers of Career Central. This working group has drawn up a letter with concrete wishes on behalf of the study associations to Career Central. These wishes have been taken into account by Career Central and have already been discussed with the contact persons of Radboud University as intermediary. Although the latest version of the





platform has yet to be shown to the member associations, we are satisfied with the collaboration with the working group as well as the University and the Career Central platform. We would like to express our thanks to the participants of the working group.

## 1.4 SOFvice

In the past year, the board aimed to use SOFvice more for its members. For example, a members' hour was held twice. Despite the success of these two sessions, unfortunately they did not go any further. Since the board was busy with other things in the second half of the year, this initiative was put on the back burner and therefore not continued. The board will pass this on as an idea to its successors.

## 1.5 Alcohol Policy and Code of Conduct

At this moment Student Life and International Mobility (SLIM) is working on an alcohol regulation. This regulation is drawn up in cooperation with the municipality and by looking at regulations on alcohol at other universities. In a few weeks, students will also have a say in what will be written in these regulations. The board follows the developments of these regulations closely and tries to look after the interests of study associations as well as possible.

#### 1.6 Databases

SOFv has a number of databases on its website. These are currently obsolete due to all the changes that have taken place in recent years. In any event, the board strives to update the database regarding the locations for constitutional drinks.

#### 1.7 Social Media

The social media channels on which SOFv is active are Facebook and Instagram. Instagram was used for the first time last year. The board has received positive reactions to this and advises its successors to continue using this channel. Based on





the feedback received, the advice is to post more often and more in general to generate a constant flow of information. This advice applies not only to Instagram but also to Facebook. It was considered to stop posting on the Facebook page, however, in order to manage this transition, both channels were kept. Moreover, Facebook is an important way to keep track of bras actions.

## 1.8 E-mail and policy documents

This year, all formal communication, including policy and administrative documents, have been provided in both English and Dutch. Although this has been positively received by the majority of associations, it does lead to a higher workload. Due to the continuous internationalisation and taking into account the high workload, the XXXIth board advised the candidate board to use only English communication.

## 1.9 Website

For some time now, the SOFv website has been seriously outdated. This year, the XXXI board made it a priority to create a new website. Several offers were made and finally an affordable option was found. Together with the makers of the website, we looked at the possibilities and layout of the website. The website will also be better protected in terms of privacy.

Due to the technical limitations of the website, it is not possible to translate the entire site into English. The board has used the heading 'English' where all relevant documents can be found in English. The board is currently working to make the new website fully available in English.

## 1.10 Subsidies

Last year, SOFv was given the task of providing various subsidies to the member associations. It concerns the wellbeing subsidy, the group travel subsidy and the incentive subsidy. SOFv has been given this task by SLIM. Every year, SOFv receives an





advance payment, which can then be partially allocated to the associations per request. This year, intensive use was made of the wellbeing subsidy and the group travel subsidy; the incentive subsidy was applied for only once. The advice for the XXXIInd board is to promote the incentive subsidy more in order to encourage cooperation between associations.

In the last months of the academic year, both the group travel subsidy and the wellbeing subsidy were evaluated with SLIM. The changes introduced in previous years will largely remain.

SLIM has decided to keep the wellbeing subsidy for another year. This means that for the year 2022-2023 the wellbeing subsidy can be applied for at SOFv in the same way as last year. The subsidy regulations have been slightly modified with stricter criteria for granting the subsidy. These can be found in the subsidy regulations on the SOFv site.

SLIM has decided that the sustainable aspect of the group travel subsidies will also remain. The new regulations, which were used for the first time last year, will also apply this year. At the moment SLIM is still discussing whether changes will be made to the policy. These changes will mainly concern the scientific guarantee and the settlement of accounts, more information about this will follow soon.





# 2. Policy Points

This year, the issues of diversity and inclusiveness were high on the agenda of the SOFv board. In this chapter, the board looks back on this topic and looks ahead to the next six months.

#### 2.1 Internationalisation

Over the past year, SOFv has taken a number of steps to make the umbrella association more inclusive. One of these steps is internationalisation. In order to boost the number of international board members, the board has made a number of changes. SOFv is positive about these changes and based on feedback from its member associations, internationalisation will be an ongoing process within SOFv.

## 2.1.1 Language GMAs

The most important and most visible change the board has made is the language used at the GMAs. The board held the first GMAy in English as a try-out. In general, this went down very well and therefore the board decided to hold the remaining GMAs in English. The board has noticed that there are more and more international board members, and by holding the GMAs in English, they are also accessible to them. This leads to more input at the GMAs. The board is aware that speaking English can be a barrier for Dutch-speaking board members. The board has therefore decided that members may at all times give input in both Dutch and English during the GMAs. This input can be repeated and translated so that everyone understands each other. The board has experienced the change in the language of the GMA as positive and the member associations also see this as a positive change. The advice for the XXXIInd board is to keep this change and to look at the possibilities to be even more accessible and inclusive for the member associations.







#### 2.1.2 Internationalisation handbook

Another step taken regarding internationalisation is the writing of an internationalisation handbook. This handbook helps boards to internationalise their associations if desired. The handbook has also been discussed at an GMA. If any associations have additional tips, the board hopes to receive them so they can be included in the handbook. The handbook can be found on the SOFy website.

#### 2.1.3 Activities

The board has made an effort to offer all activities bilingually, where possible. For example, there is both an English and a Dutch EHBDD course. This also applies to the Photoshop and InDesign courses. For informal activities we looked at the Lingua Receptiva: the language that best suits the people present. However, it turned out to be very difficult to encourage the speaking of English at informal activities. This became clear during the gala and the barbecue, for example. Because no international board members had applied for the cantus, it was also only organised in Dutch. The advice for the XXXIInd board is to look at the needs of the participants per activity.

#### 2.1.4 Social media

SOFv's social media pages contain posts in both Dutch and English. SOFv has communicated on these channels with 'English follows Dutch'. This has led to an accessible communication. The well-known cobo posts on Facebook, however, were often in Dutch. SOFv will look into whether a solution can be found for this. Nevertheless, the SOFv will continue with accessible communication to all parties on its social media pages.

## 2.2 Workshops

In recent weeks, the SOFv has surveyed the extent to which there is enthusiasm for diversity and inclusiveness workshops. There are a number of associations that have





expressed their interest in this. The board is currently in consultation to organize the workshops at the beginning of the coming academic year.





## 3.0 Constitution Drinks

At the beginning of the academic year, it was possible to organise a constitution drink until 00.00 hours. The board has tried to put the general rules about holding a constitution drink in a handbook. This handbook can be used as a support tool when organising a constitution drink. During the cobo season, the handbook was updated a number of times. The advice is for the XXXIInd board to take a closer look at this handbook for the coming cobo season. Here, too, the associations are free to make additional tips known and to correct any shortcomings in the handbook.

A real second cobo season took place in the second half of the year. SOFv was able to celebrate its constitution with many people and also attended receptions at associations. The constitution receptions remain a nice way of getting to know each other and connecting directors. SOFv hopes that the cobo culture will continue and that these cobos will bring administrative Nijmegen closer together.







## 4.0 Collaborations

SOFv has several collaborations with other boards and umbrella organisations. In this chapter, the board looks back on these and gives its advice for the coming year.

## 4.1 Faculty umbrella meetings

The aim of the board is stated in the policy plan to maintain the collaboration between the four faculty umbrella organisations. This year, one faculty umbrella consultation took place in February. The board of the SOFv has advised the future board to organize these umbrella meetings more often, as these are good feedback moments in addition to the room visits and can reveal differences and similarities between the faculties.

## 4.2 Collaborations between associations

In the past year, the board has been busy explaining the subsidies that can be applied for at SOFv, namely the group travel subsidy, wellbeing subsidy and incentive subsidy. Unfortunately, only one activity was formally organised as a cooperation between associations. SOFv expects that this was largely caused by the Covid-19 crisis. Therefore, the advice for the XXXIInd Board is to encourage these collaborations even more.

#### 4.3 National Collaboration

SOFv is a member of the national platform for umbrella associations L.P.S.V. Exedra. The meetings of this body aim to provide knowledge and give the SOFv the opportunity to discuss problems with other similar associations. Last year, SOFv attended two meetings of this platform. However, experience has shown that SOFv is rather ahead of other student cities. SOFv therefore sees this platform more as providing information to other cities than as an added value for SOFv and its member associations. Therefore, the advice for the XXXIInd board is that they can evaluate themselves whether this platform is an added value for SOFv and its member associations.







## 5.0 Lustrum and Activities

Since SOFv could not celebrate its lustrum last year because of the restrictions concerning Covid-19, SOFv has celebrated this extensively during the lustrum gala. Apart from this gala, in this chapter the board will look back on the other activities that have been organised during the year.

## 5.1. Introductory Activity

At the beginning of the academic year, often before the changeover to the SOFv, SOFv organises the introductory activity for board members. This year, it was held on the terrace of the Molenstraat. More than 115 board members were present. During the activity, while enjoying a drink and a snack, orientation games were played. For example, the prejudice game, but also a 'know your associations game'. The feedback from the GMA was very positive. In the future, the board members would like to exchange more games, but due to Covid-19 this was not possible this year. Of course, this remark was passed along as feedback to the XXXIIth board.

#### 5.2. Cantus

On 20 April the SOFv organised the annual SOFv cantus. Originally there were over 40 applications for this cantus, but the day before and on the day itself over 20 people had rejected their sign up. To prevent this from happening in the future, SOFv has advised a payment obligation to the next board. Despite the low attendance the cantus was a great success. The praesidium consisted of former SOFv board members who had created fun punishments and who had led the cantus in the right direction. In the future we will look for a cheaper location for the cantus, because the basement of the 3 Gezusters was very expensive. The GMA had no feedback concerning the cantus. The above mentioned recommendations have been passed on to the XXXIInd board.

## 5.3. Lustrumgala

On 24 May 2022, SOFv organised the lustrum gala. Because the lustrum gala could not be organised last year due to the restrictions concerning Covid-19, these festivities were postponed. This edition was celebrated with five generations of board members. The gala itself was a great success. The tickets sold out quickly, the location was well received, and people had a great time. This time, too, an after-





party was organised in the Molenstraat, experience has shown that this is optional since the majority was satisfied after the gala. After the gala, it turned out that many glasses at the location had been broken. SOFv advises the next board to insist on plastic glasses, even if this is not desirable at the location. In the aftermath of the gala, it also appeared that a financial mistake was made by the board. Due to hazy communication from the location, the mistake was made to budget the gala on the price excluding VAT instead of including VAT. This mistake was quickly discussed with the Advisory Board and with SLIM. In the attachments to the email you will find a letter that explains this situation better. SOFv takes full responsibility for this mistake and will do everything possible to make the association financially healthy again. Apart from this mistake, the gala was a great success and is definitely worth repeating. The alv also gave feedback that it was a successful edition and emphasized that plastic glasses would be a better idea next year. This has been passed on to the XXXIInd Board.

## 5.4. Barbecue

On 1 June 2022, SOFv organised the year-end barbecue at Scouting Traianus. This is the last activity of SOFv for current board members and the first activity for candidate board members. The board was happy to see that about as many familiar faces as new faces were present at the barbecue. A total of 240 people attended. The board looks back on a successful barbecue with enough food for everyone: vega, vegan and allergies. Due to the fact that the accommodation had to be empty at 10 o'clock sharp, an afterparty was organised in the Molenstraat. In the future, it would be wise to communicate this more clearly so that even more people go to the afterparty. Fortunately, dozens of people attended the afterparty after all. We advise the next board to keep the setup for next year the same, since attendees are free to go to the afterparty. The board found this activity very successful and a nice way to end the year.







## 6.0 Political Chair

Within the USR, the political chair participated in three working groups: Active Student, Campus & Sustainability and Education & ICT. These are the most relevant working groups for study associations. The points of interest relevant to study associations that he has worked on will be discussed below.

## 6.1 Sustainability Covenant

The USR has been talking with SLIM and the Green Office about the sustainability covenant. From this contact, it was decided that the Code of Conduct and the Sustainability Covenant would be merged. The plan was to realize this idea before the end of the year. After several conversations with SLIM and the Green Office, the USR had been told that this would be completed by the end of the year. However, this turned out not to be the case due to busyness at SLIM. After the vacations, this will be taken up again by SLIM and thus also by the new political commissioner.

## 6.2 Code of conduct

Even though the code of conduct has been discussed before, the political commissioner also wants to reflect on this topic from the USR. In the period that all codes of conduct were discussed, there was a lot of ambiguity within the various bodies of the university. As a result, not only the university was not sure about the rights of the USR but also the USR itself. The Political Commissioner regrets how these documents were handled by the university. In order to prevent another repetition of the situation, the Political Commissioner has written an extensive report about the situation for his current and further successors.

#### 6.3 Board months

Last year, work continued on the topic of board months. In 2020-2021, a noticition was prepared by the then political chair to look at the amount of board months for non-EEA students. In 2020-2021, the political commissioner has been working from the beginning of the year to bring attention to this issue. After a lot of discussion, it appeared that the amount of these months should be included in the profiling fund.





The profiling fund was postponed several times and therefore only discussed in the last cycle. During the handling of this document it appeared that it was not possible to make a special arrangement for non-EEA students. Despite this commitment, the USR has agreed to the profiling fund under strict conditions. It was promised that next year the special arrangement for non-EEA students will be looked at again.

In addition, together with the review committee, we looked at how the amount of administrative months is handled. The student members of the review committee provided feedback on the process and shared ideas on areas of improvement that they saw. Some of this feedback has been incorporated into the profiling fund and should ensure a fairer distribution of administrative months among the various associations.

#### 6.4 Introduction

This year, the political commissioner looked at coinciding the introduction week of the RU and the HAN for next academic year. He has done this together with the Active Student Working Group. First we looked at moving the introduction week of the Radboud. After several conversations with the introduction coordinator it turned out that this was not an option for the Radboud. After this contact was made with the HAN and the municipality. These conversations concluded a common preference for different introduction weeks. The USR then made contact with the HAN and this contact will remain within the USR in the coming year. Due to various setbacks, concrete plans have not yet been made, but the political commissioner is pleased to have laid a good basis for future consultations to make them smoother.

#### 6.5 Active student

At the beginning of the year, it became apparent that some associations were still struggling to recruit active members and directors. These associations have indicated that help from the university is desired. In the Active Student Working Group, the Political Commissioner looked at possible support from the university. For example, an attempt was made to increase the compensation for board work and the idea was raised to also compensate active members of associations. However, the Executive Board was of the opinion that changing financial compensation was not a desirable solution.





In addition, the day of the student board was looked at. In collaboration with SLIM, a multi-day program versus a single day was considered. Unfortunately, it proved impossible to realize this plan in 2022. Fortunately, the prospect is that it will be possible in 2023.

In addition, the Political Commissioner has been working on the Student Participation and Activation Plan (SPA). This plan included several small projects to promote active student life. For example, videos were made about active student life and information sessions were held for prospective students during open days.

The Political Commissioner has also been involved with the new certificate for board months. The Political Commissioner is proud of the new regulation in which it is easier to apply for a board certificate.

## 6.6 Student Wellbeing

The political commissioner has looked at the role of the university in the area of student welfare. For example, the political commissioner has been closely involved around the measures surrounding the coronapandemic. Together with SLIM, he has written advice for all associations. Furthermore, there also have been several initiatives from the university to promote welfare. An example is the welfare subsidy. Furthermore, the USR has been closely involved in the 2023 Student Support Plan. This plan contains the broad outlines of how the university wants to deal with welfare for its students and the guidance it wants to offer. Furthermore, the USR has put the current housing problem on the agenda of the Executive Board on several occasions. Several solutions have come out of this. Think of the renovation of the Erasmus building. The political commissioner is satisfied with the role that the USR has been able to play in the field of student welfare but also sees that more can be done.







# 7. Appendix

## 7.1. Letter to GMA regarding gala

Dear members of SOFv, dear attendees at the general assembly,

By means of this letter, the XXXIst board of SOFv wants to report on the financial situation regarding the lustrum gala that took place on May 24, 2022. In processing the event, the board found out that there was an error in the administration. In this letter, the board will explain how this error could have occurred and what the board will do to resolve this error.

Like any association, SOFv carefully budgets its activities in advance. During the planning of the lustrum gala, a quote was requested several times from various parties to see what the best choice would be. Once the choice was made for the NEC Stadium De Goffert, Yvey Nijmegen (the catering manager) was contacted several times to make changes to the offer. These changes were only promised by mail and after repeated contact by telephone and mail, an agreement was finally given. The board therefore received various offers, each of these did not cleary state that the price was exclusive of VAT. This means that SOFv budgeted too little money for this activity because of this VAT and therefore made a substantial loss on this activity. The board deeply regrets this mistake. Immediately after discovering the error, the Advisory Council and Student Life and International Mobility (SLIM) was consulted.

In collaboration with these parties, we have decided to be transparent about this mistake and are happy to explain how we are going to solve it. As an association, SOFv has no ordinary members, as its members are the member associations. Because the fault lies with SOFv, we therefore want to resolve this situation internally and not put this at the expense of you, the associations. It has therefore been decided to make the upcoming activities of the SOFv more expensive for the participating parties (instead of one euro entrance we ask two euros). At the same time, SOFv wants to make use of the wellbeing subsidy that it also provides through SLIM to use it for the activities it organizes. SOFv will also try to collect more income from sponsors. In these three ways, SOFv will increase its income in order to pay for the losses of the gala.

SOFv would like to emphasize once again that this error should not have happened.





Unfortunately, however, we cannot change the past. SOFv will do everything in its power to ensure that the member associations are not disadvantaged by this error. If you have any questions, we will be happy to answer them during the assembly.

Sincerely,
On behalf of the XXXIth board SOFv,

Elsze van den Wittenboer Treasurer and Acting Chair 2021-2022

