

Annual Report SamenwerkingsOverleg Faculteitsverenigingen

2022-2023



Written by the XXXIInd board of SOFv:

Rianne Zwarts - Chair

Chris-Jan Hoekman - Secretary

Sebastian Blom - Treasurer

Anne van Poppel - Political Chair



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Samenwerkingsoverleg Faculteitsverenigingen
Heyendaalseweg 141, N-1.240, 6525AJ Nijmegen
info@sofv.nl www.sofv.nl

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1. Preface

Dear reader,

It is with great pride that the XXXIInd board of SamenwerkingsOverleg Faculteitsverenigingen (from hereon referred to as 'SOFv') officially presents its Annual Report for the previous study year. In this report you can find a summary of values, goals and practical information that the board of SOFv wants you to know. You will also find an evaluation of the activities and the past year in general.

The board of SOFv encourages you to read this document carefully and potential questions or remarks can be proposed during the general member assembly or in advance via email.

Kind regards,

Rianne Zwarts

Chair

Chris-Jan Hoekman

Secretary

Sebastian Blom

Treasurer

Anne van Poppel

Political Chair

SamenwerkingsOverleg Faculteitsverenigingen 2022-2022





2. Summary

The Annual Report was built upon the following structure; the newly set goals for the past year and the reflection on those, the general tasks and an update or evaluation on those, an evaluation of all the activities SOFv organised in the past year, inclusivity and diversity, SOFv and other associations, and lastly the evaluation of the University Student Council.

The board made a few changes. The first focal point of the XXXIInd board was to have greater involvement of international board members at SOFv. The board will continue the steps taken in internationalisation by previous boards. Another aim of the XXXIInd board was to increase the number of associations present at the General Member Assemblies by introducing a sign-out policy, which was very successful. A second change in comparison with the previous years is the house style. The XXXIInd board of SOFv introduced a house style which was implemented on all outputs of SOFv. To add to this, the board made more use of the social media channels of SOFv to increase the visibility for members and other interested parties. These changes both worked out very well. The last big change in comparison with previous year is that the XXXIInd board created two WhatsApp groups (one formal and one informal) to increase the facilitative role of SOFv by enabling the member associations to communicate in an easy way with one another. The board believes that this was successful.

3. Goals

Besides the three main functions (represent, facilitate and inform) of SOFv, the XXXIInd board aimed to improve and to reach the goals mentioned below during the past year.

- Keep SOFv an approachable entity;
- Attract new study associations to become members of SOFv;
- Take further steps towards internationalisation;
- Enlarging the presence of the GMA's;
- Increase the activity at the Instagram page of SOFv;
- Promote sustainability among member associations;
- Garner more involvement, visibility, and input from member associations;
- Create a recognisable house style.

The XXXIInd board is pleased to inform that most of the goals mentioned are either completely or partially achieved. As you will read along this piece, the board will more elaborately touch upon how these different goals have been achieved.



4. General

4.1 General Member Assemblies

The General Member Assemblies (GMA) take place just before the end of every cyclus of the University Student Council (USC). The planning was communicated to all member associations via email before the start of the academic year. The GMAs have taken place in the Elinor Ostrom Building, in the Leon Wecke Hall, with one exception, when the GMA took place in the Maria Montessori building.

The turnout to the GMA's hosted by the board of SOFv has increased drastically as opposed to the previous years, averaging to a total of eighty-five people per GMA. This influx in people has led to subsequent greater turnout at the After Drinks in De Ondergang and the following After Party in De Molenstraat. The latter being introduced this year. This has resulted in a more communal sense amongst board members of varying disciplines. The goal of SOFv to connect their members was achieved.

During consultations with the previous boards, it became apparent that a high attendance at GMA's has been a challenge. Low attendance resulted in difficulties during voting and possible misrepresentation of the member associations. For that reason, the board wishes to highlight that it is expected for every member association to be present (or represented) during the GMA's. This can be done physically or through an authorisation. When necessary, exceptions can be made by formally announcing their absence through an email. This year the board implemented the rule of obligatory notification in case of absence, as the board expects all their member organisations to be present during GMA's. This change in rules was welcomed universally by members of SOFv and partially explains the great turnout at GMA's this year. The board suggests their successors to hold onto this rule. As more board members got to know what the SOFv GMA's entail, more people started attending these GMA's. There has been a steady increase in attendance numbers over the course of the academic year.

The guest speakers at GMA's this year varied from DEI-ambassadors to Career Services and from representatives from SLIM to a statement from the Radboud Green Office. The member organisations' opinion on guest speakers varied greatly, with some opting for more guest speakers, while others preferred none whatsoever. It is the advice to the XXXIIIrd board to decide critically who to invite for their GMA's and to evaluate their current relevance to study organisations.

4.2 Office Visits

As is custom at SOFv the board has visited their member organisations via Office visits. During the first round all members have been visited to get to know the boards better and allow for questions and a quick inventorisation of possible issues. 26 organisations were



visited during the optional second round as members could choose themselves if they wanted a quick check up. The board feels that the goals of these visits have been achieved as more insight was given on the areas SOFv can be of assistance to the board and what SOFv membership entails. Furthermore, the visits have shown to improve the cohesion between member associations and SOFv. Most visits have taken place in the boardrooms of the member associations. Few were held in the SOFvice when the members could not host us.

4.3 Code of Conduct

The discussion about the Code of Conduct for associations as well as the Declaration of Intent for mentors during the introduction has again been a big topic for the Political Chair this year. The board is however pleased to announce that a lot of progress has been made in both the communication from Student Life and International Mobility (SLIM) and the procedure in which both documents are drawn up.

The Code of Conduct for associations will be reviewed in the upcoming year. An input session with the associations and the Political Chair has already taken place this year, and a second input session will be planned in the upcoming months. This to ensure input from multiple years and with that also multiple views. The XXXIInd board advises the Political Chair to keep actively involved in these sessions as well as the decision making process.

For the Declaration of Intent for mentors during the introduction week, an input session was organised by SLIM in the beginning of the year. Most input from this session was implemented in the document. As there have been problems with the voting rights and the say of students on these types of documents for a long time, the University Student Council addressed this issue early on in the year. Unfortunately, due to the lack of response and active response from the Executive Board the voting matters on this document could not be completed before the introduction week and thus an older version of the document had to be used. In the last week of August, the Executive Board finally informed us that the University Council could have voting rights on the document after which it was voted in. .

4.4 Alcohol Policy

To create unity amongst all study associations and to comply with national policies on alcohol use, the Radboud University has been working on an Alcohol Policy. The Alcohol Policy was actually already created in the last academic year thus no input from either the associations or the University Council were asked in the past year. Due to uncertainty regarding voting rights and how the document needs to be presented to the Joint Meeting, the Alcohol Policy has not been discussed this year. The XXXIInd board however expects that this document will be presented in the upcoming year and advises the Political Chair to be actively involved in this process and ensure that input from associations are heard when this policy will be finalised.



4.5 Career Central

In the year of the XXXth board the university created the career platform called Career Central. In the last two years the board of SOFv was closely involved in the execution of this initiative and a workgroup had been set up to involve student board members. Although the platform was finished last year, the board of SOFv feels it is still important that the interests of the study associations are being looked after. This year, the board of SOFv played an active role in this platform to ensure an open and transparent way of communicating the course of events. Career Services plans to continue the workgroup to make sure the study associations can continue contributing to the improvement of the platform. The board advises the next board to stay involved with this workgroup to ensure that the needs of the members of SOFv that are not in the workgroup, are looked after as well.

4.6 Board room

In the beginning of the year, the boardroom of SOFv is located beneath the Elinor Ostrom building (N -1.323). The boardroom was in the past year regularly occupied by one of its board members. As part of its greater goal of visibility, the board of SOFv invites its member associations to visit this room for a cup of coffee or to discuss any upcoming board-related issues during office hours. These so called SOFvice hours were held every week on two weekdays. Not all the days were very well visited. However, the board advises to their successors to keep up with the SOFvice hours since they believe it to be a great way to welcome members of SOFv in an more personal matter. Furthermore, “De Ondergang” as the hallway beneath the EOS building is called, was redistributed this year. This means that SOFv now has a new office: N -1.240. This is an office on the window side. The board is very pleased with this new location since SOFv is more visible and there will be fresh air and daylight in the office which will make it more appealing for members to stop by.

4.7 Databases

Over the years, SOFv has composed a number of databases for its member associations to use. At the beginning of the year, when translating the database from Dutch to English it became clear that most data was outdated. A short list has been provided on the website however we recommend the following boards to assess via a survey what good locations are for trips so the information can be put as a database on the website . Also to aid in the search for sustainable destinations with the SLIM subsidies.

4.8 House style

The board of SOFv wished to improve the style and look of documents and social media to





reach the goal of professionalisation and recognition. For this reason, the XXXIInd board created a guideline. The guideline has been implemented in every outing of SOFv. This, combined with templates in the online design tool Canva, has resulted in a more clean, uniform and somewhat professional look on social media and documents. Thus achieving the desired result. It is up to the successive boards to change or keep this style.

4.9 (Social) media

One goal this year was to make SOFv more noticeable or visible in Nijmegen student society. One of the ways of achieving this goal is to take a more proactive role on social media. SOFv hosts an arsenal of different platforms on which promotion and information has been shared.

4.9.1 WhatsApp

At the beginning of the year, two group chats were created. Where the first chat has a more formal and functional function. This meant that only the members of the board of SOFv will be able to send messages. Every association will be able to add two persons to this chat. The messages will contain updates about certain topics, announcements of activities, and reminders for activities/ GMAs. The limit of two persons, while looking back on it, does not make that much sense as no comments can be made in the chat. In the future we recommend allowing every board member to join with a minimum of one per member organisation.

The second chat is more informal and social. This chat is meant to function as an easier way for boards to contact each other about various topics. This way, SOFv can fulfil its function as a bridge between associations even when not at an activity or office hour.

Guidelines in the description discouraged undesired behaviour in the informal group chat. All in all, the members of the chat could be trusted with the platform and helped where needed when questions were asked. Data from the enquiry done at the last GMA showed that not everyone knew that there were two group chats. This is also a recommendation for the coming board to promote this even further during activities and the GMA's or on social media.

4.9.2 Instagram

The Instagram page of SOFv has been utilised to promote the activities and to announce guest speakers and to host polls on various topics. This way, the information is more accessible for all member associations. With every post or story, the house style of SOFv will be implemented to make it easily recognisable. There also was an aim to post content twice per week however this has proven to be somewhat unnecessary in less busy times between GMA's. All in all, the board is quite satisfied with the role of Instagram and recommends the subsequent boards to utilise this platform as well.





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info@sofv.nl www.sofv.nl

4.9.3 LinkedIn

The LinkedIn page of SOFv has been used more often in comparison with previous years.. The board made a post after every GMA, and after an interesting topic that was discussed during a GMA. The platform has also been used to promote or repost posts of the university when that was desired. This platform has catered less towards the individual board members of member-organisations but more towards the various departments of the university for positive relations and visibility and the enterprises outside of the university that are interested in sponsorship deals or other professional possibilities. The board is positive about the increased use of LinkedIn as this resulted in a significant rise of followers and made sure that followers were informed about the pursuits of SOFv on a regular basis.

4.9.4 Website

The new website has kept its main function as the easy and accessible place for all important documents and information about member associations. Moreover the board has updated pages to be correct and added new information when needed.

4.9.5 Facebook

The XXXIInd board has not used Facebook.

4.10 Internationalisation

Including and attracting international students has been an important theme over the past few years within the university and SOFv. More and more board positions are being fulfilled by international students and more associations are working towards internationalisation within their association. The previous boards already made a start with the transition towards internationalisation and this year the board of SOFv continued this transition. The board provided GMA documents in English exclusively and likewise changed the communication via social media and mail. Member organisations were of course still allowed to send emails to SOFv in Dutch, and ask questions during GMAs in Dutch. This option was used quite regularly. The board hosted all activities in English to include as many people as possible. If there weren't any international students present at one of the activities, the activity continued in Dutch, this only happened for the EHBO Theme Day. For the BHV (ER) courses a bilingual option was offered, as the board wanted to make sure everyone was well informed on this life saving topic.

From several international board members, the board of SOFv received positive feedback on our efforts in making SOFv a more welcoming place for international students. Some even came up to us for assistance in organising events in English at Radboud University.





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Besides this, all communication via social media and official emails occurred in English, to no complaints. We therefore advise the successor board to keep up this internationalisation of SOFv, as we expect the number of international board members to rise in the upcoming years.

4.11 Unplanned safety hazards

As in the past years COVID-19 has played a big role. The XXXIInd board is pleased no major infectious disease or other unplanned safety hazards took over the boardyear. The board advises their successors to always consider the possibilities and the risk when an unplanned safety hazard may occur.

4.12 Sponsoring

The academic year of 2022-2023 proved to be the first year the board of SOFv dabbled into finding sponsorship deals to counteract the losses made in the previous year and to improve the total equity of the association. The deals included a partnership with Oubaha Company to organise several activities of SOFv in De Molenstraat. In return we were given a total of €750.00 (seven hundred fifty euro). Furthermore, the board closed deals with FEBO Nijmegen and Drukkerij Luxor. It has been the aim of the board to search for unique partners that won't be in conflicting interest to the member organisations of SOFv.



5. Activities

This chapter of the report is aimed to look back and recap the events and activities organised by the board of SOFv during the past academic year. This includes the formal and informal activities aimed towards the board members of member organisations of SOFv.

5.1 New Boards Get Together

During this event, all boards of member associations of SOFv were invited to get to know each other. This event took place at the beginning of the year on 7 September. The board members of Stichting RAGweek Nijmegen helped out with several games during the evening in line with previous years. This proved to be pleasant, regarding the great turn-out of people. The total number of attendees was more than a hundred and the event was organised at Hubert. This event turned out to be well-received by our members, they got to introduce themselves to a great variety of their fellow board members and some valuable connections were made. While playing games, enjoying a few drinks and partaking in an insightful trivia quiz about Nijmegen and student jargon, the board members got to know each other and SOFv a little bit better. The board encourages their successors to organise their introductory activity similarly, but with their own personal twist.

5.2 BHV/Emergency Response course

For any board it is vital to have knowledge on how to react when emergencies occur during one of their activities. It is therefore advised that board members are aware of updated safety procedures, and it is for this reason that the board of SOFv hosted a two-meeting course in Emergency Response (Dutch: BHV). It was a workshop taught by a professional first responder and prepares participants for all sorts of emergency situations. The goal was to teach every participating board member valuable lessons in how to respond to emergency situations. This activity was open for all student board members.

A total number of fifty-five board members attended this course. Due to some scheduling issues with the trainer of this course, a couple of board members couldn't attend the second meeting of the course, but fortunately this could be caught up later during the first semester. The board would like to advise their successors to frequently keep up with the trainer of the course during the months and weeks prior to the event, to prevent scheduling issues in the future. All in all, this event was regarded as valuable and many participants were taught some indispensable lessons.

5.3 EHBDD Workshop

The aim of the First Aid for Alcohol and Drugs Workshop (in Dutch: Eerste Hulp Bij Drank en Drugs) was to teach board members how to deal with (people under the influence of) alcohol and/or drugs. A total of thirty board members attended this workshop.





This year this workshop was expanded by a resuscitation course, given by Taskforce QRS Nijmegen. The overall reception of this event was positive, although the GMA had some remarks on it, mainly that the instructors were of a younger age than expected. The board advises their successors to implement some changes to the formula of this workshop, in order to better cater this course to student board members. These include a more thought-out plan conformed to the needs and desires of current board members. Even though the information given during this course was valuable, it could have been more in touch with the target audience of SOFv. Some board members for example remarked that they preferred help with enforcement on their own alcohol and drugs policy.

5.4 Photoshop and InDesign Workshop

The goal of this activity is to teach boards or their graphic design committees the ins- and outs of photoshop and InDesign. The total number of attendees was thirty-five. With the purchase of a manual on these programmes the attendees went through a step by step course. This manual is available via mail as the maker asked SOFv to not freely distribute it online. The Secretary and an alumni-board member helped during the course.

5.5 After CoBo Activity

At the end of the Constitution drinks (CoBos) season, SOFv organised an After CoBo Activity in order to celebrate the end of the CoBo season together. All board members of the member organisations of SOFv were invited to this event. The activity took place at House of Billiards and at Café Van Buren and was held on 6 February. Over a hundred student board members attended this event. The evening started with two hours of playing pool at House of Billiards, the theme was "Pool Party". Afterwards the students were invited to continue the evening with a pubquiz organised at Café Van Buren concerning all things CoBo related. Board members were tested on their knowledge of the events of the past semester to much enthusiasm of their peers.

This activity was well-received. The attendees responded especially positively on the addition of a more active element to the traditional pubquiz. It is therefore the board would like to advise their successors to continue trying to add these types of activities to this particular event, as it is a memorable way to close off a very special time during one's board year. Due to scheduling issues with an external party, this event was moved one week forward than was planned originally, which left it to be held exactly a week prior to the Cantus. The board would therefore advise their successors to spread out the major activities more evenly during the year.

5.6 Cantus

SOFv organised their annual Cantus on 13 February at De Drie Gezusters. All board members of member organisations were invited to celebrate the beautiful tradition of the





Cantus by singing together and toasting with each other. Past board members of SOFV were asked to join the praesidium and several friends of the current board were appointed as pro-seniors. One hundred board members attended this event. The board of SOFV prepared this year's Codex with much care, with the aim that this codex could be used again in the future with only minor changes. As part of our contract with De Molenstraat, it was decided that the Cantus were to take place here. The location was well received, the atmosphere was quite grimmig and the praesidium did their best to keep the participants under control. The event took place in English as there were some international students attending the activity. The Cantus took approximately three hours, that was until we ran out of beer, in hindsight there could have been an extra fust, but in reality most people had already had enough to drink. After this activity an After-drink was organised in De Molenstraat. This event was overall well-received, payment went via requests prior to the activity, participants with dietary or special beverages wishes were also taken into account and there were no incidents reported.

5.7 EHBO Theme Day

The board of SOFV received input from the GMA to host a second round of ER courses in the spring semester, as some people weren't able to attend the first round in the fall. The board responded by hosting a special EHBO (ER) Theme Day for its board members of study organisations. This activity took place on 1 March during the day and included a resuscitation course as well as some theory lessons on how to respond in emergency situations. The course was taught by Ricardo Soekhoe and the resuscitation course was organised by Taskforce QRS. The attendance for this event was disappointing, totaling to a number of 13 participants, but nevertheless, the board found this topic to be of great importance, therefore the activity proceeded. For next year, the board suggests to inventarise the heartiness of their members for this type of activity thoroughly

5.7 Gala

The annual Boards Gala took place on 9 March 2023 at Fort Lent. Over 250 board members of the current and past academic year attended this joyous event, with the theme: "A touch of Gold". Registration for this event went smoothly thanks to the use of the online ticketing system Eventix. Participants could directly fill in their information and received their tickets with a unique QR-code immediately after purchase. This helped the board sort out information much more quickly and efficiently, saving them unnecessary work. The board would advise their successors to continue working with this or a similar payment system. The evening proceeded in an orderly fashion as people were able to present their codes at the entrance and with the board members of SOFV being able to give them their wristbands. The board looks back positively at this event as we had much joy in organising this event. We were pleased with Fort Lent as a location for this Gala, communication went very smoothly and everything was handled with care and professionalism. After this event,





there was an After-drink in De Molenstraat, which was very busy and kept the party going until the early morning. Besides the stormy weather, everything went as planned, which the board was grateful for and no incidents were reported.

5.8 BBQ

At the end of the year on 1 June 2023 the board of SOFv organised their End of the Year Barbecue as the closing of the current board year and as an introduction to the new board members of member organisations. This year, contrary to previous years, this event took place on campus. The change in location left some people hesitant, but proved to be an adequate alternative to Scouting Trajanus. The perks included an easy accessibility to our own facilities and the university and the fact that the location was free to reserve. The main critique for this location was the lack of a discrete and outdoorsy atmosphere. Over 260 board members of the current and upcoming academic year attended this event, who all fit quite snug behind the EOS building. All dietary and allergic preferences of the participants were taken into account. The board advises their successors to organise this event similarly in the future.

5.9 Valentine's Day Surprise

As the board of SOFv realised at the halfway point of the academic year that a great deal of board members were in need of a little cheering up, we decided to surprise our member organisations on Valentine's Day with a yellow rose, a card wishing them good luck and a nice chit chat to show them our appreciation for their hard work in making Nijmegen a more vibrant student city and show them some well-deserved love. The board kept this activity a secret and the response of our member organisations was overwhelmingly positive, with some board members reaching out to us personally. We look back at a successful impromptu/surprise activity and we would like to suggest to our successors to continue trying out surprise activities for board members in order to keep their spirits up during a oftentimes hectic board year.

5.10 Boards Yearbook

The final 'activity' the board wishes to reflect on, is the first edition of the Boards Yearbook, published after the End of the Year Barbecue. During the course of the second semester it became apparent that most board members of different study organisations had developed a unique friendship with each other, unlike anything else. The board of SOFv thought of ways to capitalise on this kinship by commemorating and materialising this board year by publishing a yearbook for all its member organisations to take part in. Every study organisation was asked via email to send in a story regarding their board year and pictures of themselves. The reaction was undoubtedly positive among a lot of board members, which





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led to the creation of a yearbook committee, in order to compile this material. Within a couple of weeks this concept was sent to the printing house and a hundred and twenty books in total were eventually purchased by our board members. The board of SOFV expresses their wish for its successor board to continue this idea, as it has proven to be an adorable keepsake for many board members of a year unlike any other. Some suggestions are to start the process earlier on in the year, as it proved to be a bit overwhelming to try and implement as many ideas as possible in only a couple of weeks. The committee proved to be valuable to realise the goal.





6. Inclusivity and diversity

The XXXIInd board feels that topics like inclusivity and diversity are integral parts to an association to make sure every student feels welcome. To put these topics on the agenda within associations, the board invited the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion officer to talk about how this can be integrated and improved within your association.

In addition, the board wanted to actively contribute to a safer environment for the board members of the member associations. The Chair of the board participated in the Confidential Contact Person training to create a place where board members could go if they had any personal problems and wanted to talk about in a confidential setting. The Confidential Contact Person was contacted several times during the past year. Therefore, the board advises the next board to install a new Confidential Contact Person. By advice of the GMA, this should be an impartial person.

Looking at the feedback from member associations, the board advises the XXXIIIrd board to keep a Trust Person for board members but advised to choose someone who is not also a member of the board of SOFv.

7. SOFv and other associations

7.1 Collaborations between Associations

SOFv promotes the collaboration between associations by means of granting a subsidy for formal activities organised in collaboration between two or more associations related to Radboud University. Since study associations will be able to organise bigger activities with this subsidy and encourage the collaboration between associations, the board of SOFv brought this subsidy to the members' attention on multiple occasions. Collaborating when organising an activity could bring new experiences, ideas, and views on the activities. Furthermore, it could increase the interdisciplinarity of the association.

This year the subsidy was granted to four initiatives from eight member organisations in total. The organised activities differed from coöperative lustrum activities to symposia and were all regarded as valuable to the organising associations. The board would urge the successor board to delve into the possibilities of popularising this particular subsidy, as it was not often used this academic year, yet the organised activities were greatly appreciated for bringing students from different disciplines closer together.

7.2 Facultaire Koepel Overleggen (Faculty Umbrella Meetings)

The aim of the XXXIInd board of SOFv was to continue the line of the past board by attending meetings with the four umbrella associations of the faculties. The four associations are: Kompanio, Koepelvereniging LETO, Olympus and SVM. However, the board decided to add other faculty wide associations to these meetings as well. These





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associations are; JFV Nijmegen, TFV Nijmegen, MFVN, Awaz, F.C. Sophia. This way, the discussions were more elaborate and this also created a way to gather information that was more university wide. In total, three meetings have taken place. The XXXIInd board advises their successors to continue with these meetings since they were valuable to both SOFv and the joining associations.

7.3 SLIM Koepeloverleg (Umbrella Meeting)

The XXXIInd board attended all eight of the Umbrella Meetings hosted by Student Life and International Mobility (SLIM). During these meetings all umbrella associations (NSSR, CODC, B.O.S., ISON, and CSN) discuss ongoing matters and give updates to SLIM. SLIM also shares important updates and information during these meetings. The board advises the XXXIIIrd board to also attend all meetings since they are very important.

7.3 Municipality Major Meeting

The XXXIInd board attended all three municipality meetings over the course of the past year. The themes were respectively; students and the job market, Nijmegen, an inclusive student city, and lastly substance use. The board made sure that at least one board member was present during each of these meetings. The board believes it is important to make sure SOFv is involved with the municipality of Nijmegen to make sure the importance of study associations is mentioned and maintained towards the municipality within different topics.

7.4 Constitution Drinks

The XXXIst board of SOFv started with a CoBo-handbook. The XXXIInd board continued with this document and added more information to it. The members of SOFv were made aware of the existence of this handbook during the first GMA. The board is pleased with the existence of the document and encourages the next boards to keep improving the document. The XXXIInd board also wants to encourage the new boards to read the document and spread the document to the people present at their Constitution Drink as well.





8. University Student Council (USC)

Within the University Student Council (USC) the Political Chair participated in three working groups: Active Student, Campus & Sustainability and Wellbeing & Inclusion. The Political Chair felt that these working groups were most relevant for student associations. The board advises the next Political Chair to take a seat in at least in the workgroups Active Student and Campus & Sustainability. The points of interest relevant for study associations on which the Political Chair has worked will be discussed below.

8.1 Sustainability

In the beginning of the year, the USC had some meetings with the Green Office and SLIM on how to convey information to associations to make their associations more sustainable. Together with the Green Office, some input sessions were organised by the XXXIInd board for input on a handbook on how to make associations more sustainable. At first both the Political Chair and the Chair of the board were involved, but later this project was taken over by the Chair. The Green Office was happy with the input and created a handbook that will be presented. This handbook can be used in the upcoming years by associations that want to improve their sustainability. The handbook can be found on our website.

8.2 Board months

Following the work of her predecessors, the Political Chair has been actively involved in the review as well as discussions regarding the board months. The Political Chair first did not plan on participating in the review committee. However, due to the many questions and great importance of the review on board months for associations, the Political Chair found it important to be part of this committee in order to assist the associations in the best way possible.

Furthermore, the USC has put much effort in increasing the amount of money for one board month. A proposition was drawn up by the USC but unfortunately without a positive response. After many conversations with the Executive Board and Academic Affairs, the university agreed with a slight increase of the amount of board months with the promise this amount will be reviewed every year. The XXXIInd board advises the Political Chair to keep a close eye on this process.

8.3 Active Student

Unfortunately, the Political Chair has not been able to put the search for active members and board members on the agenda as much as she had wished. Together with other members of the USC, a lot of meetings were organised with the university to explain the importance of active student life next to your studies at university. The Political Chair feels





like the university is trying to be more actively involved in this, by for example organising the Week of the Active Student. She however does acknowledge that these projects can be much improved and thus advises to make it more of a priority to be involved in these types of projects and setting up new projects to activate active student life like certificates for active members.

Furthermore, the Political Chair has been very active in the discussion around the possibility of flexible studying. In the upcoming year, the pilot will come to an end and a policy proposition will be drawn up. The XXXIInd board valued the input of associations on this matter and recommended that the Political Chair will be actively involved in the creation of this policy taking into mind the values of the study associations.

8.4 Lively Campus

The Political Chair noted that in several conversations with associations it was mentioned that it had been challenging to attract new members to activities. The XXXIInd board felt that this was partly due to new students not finding housing in Nijmegen but also due to students having to get used to studying on campus and being involved at university again after two years of online or hybrid education. To improve the latter, the USC held some conversations with the university on how to create a lively campus where students want to be and feel at home. To reach this goal, the USC wrote a notion to prolong the opening hours of the Refter, University Library and Cultuurcafe. Agreements about this pilot did however not go as planned and the USC was not satisfied with how the pilot turned out. The exact results from the pilot are not yet known but the USC wrote recommendations for the next USC on how to continue with this pilot and hopefully build further on these ideas on how to create a more lively campus.

8.5 Political Party Umbrella Associations

It was expected that in the past year a discussion would take place regarding whether or not the Radboud University will follow the WHW (Wet Hoger onderwijs en Wetenschappelijk onderzoek). One consequence of completely following the WHW was that the position of Political Chair would disappear within the University Student Council. To ensure that the umbrella associations, and with that the study associations, would be represented even without a seat in the USC, the Political Chairs decided to set up a party and participate in the elections. The Political Chair kept the study associations up to date of the discussions regarding this through the political updates and when a decision was proposed, the plan of action as well as the idea behind this party was shared with the member associations in a separate document. Everything was well arranged and ready for the election week, when some internal issues within the USC, the different parties participating in the elections and the Executive Board made us decide to in the end withdraw from the elections.

For the discussion on the WHW to take place, the university had to arrange an independent



Samenwerkingsoverleg Faculteitsverenigingen
Heyendaalseweg 141, N-1.240, 6525AJ Nijmegen
info@sofv.nl www.sofv.nl

person to lead this discussion. As it was apparently very difficult to find this particular person, the discussion could not yet take place in the past year and is therefore scheduled for the upcoming year. On a positive note, the umbrella associations could still have a seat within the USC in the upcoming year.

As this discussion is of great importance for the future or the positions of the Political Chair of SOFv, the XXXIInd board advises the XXIIIrd board to take an active stance in this discussion. In the background, the Political Chairs from the previous year will start the preparations for participating in the elections in the upcoming year as was discussed and decided on this year. Good and clear communication with the new Political Chairs as well as the member associations will be of great importance.



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9. Epilogue

Dear reader,

It provides us great pleasure for you to have read the annual report of 2022-2023. This report served as an evaluation and reflection of our policy and other developments. We hope to have provided sufficient insight into the events of the past year. If any questions arose during reading, please feel free to ask them during the GMA.

This year we can positively reflect on the addition of new members to our association, the number of attendees at our GMA's and the vigour and enthusiasm that came with it. The many memorable activities we were able to share and have captured and assorted into the first edition of the SOFv yearbook.

Furthermore, we would like to thank the board members for their participation in making this year as special as it was. Whether it was your insightful questions during the GMA's or your, perhaps less insightful, shenanigans during the many wonderful COBO's and activities we have shared, you all have made this year memorable and invigorating.

We have confidence the XXXIIIrd board will lead the association with renewed exhilaration to further advancement. We hope they will experience an amazing and transformative year as the new board.

On behalf of the XXXIIInd board,

Rianne Zwarts

Chair of the XXXIIInd board of SOFv 2022-2023

