

Bi-annual Report SamenwerkingsOverleg Faculteitsverenigingen 2023-2024



XXXIIIrd board of SOFv:

Chair	-	Koen Terheijden	-	(he / him)
Secretary	-	Judith Oomen	-	(she / her)
Treasurer	-	Spence van Asperdt	-	(he / him)
Political Chair	-	Bente Huntjens	-	(she / her)



SamenwerkingsOverleg Faculteitsverenigingen
Heyendaalseweg 141, N-1.323, 6525AJ Nijmegen
info@sofv.nl www.sofv.nl

Preface

Dear reader,

Once again with great pride, the XXXIIIrd board of Samenwerkingsoverleg Faculteitsverenigingen (from this point onwards referred to as 'SOFv') presents its Biannual Report. In this report you can find a vision on what the board has been doing the last months and how they have been doing that. Furthermore, the document contains some predictions and plans for the upcoming months as well.

The Board of SOFv encourages you to read this document carefully and is looking forward to hearing your questions and remarks during the coming Semi Annual GMA.

And to end this preface, the board would like to restate their goals as they were made in the policy plan and invite you all to reflect on the past half year with these goals in mind.

- Keep SOFv an approachable entity;
- Attract new member organisations;
- Maintain the steady progress the of internationalisation of SOFv;
- Increase the large presence of members at the GMAs;
- Sustain the active presence of SOFv on their social media accounts;
- Promote sustainability among member associations;
- Garner more involvement, visibility and input from member associations;
- Conserve the recognisable house style;
- Assist in the training of new board members;
- Create increased awareness for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Sincerely,

The XXXIIIrd board of SOFv,

Koen Terheijden, Judith Oomen, Spence van Asperdt, and Bente Huntjens





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1.0 General

In this chapter the board looks back on the general functioning of SOFv and its day-to-day tasks. Also, recommendations will be made for the upcoming semester and/or next year.

1.1 GMA's

The General Member Assemblies (GMA's) have taken place approximately every six weeks as planned. The standard language has always been English at these GMA's, with the option to ask questions and make remarks in Dutch accompanied by a translation by the board.

The board has invited Student Life and International Mobility (06-12-2023), the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office (06-12-2023), and Best Kept Secret (07-02-2024) to the GMA's to inform and to make some room for discussion. The Green Office was also invited (07-02-2024) due to popular request. The board looks back contently on most of the speakers. At the Best Kept Secret talk however, it seemed that the language barrier got in the way of the message. The board has discussed the situation with Career Service, their partner for this event, which resulted in extra PR. Sadly, however, this most likely did not attribute to much.

Through the Political Chair Updates, members have been kept up to date with all relevant matters of the University Student Council (USC).

At the first few GMAs, the attendance had been consistently high. In most cases when a member organisation could not attend, they sent an email in advance and authorised another member organisation. The last GMA, however, had a surprising amount of absentees, often due to organisations having their own activity. The board has responded with an email restating the fact that GMA's can be attended by a part of the board when the others host an activity. The board hopes that the last GMA is not a sign of a downwards trend. The board would like to once again state that presence at GMA's is expected.

The afterdrinks in "de Ondergang" and Molenstraat have been successful, as they were attended by many board members and have proven to be a comfortable place where people get together to discuss board life and get to know each other better. Furthermore, remaining questions have regularly been asked at these drinks in a more laid back environment, which the board encourages.

1.2 Room Visits

The XXXIIIrd board has visited all fifty member organisations. There are a couple of boards that have recently switched boards. As of writing this piece the board is planning on visiting these new boards as well. Each conversation took between 45 and 90 minutes depending on which subjects or issues came up. In general, two SOFv board members came to visit. One to ask questions and the other to take minutes. When there was no alternative, a room visit was done by one board member.

The board sees the Room Visits as an important moment to meet all board members, to explain what SOFv is and to tackle some early issues and challenges which member organisations are facing. A





second round of room visits has started from March on. An excel sheet with a couple of new dates is shared with all the boards via email. This second round of visits is not mandatory. However, if there is something a board would like to discuss, an available spot can be reserved in this excel sheet.

1.3 House rules

At the GMA where this document will be discussed, the XXXIIIrd board also proposes a change in the House Rules (HR). This change is needed to allow the Vice-Political Chair to sit in the USC representing SOFv. Since the HR has been fully reviewed last year, the board did not deem it necessary to review and change the other articles..

1.4 Website

During the academic year of 2021-2022, the website has had a complete overhaul. In the previous academic year there were still some issues with the use of the website because of this. Since this year, the website is fully usable and renewed.

Further, the website has been updated with all the new members that recently have joined SOFv, the new Confidential Contact Persons and the most recent documents like the policy plan and database.

1.5. Documents

On the website a couple of documents can be found, most of which are in English. They consist of a database, a manual for Constitution Drinks, protocols on mourning and data breaches, a hand-out on mental support, an example of a non-disclosure agreement and the Sustainability Guide for Study Associations, which was created by The Green Office and SOFv. The database document has been updated. It now consists of study trip locations of the previous academic years, CoBo locations, locations for drinks, GMA locations, gala locations, weekend locations and juridical persons. The content of the database is gathered via room visits, older databases and input from members organisations.

There is also a detailed manual on using Photoshop and InDesign available on the website. This document was purchased the previous year to ensure the quality of information at the InDesign and Photoshop Workshop for this year and the years to come.

1.6 **Social** **media**

1.6.1 WhatsApp Groups

The utilisation of WhatsApp groups has proven to be highly effective in facilitating both formal and informal communication within the organisation. The establishment of two distinct group chats, each serving a specific purpose, has ensured clarity and efficiency in communication methods.

- Formal WhatsApp Group: This channel, where it's only possible for SOFv board members to speak in, serves as a vital platform for disseminating updates, announcements, and reminders regarding important topics and engagements. The absence of a maximum limit on the number of board members per study organisation has fostered inclusivity and enhanced collaboration





among our team. It has proven to be a very useful way to gather input from members via polls, or to increase a certain desired activity (e.g. sign-ups, lowering the threshold for questions, raising enthusiasm for activities).

- Informal WhatsApp Group: The relaxed and sociable atmosphere of this group has facilitated member interactions, discussions, and sharing of insights on diverse subjects. It has served as a valuable avenue for promoting activities, fostering camaraderie during events like the constitution drinks (CoBo), and nurturing a sense of community among the cohort.

1.6.2 Instagram Presence

The Instagram page continues to be a vibrant and essential tool for promoting activities and engaging with our student community. By maintaining a consistent presence with promotional videos, stories, and posts echoing the distinctive SOFV house style, the board has significantly increased its visibility and engagement levels.

1.6.3 LinkedIn Engagement

The engagement of the board on LinkedIn has been instrumental in enhancing the professional character and outreach. By utilising LinkedIn for posts related to GMAs, board announcements, recruiting for the DEI workgroup, and other professional endeavours, the board has expanded the reach and solidified the presence in the professional atmosphere.

The communication channels, including WhatsApp groups, Instagram, and LinkedIn, have played a pivotal role in fostering engagement, promoting activities, and nurturing a sense of community within the organisation. Moving forward, the board remains committed to optimising these channels to further the organisational goals and enhance the overall experience for members.

2.0 Activities





Since the start of the year, the board has organised several activities. In this chapter the activities that have taken place will be evaluated and the future activities will briefly be mentioned.

2.1 Formal Activities

2.1.1 Negotiation and Contract Making Training

This year, SOFv organised its first training for External Affairs Officers (or related/similar functions). During this training, given by a professional trainer, participants learned how to negotiate with potential partners, see the value their organisation has in the eyes of companies, and how to use rhetoric to confidently convince potential partners to invest in their organisation. Next to this, a template for making contracts was shared to be used by all member organisations. After the training, the board sent out an evaluation for the training, which resulted in positive reviews. The attendees especially appreciated the tips the speaker gave and the perspective they were given concerning the value of study associations in the eyes of companies. The board will recommend its successors to organise a similar workshop.

2.1.2 How-To-Chair Training

The second new activity organised by SOFv is the 'How-To-Chair Training'. This workshop was divided into a short presentation and a longer interactive part where the participants worked in small groups with several cases. In intervals, the cases and the solutions participants found were discussed in a plenary manner. The training was given by the Chair and Political Chair of the current board of SOFv. These people were chosen due to their experiences as Chairs of their own associations in the previous year. The decision for a training by student Chairs, and not for example a professional leadership trainer, was also influenced by the fact that the board believes they have themselves experienced many specific situations student Chairs have to deal with, next to sharing much of the relevant knowledge that a professional would have. This training too was followed by an evaluation resulting in generally positive reviews. The attendees appreciated the advice given by the trainers and tackling the cases with their peers. The board, therefore, advises the next board to continue this training.

2.1.3 Emergency Response Courses

The ER course took place six times in two different groups; a Dutch group and an English group. Both groups had an entire day that they had to attend in order to complete the course, divided into two sections (fire hazard and emergency response). A total of eighty to ninety people completed the course. Due to more demand for the course and some cancellations of previous courses, the board has decided to renew the course with one final date on the 12th of April. The board will recommend the XXXIVth board to continue these training sessions.





2.1.5 Workshop InDesign and Photoshop

SOFv provided an InDesign and Photoshop Course. During this workshop, members of SOFv and committee members of member organisations were invited to learn the basics of InDesign and Photoshop since these are the programs used most for promotional materials and organisational papers or magazines. A total of twenty-nine people showed up. Unfortunately, there were some technical difficulties during the workshop. The board had assumed that InDesign would be available on the computers of the university. However, this turned out to not be the case anymore. The computers in the room were checked beforehand, but the fact that InDesign only worked because one of the board members works at the university was not recognised. This caused some trouble in the beginning of the workshop. Eventually, the problem could be fixed, but the workshop still started later than planned and was therefore less useful than the board had hoped for.

Following the activity, the board was in extensive contact with the IT department of Radboud to try and find out what the problem was, since students are also supposed to be able to use InDesign in university computer rooms. It seems that since October last year, there have been changes in the Adobe Creative Cloud licence of the university. When an account is created by a student and logged in with, the program is supposed to recognise the Radboud computer and allow access to InDesign. This currently does not work in the room where the workshop took place, but should work in other designated student locations on campus like the University Library. The Radboud technical services have stated they are looking into the problem and they will contact SOFv when it is solved. The board has not yet heard anything from them at this moment. The board shall inform the next board about this situation so a similar situation can be prevented next years.

2.2 Informal Activities

2.2.1 New Boards Get Together

The first activity of the year was the New Boards Get Together. During this activity the board members of member organisations of SOFv could get to know one another better. At the event, several introductory games were played. The teams were made on a random basis which resulted in nicely mixed groups of different faculties and boards together. The board of Stichting RAG-Week Nijmegen helped the board of SOFv during the games.

The board was very pleased with the turn-out of 123 board members and the goal of the event, getting to know more other boards, was met. However, the start of the event was a bit chaotic. The idea was to start with a presentation in de Bieb, but unfortunately the screens did not work. Furthermore, a small mistake was made in the order in which teams had to play against each other. The board will advise their successors to plan a more organised setup for this activity.





2.2.2 SOFv-RAG Party

Following tradition, SOFv organised a party together with Stichting RAGweek Nijmegen to raise money for their selected charities. This time the theme was: RAG-SOFv All-Rules-Are-Off. A beerpong table was arranged for this activity. The turnout was lower than expected, but this did not spoil the evening.

2.2.3 After CoBo activity

On the 30th of January, the SOFv After CoBo activity took place. The activity consisted of two hours of pooling at House of Billiards, the SOFv after CoBo Pubquiz at 3Gezusters and an after drink at the Bieb. In total, seventy people showed up to the activity. The board is content about this activity. The communication with House of Biljards and the Molenstraat was nice and besides a last minute change of the location for the Pubquiz due to the Molenstraat's planning, no problems occurred. Further, the board has received positive reactions from the people that were present at the activity.

2.2.4. Cantus

On 26 February¹, the annual SOFv cantus was held at Ovum Novum. All board members of member organisations of SOFv were invited to the cantus. The praesidium consisted of three former board members of SOFv. The proseniors were board members of Stichting Ragweek Nijmegen and friends of the current board. There were 90 people present at the cantus. The board re-used the codex on the advice of its predecessors and made minor changes where necessary.

Contact with Ovum Novum ran smoothly. Placing the praesidium in the downstairs corner meant there was enough space for all members. Still, the board would advise their successors to try and find a location without a bend so the corona is one unit. At the cantus, soft drinks and beer were offered so that everyone had something to drink. Payments ran smoothly as 1,260.00 euros were received before the cantus started. The expenses are slightly below this amount but are, as of writing, still unclear because not all declarations and invoices have been received yet. For the next year, the board thinks it more practical for the cantus to look for experienced praesidium members within, but also outside of the pool of former SOFv boards. As some critical comments were received about peoples differing views on cantus traditions, the board thinks a more experienced praesidium would be more beneficial in this situation. In general, however, mostly positive comments were received. All feedback received will be passed along to the successors.

¹ note that the financial report was set before this event





2.2.3 Gala

In recent months, the board has started the organisation of the Gala. Several sponsors have already been arranged for it. A photographer has been selected and two DJ's as well. After careful consideration, the board has made the decision that the Gala will be held at Fort Lent again. The decision is primarily based on the price of the tickets, which will be the lowest possible at this location. The theme has also been decided, it will be 'fifty stars extravaganza', to celebrate the fifty members of SOFv. Furthermore, 'friends of SOFv' (e.g. other umbrellas and closely linked student organisations) are also invited. In an effort to circumvent the problem of the lack of cellular service at the location, the board will keep a physical list of the board members that will be present, which they will have prepared beforehand. More details will follow as the activity comes nearer.

2.2.4 SOFv BBQ

Just like every year, the board is planning to organise the SOFv BBQ for the current board members of this academic year and the candidate board members of next academic year. As of writing this piece, the board is busy planning and organising this BBQ. The BBQ will take place on the 6th of June.

2.3 Committees

2.3.1 Alumni Committee

At the start of this boardyear, an Alumni Committee was launched for SOFv. The goal of this committee is to bridge the gap between the board year and being a regular student for board members of member organisations of the year 2022-2023. The committee numbers four members who are past board members and one representative from the SOFv board.

Both activities stated in the policy plan have already been organised. The first being a drinks activity in the Marcus Antonius. At first it was decided to be an activity with an open bar, but after feedback from the target audience of this activity it was changed to a regular drink with drinking games, karaoke and free entry. The activity had about 30 people joining and produced positive reactions.

For the second activity, the committee planned to organise an activity with a panel of former board members who are already working. They would give short presentations on how their experiences as student board members helped them in their professional life after university. This would be followed by a Q&A. After extensive attempts, however, only two speakers were able to help, resulting in the last minute reshaping of the activity. It changed into a board game evening at the Faberzaal, where boards could meet and discuss their past year together and the time since, while enjoying a soda or other beverage. The evening also contained a short quiz. The evening was free due to a subsidy from SLIM. The goal of the evening was to be more easily accessible to former board members who have busy schedules with work, internships, or heavy masters programmes. The showup was not great, but





the people who were there seemed to have a nice relaxing evening. It was also apparent that most attendees were from the same faculty, so the board will advise their successors to look into ways of reaching more faculties.

The next board should keep a critical eye to whether they want to organise a formal activity or whether two activities are needed at all. If they choose a formal one, they should start the organisation of it early in the year. Next ot that they should look more critically to where a committee can be of help and what work is better reserved for the board members.

2.3.2 Yearbook committee

As of writing this piece, there are 3 sign ups for the yearbook committee. This will work, but more members would be helpful. As of writing this piece, a first meeting with the committee members is planned. Two board members will also be part of the committee.

2.4 General activities

2.4.1 Open SOFvice Hours

The XXXIIIrd board has continued with the SOFvice hours that were implemented by the XXXIIInd board. The board believes it is important that there is a fixed moment in the week for member organisations where there are board members in the office, so they can ask questions or come by for a talk.

The SOFvice hours started from November on. This choice was made because most room visits were done by that time. At first, the SOFvice hours took place on Wednesday and Friday from 1-3 P.M. However, the board noticed that a lot of the times the SOFvice hours were not visited that well, so it was decided to change the SOFvice hours to Friday from 1-3 P.M. only. The show up for the SOFvice hours did however remain very low. Still, the board is planning on continuing with the SOFvice hours, since they think it is an important way for members to be able to ask questions to the SOFv board members in person if needed.

Outside of the SOFvice hours, a lot of the times there are still board members in the office, so member organisations can also come by the office at other times.

This year, the board also started organising themed SOFvice hours. The themes that have been organised so far are chair, secretary, treasurer, external and board interest. These themed SOFvice hours were not visited well unfortunately. The board has therefore decided to keep the SOFvice hours regular and without themes.





3.0 Inclusivity of international students, diversity and well-being

3.1 Language

In almost all forms of written communication, English is the main language used. The board is also making a conscious effort to ensure that the English language is used during activities and meetings when a non-Dutch speaker is present. When a question is asked in Dutch, a translation is provided.

3.2 Workshops

Another way the board is trying to achieve more wellbeing is by promoting and also attending workshops on these topics and promoting the wellbeing subsidy. Besides, the board organised a workshop in collaboration with IrisZorg about opening the conversation about alcohol and drugs.

3.3 Confidential Contact Persons

Since this year, SOFv has two external Confidential Contact Persons (CCPs). The board believes that it is important to have external CCPs, since it could be possible that people want to discuss something regarding the current board of SOFv and people might not be comfortable with sharing this with the board itself.

The CCPs were chosen after a solicitation process. To prepare this solicitation process, the board has contacted the Confidential Advisors of the university, who gave some useful tips. The solicitation committee consisted of the secretary of the board and one member from the Advisory Council. The rest of the board could read the minutes that were made during the interviews. Both CCPs have done a boardyear before, so they know how it is to be on a board. This could be helpful in certain cases. Also, both CCPs have completed the CCP training from SLIM.

The CCPs both have their own email address, which can not be accessed by the board. These email addresses are ccp-siena@sofv.nl and ccp-daniel@sofv.nl.

3.4 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Recognizing the importance of fostering an inclusive and diverse environment within the organisation, SOFv has taken proactive steps to address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) concerns, as stated before in our policy plan. Building upon this commitment, the board is pleased to announce the establishment of a collaborative DEI Workgroup.

3.4.1 Formation of the DEI Workgroup

In collaboration with member organisations from diverse faculties such as JFV Nijmegen, NSO Eques, GSV Excalibur, Mundus, Marie Curie, DVN, Umoja, and the university's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Office, SOFv has initiated a comprehensive effort to create a practical and accessible handbook for DEI initiatives. The first meeting between these organisations has taken place and we are currently in the process of setting up new work sessions to write the handbook.





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3.4.2 Purpose and Objectives

The primary objective of this initiative is to develop a handbook that provides tangible guidance for implementing DEI principles within organisations in a low-threshold manner. Often, discussions surrounding DEI are abundant, yet the practical implementation remains challenging. Therefore, this handbook aims to bridge the gap by offering actionable insights on integrating DEI principles into various organisational activities and structures.

3.2.3 Importance of the Handbook

This handbook is intended to serve as a valuable resource for organisations aiming to enhance their DEI efforts. By offering practical strategies and best practices, it seeks to empower organisations to create more inclusive and diverse environments on multiple levels, tailored to their specific needs and current positioning within the DEI landscape.

Through the establishment of the DEI Workgroup and the development of the forthcoming handbook, SOFv reaffirms its commitment to fostering a culture of inclusivity, equity, and diversity within the organisation and beyond. We look forward to the positive impact this initiative will hopefully have on our community.





4.0 Improving cooperation

4.1 Faculty umbrella associations

In order to stay up to date with the various faculties, the XXXIIIrd board has organised two Faculty Umbrella Meetings with the chairs of the various Faculty Umbrellas and the chairs of Faculty Associations that are interested. Two of such meetings have already taken place at the time of writing. The meetings were received well and in the second semester a third meeting will be planned.

Furthermore, the board is thinking about having informal individual umbrella evaluations at more regular intervals to be able to see if there are problems in faculties more quickly and to be able to be more responsive to these problems. The value of these meetings, as opposed to the general ones, is that a meeting with an individual umbrella is more easily planned than one with all of them and the faculty associations. Next to this, the individual evaluations will allow for more depth in the questions about the various associations that fall under the umbrellas. The board would like to know the opinion of the member associations about this idea.

4.2 Cooperation between organisations

Another important function of SOFv is being the bridge between member organisations. The board notices the collaboration subsidy has been used the least for now and it aims to continue to make members aware of this subsidy to encourage formal cooperations between member organisations. If a member organisation wants to cooperate but has no idea with whom, SOFv can help to find a partner for their project. Member organisations can also do this themselves by using the WhatsApp group of SOFv with all board members.

4.3 Umbrella meetings (SLIM)

At the moment of writing, five umbrella meetings have taken place. In this meetings, the Chair of each umbrella association is present. SOFv represents study associations in this meeting. During these meetings, topics that are concerning the university are discussed. The board thinks it is important to continue attending these meetings to remain closely in contact with the university and other umbrella associations. Outside of the meetings, SOFv is also in close contact with the board members of the fellow umbrella association, which is experienced as pleasant.

An example of a result of these meetings is the cooperation between SOFv and NSSR for the Week of the Active Student. They will organise a lunch together where board life will be promoted.



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4.4 SLIM

Since the beginning of the boardyear, the XXXIIIrd board has been in regular contact with Guusje van den Ouweland, the representative from SLIM. The board has experienced this contact as pleasant, since SLIM has had a committed, helpful attitude towards SOFv. SOFv and SLIM have often had easy contact regarding matters such as subsidy applications through email, meetings, and when urgent through WhatsApp. The board is also appreciative of the generous subsidies it has been granted by SLIM for their activities. At this point, the largest part of the SLIM team has changed and the board is looking forward to meeting the new members.

4.5 Municipality meetings

The board has visited one Public Assembly (Brede Vergadering). This is a meeting organised by the municipality, where an open conversation can be held with for example student organisations and staff members of the university and municipality, about several topics regarding student life. The topic of this meeting was the (over)use of alcohol and drugs among students. The board has given some input and gathered useful information during this meeting. Next to that, the board also got in contact with IrisZorg via this meeting, with whom the board is now organising an 'Opening the Conversation: Alcohol and Drugs' training.

4.6 Constitution Drinks

The XXXIIIrd board looks back on an energising CoBo season this year and the connections that were made there. The CoBo manual was adapted to this year and the rules were mostly followed. The board has enjoyed visiting your CoBos and appreciates your presence at their own CoBo. If any problems during a CoBo occur, the board of SOFv is always available for help.





5.0 USC and advocacy

5.1 Points of interest this year

The Political Chair is currently active within the University Student Council (USC) in three working groups: Active Student, Campus & Sustainability and Well-being & Inclusion. The points of interest for study associations that she is working on will be discussed below.

5.1.1 Profiling Fund

The Profiling Fund document explains the financial support students can receive from the university due to different reasons of study delay. This year, the entire document will be reviewed. The Political Chair of SOFv has a seat on the Profiling Fund working group to provide input on the revision of the document. Input from associations and critical reflection from the umbrellas and USC have all been taken to this working group. At the moment, matters are being legally examined on what is possible to change. Some parts have been separated and are being discussed through other ways. Those parts will be mainly worked out through other paths, the main lines will then be in the Profiling Fund. Eventually, the working group will have a chance to see those documents too. The code of conduct, which serves as an annex to the Profiling Fund, is currently being rewritten based on the input sessions organised by SLIM.

The review committee is planning an evaluation moment to discuss the review criteria and make the process easier, fairer and more transparent.

The Political Chair of SOFv believes that it is very important to have a fair, beneficial, easy and transparent way of reviewing. To give the best possible input on this, she has been in touch with several cities. Here, she discussed what works and what does not work in terms of testing. A lot of inspiration was gained here in possible forms of testing and possible criteria. The Political Chair is currently writing a new plan to present to the review committee and to SLIM.

In addition, the USC wrote a notation at the beginning of the year regarding the decoupling of board months for student co-determination. A delegation group, including the Political Chair of SOFv, is in an ongoing process to put this into action. There are regular meetings with the Rector Magnificus and Student Affairs to discuss the possibilities on this.

5.1.2 New Spinoza Building

By serving on the "kennisgroep onderwijsvoorzieningen Spinoza", the Political Chair gained more insight into the progress of the Spinoza building renovation. The aim of educational facilities is to create multiple zones. Here, different styles of learning will be taken into account. The needs of current working styles will also be taken into account. In addition, the aim is to create a building where mobility is encouraged and daylight and greenery are central.

The focus for study associations was mostly on visibility, accessibility, freedom and space. Unfortunately, it was difficult to get more clarity on the status of rooms for study associations.





SamenwerkingsOverleg Faculteitsverenigingen
Heyendaalseweg 141, N-1.323, 6525AJ Nijmegen
info@sofv.nl www.sofv.nl

Eventually, the Political Chair managed to get in touch with the project team. A part of the project team gave a state of affairs to the FSCs and assessors of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies, Koepelvereniging LETO and the Political Chair of SOFv. Soon, the relevant study associations will be given a presentation on the possibilities and what their wishes are. Then the FSCs, assessors, Koepelvereniging LETO and the Political Chair of SOFv will make the most advantageous division possible. It will be investigated whether it is possible to set criteria so that the spaces can be divided transparently and there is the possibility of modification if necessary.

5.1.3 Sustainability Certificate

Together with Green Office, the possibilities for a sustainability certificate are being investigated. A questionnaire will soon be circulated to associations. This questionnaire serves as a zero-measurement and an investigation into where the needs and obstacles lie. In this way, a realistic sustainability certificate can be created. The aim is to have this certificate completed by next academic year.

5.1.4 Flexible Studying

The Political Chair aims to create a more uniform and accessible policy on flexible study. She has already met with a policy officer to discuss the state of affairs. It emerged that the university itself had conducted a final evaluation among the students and staff involved. It showed that flexible studying is seen as a very positive means of combining studies with other tasks. Despite these positive sounds, there are still areas for improvement. The Political Chair is likely to join a working group to improve the facilities of flexible studying. One of the goals is to obtain a uniform arrangement across the entire university. It is also important to promote it well among students and staff so that everyone knows what it is and where they stand. In addition, efforts will be made to lower the threshold to obtain flexible studying. To meet ends with the policymakers it is probably not possible to make it more flexible and accessible for more students. Their goal is to make the fundamentals better. Eventually, the USC, probably the new Political Chair of SOFv, can continue working on this.

5.1.5 Joining ISO

The Political Chair of SOFv has decided to take on the contactship ISO. This is the umbrella organisation for all Dutch co-determination councils. Its purpose is to get input and inspiration from other cities that can help Nijmegen's associations and students. For now, ISO has mainly been used to contact different cities for input around the review committee





5.1.6 Verenigd Onder Studentbelang (V.O.S.)

As mentioned in the Policy Plan and the Political updates, Political Chairs will, from now on, participate in USC elections through V.O.S.. This is because, from the 2024-2025 academic year on, it will no longer be possible for the Political Chairs to participate in the USC through the appointed seats. Since the Political Chairs are of great importance in representing studying Nijmegen and mainly the active students, they will join as a party. This party is V.O.S..

The current Political Chairs are working with the V.O.S. board on the upcoming party programme and the shape of the campaign.

5.1.7 Vice-Political Chair

With the arrival of V.O.S., it has been decided to add a Vice-Political Chair to the SOFv board. This will guarantee more advocacy through SOFv's channels. The vice-Political Chair will act as an additional participant on the list. Due to the construction of V.O.S., this person will be between spot 7 and spot 15. The aim is to put this person as high as possible on the list, so that there is a better chance that they will eventually be voted in. Because this position is highly dependent on the outcome of the elections, a plan has been drawn up for both scenarios

When voted in

If the vice-Political Chair has enough votes and is the next option according to the construction of V.O.S., the vice-Political Chair will have exactly the same function as the Political Chair and have a seat in the USC. These two positions will then work together with the other party members of V.O.S. to represent SOFv and the other umbrellas.

When not voted in

If the vice-Political Chair does not have enough votes and/or does not meet the construction of V.O.S., this person will not serve on the USC. This person, along with other party members of V.O.S., will help read policy documents and support with projects. In addition, this person will act as a board member of SOFv who actively gathers the wishes and interests of member organisations and provides feedback to the rest of the board and the USC. In this way, SOFv, and thus V.O.S., will stay more up to date on the current needs and state of affairs of its members. In addition, depending on other things on the formation of V.O.S., there will be an opportunity for the vice-Political Chair to set up and carry out projects for SOFv members.



6.0 Financial plan

For this part, see document **Biannual Report Budget and Balance.xlsx**

This document contains two pages. The budget can be found under “Budget” and the balance can be found under “Balance”.

This section contains information to clarify the budget plan realisations. Please note that whenever "study association" or "association," is mentioned, this is referred to any member organisation affiliated with SOFv.

This financial report was made on Saturday 24 February, 2024 and represents the actual financial position of the association on that day; any changes past this date have not been taken into consideration in this report, but will be reflected in the final financial report at the end of the association's year.

6.1 Contribution

The contribution of members is the biggest source of income of SOFv. The contribution is split up into four categories and the member associations are divided amongst these categories as follows:

- A contains associations with fewer than 150 members
- B comprises associations with between 150 and 500 members
- C contains associations with over 500 members
- D refers to umbrella associations.

As of writing this biannual report, the invoices for membership fees have been sent to all current member associations of SOFv. After the addition of three associations this academic year, the total number of member organisations has increased to fifty, accumulating to a total amount of contribution of €1,705.50. According to the size in members of member organisations, this number can be categorised in nine (15) associations in category A, eighteen (15) in category B, fourteen (15) in category C and three (3) umbrella associations in category D. The budgeted sum of money for this post was €1,660.50.-, which is €45.00 less than realised.



6.2 Board and member costs

The board spent €56.43 more than estimated on their Constitution Drink this year. This is because the evening turned out to be more expensive than predicted. The post about GMAs, SOFvice hours and more is mostly financed by itself due to the payment of drinks at the GMA after-drinks. At the current rate this should be self-sustaining. Finally, the board is requesting a subsidy by SLIM to finance new association signs for the GMA's. The current pricing is listed.

6.3 Fixed income/expenses

The bank costs are monthly payments for the usage of the bank account of SOFv and services of Rabobank. As of writing, the first six months of the academic year have been paid.

6.4 Informal activities

The New Boards Get Together has proved to be a success, financially speaking as well, as the board has made a total profit of € 60,69. Similarly, the After-CoBo activity also made a profit of € 59,55, which can be largely explained thanks to the well-being subsidy granted by SLIM, which has helped pay for most of the larger expenses of this event, such as the location and technical equipment. The profit of this event will benefit the gala ticket price. Preparations for the Cantus and the Gala are in full swing, but no expenses are made in advance of these events as of writing this financial report. The second alumni activity was also break-even due to a generous subsidy by SLIM for the location. The expectation is to break even on these events or to make a slight profit.

6.5 Member appreciation

Due to a subsidy by SLIM, the board was able to finance the entire Valentine's Day Delivery roses and cards, which is why the board managed to break-even. No expenses for the yearbook have been made at this time of writing.

6.6 Miscellaneous

There have been no office supplies purchased as of writing this report and neither have the unforeseen costs been used. Some expenses have been made concerning presents for lecturers and professionals who were willing to provide SOFv with the necessary expertise for our formal activities. This has accumulated to a total amount of €13.08. Finally, SOFv became a debitcard-only association, which is why all cash was deposited at the bank. Due to this deposit, but also interest, the currently listed amounts can be found in the budget.



6.7 Formal activities

No costs were made for any of the formal activities.

6.8 Sponsoring

The board of SOFv has made it one of their aims of this year to attempt engaging in sponsor deals in order to increase the financial vitality of the organisation. As of writing this report, two sponsor deals have been established and several others are being negotiated. The loss of €750,- euros from the previous year has been compensated by KO Company with €500,- euros. SOFv is currently in negotiations to still get the remaining €250,- euros. There has been a great increase in the amount of sponsoring SOFv receives from KO Company. Mainly because they have been a great assistance during the activities, and also because the board recommended SV CognAC to join KO Company, which provided SOFv with an additional €350,- euros.

6.9 Subsidisation

As of writing this financial report, there have been no invoices for collaboration subsidies paid by the board of SOFv. For the group travel subsidy, € 28.850,00 has been spent. For the well-being subsidy € 6.017,86, as of writing. There has however been a deposit by SLIM to the bank account of SOFv as a 'lump sum' to ensure that SOFv has enough financial means to disperse the subsidies, when they are sent to SOFv, along with a reservation of € 20.000,00 from the previous year.

6.10 Reservations

Reserving funds for various purposes is a prudent financial strategy that the board of SOFv has recognized as essential for effectively addressing unexpected situations and ensuring the success of significant events. After careful consideration and in line with the financial plan established by the XXXIInd board of SOFv, the XXXIIIrd board has identified three key reservations to allocate a portion of the budget. As of now, €550,- euros have been put into the reservations as aligned with the budget.





SamenwerkingsOverleg Faculteitsverenigingen
Heyendaalseweg 141, N-1.323, 6525AJ Nijmegen
info@sofv.nl www.sofv.nl

Epilogue

Dear reader,

The board hopes that this biannual report has presented a clear picture of the policy it has pursued during the first half of this board year. If there are still ambiguities, new questions have arisen or you have new ideas for the board or SOFv in general, the board would love to hear it at the GMA. Otherwise, you can always text one of the board members, stop by at the SOFvice or contact SOFv via the email address info@sofv.nl

Finally, the board would like to state that it has thoroughly enjoyed meeting all of you during the Room Visits, CoBo's, and the SOFv activities this past half year. The board has had an amazing year so far and can not wait to see what the second half will bring. The board would also like to thank the boards of member organisations for everything they have done for their own associations and student life in Nijmegen!

Sincerely,

The XXXIIIrd board of SOFv,

Koen Terheijden	Chair
Judith Oomen	Secretary
Spence van Asperdt	Treasurer
Bente Huntjens	Political Chair

