

# Policy plan

Studieverenigenoverleg Geesteswetenschappen  
2022-2023



## The IXth board of the SVO Geesteswetenschappen

Chair: Chiara Stam

Secretary: Bridget Rona

Treasurer: Michiel Salet

Commissioner PR: Puck van Iersel

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## Prologue

Dear Boardmember,

Before you is the policy plan of the ninth board of the Humanities Study Association Consultation (SVO). This year again, we want to support you as a platform in your board time. Believe us when we say that you are now facing one of your most enjoyable student years. The SVO is the place where you can meet other faculty boards, exchange *best practices*, as well as ask all your questions. In addition, through committees, the SVO facilitates all kinds of fun activities that will make your bond with other boards even better.

Besides the special meetings (the Study Association Meetings) (SVOs) where faculty-wide matters are discussed, we are also a broad association for all students of the faculty. So we provide activities not only for the boards, but also the students. So they can also get to know all the other students of the faculty. We want to work next year to improve the SVO and create more brand awareness. In this plan, we briefly set out our focal points for this year. In doing so, we hope to contribute to a better faculty and provide the opportunity for associations and foundations to get involved as well!

Much love,

The Ninth Board of the Humanities Study Association Consultation,  
Chiara Stam, Bridget Rona, Michiel Salet and Puck van Iersel

## 2. Association information

### 2.1. Board composition

The ninth board of the Humanities Study Associations Consultation for the 2022-2023 academic year will consist of a board with four positions this year. The ninth board consists of:

Chiara Stam	Student-Assessor; Chair; Deputy PR Commissioner
Bridget Rona	Secretary; Deputy Treasurer
Michiel Salet	Treasurer; Deputy Secretary
Puck van Iersel	Commissioner PR; Vice-Chair

### 2.2. Data

Association name:	Studieverenigingenoverleg Geesteswetenschappen
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities
University:	Utrecht University
Address (Faculty Administration):	Trans 10 3512 JK Utrecht
E-mail:	bestuur.svo@gmail.nl
Website:	<a href="#">StudieVerenigingenOverleg Geesteswetenschappen</a>
KVK number:	64051188
IBAN account number (ING):	NL74 INGB 0000 4463 43

### **3. Policy goals**

#### **3.1. Introduction**

The SVO was founded in 2014 to provide a faculty platform for all students in the Faculty of Humanities. Since 9 March 2015, we have been an official association. We organise a Study Associations Consultation (SVO) every one to two months, where all boards of the faculty's associations and foundations are informed about the latest updates from the faculty and can discuss together about issues they face.

The eight boards that have been allowed to run the SVO for us have ensured that a community has been created with the associations and foundations of the Faculty of Humanities. Besides being connected to each other, the foundations and associations are also closely linked to the SVO and the faculty itself. To ensure that this good work continues, it is important to keep the main goal of the SVO, formulated in section 3.2, central. Furthermore, the main goals for the academic year 2022-2023 are also mentioned.

#### **3.2. Main Objective**

The main objective of the SVO reads:

*"The SVO serves as a faculty platform for the study associations and study foundations of the Faculty of Humanities. Besides this function as a platform, the SVO also organises various activities for the entire faculty through committees to bring students from different studies closer together."*

This main goal is what we want to work towards and we want to make the year super for everyone. This year will mainly focus on coming back and connecting with the faculty and each other. This way, the foundations and associations will get to know the faculty and each other again. We hope this year we can facilitate this connection and also support the boards in connecting the association or foundation with its members or contributors.

#### **3.3. Main policy objectives 2021-2022**

##### **1. Connection**

Due to the corona pandemic, a lot has been online recently. Even last year, especially at the end of 2021, much still had to take place online. This makes bonding between boards more difficult. Therefore, we want to focus on cohesion between the boards. We want to achieve this goal by:

- Providing a platform for consultation and cooperation. We want to achieve this by organising SVOs as well as collaborating in committees. In doing so, the app group for boards is a good place for discussions and questions;
- Seeking attendance at constitution receptions to keep in touch with boards there in a more informal way;
- The active provision of activities (social or otherwise) organised by and for members or contributors of member associations and foundations;
- Organising get-togethers and meetings for the boards throughout the year;
- During the year, passing by the association rooms and visiting the boards there;
- Keeping alive the tradition of the Thank You BBQ at the end of the academic year.

Besides having effects on the connection between boards, we can imagine it also having effects on the connection between an association or foundation and its members or contributors. The community that can be created between students of an education through an association or foundation is incredibly valuable. We therefore want to help boards this year to restore and improve this connection where necessary. We want to do this by:

- Discuss this phenomenon in SVOs, giving boards the opportunity to raise questions or concerns, but above all to exchange best practices;
- Offer tools to associations in the form of tips to encourage member retention.

## 2. Digitisation

Digitisation is an important topic which has been a hot topic for organisations in recent years. It is important to consider the possibility of further digitisation and professionalisation, but also the security of personal data. We want to achieve this as follows:

- Explore options for its own domain for professionalisation and better oversight of committee accounts;
- ensuring that non-essential private data is deleted within a foreseeable time, at;
- Maintaining a secure system for activity and committee registrations.

## 3. Inclusion

In recent years, diversity and inclusion have been playing an important role in society and therefore also at the Faculty of Humanities. More and more study associations and foundations therefore see it as their duty to include this in the policy of the foundation or association. We at the SVO board also find this topic incredibly important and therefore want to give it an important position this year. We want the Faculty of Humanities to become even more inclusive and diverse. We want to do this by:

- Maintain the sustainability and diversity committee set up last year;
- Bringing inclusive policies to the attention of boards.

### **International board members**

This year, a number of board members of associations affiliated to the SVO are non-Dutch speakers. Still, we want these board members too to feel part of the SVO. Therefore, we have decided to:

- Offer all papers and notices in both Dutch and English;
- Offer the pre-notes also in English;
- Creating an atmosphere where they can ask their questions in English;
- Going extra with them to ask out their needs;

### **Collaborations with EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) Office**

Precisely because many boards are working on diversity and cooperating inclusion in their policies, we want the collaborations with the EDI office to continue. They have the knowledge that boards can use in this quest in their policies. We therefore hope that the EDI can help the boards. We want to achieve this by:

- Actively liaising with the EDI;
- Organise at least one SVO where the EDI Office comes to explain their policies at the Faculty of Humanities;
- Aiming to offer 2x inclusion workshops in which the EDI has an active role;
- Facilitate boards to ask questions to the EDI office on association or foundation policies
- Actively promote the opportunities EDI Office has to offer to student associations and foundations;
- Offering a workshop specifically for candidate boards focusing on embedding inclusion in the new policy plan.
- Make associations and foundations aware of the Writing Guide that explains how to write in the most gender inclusive way possible.

### **Expressing diversity and inclusion through social platforms**

Besides having active policies on diversity and inclusion, we also want to showcase our diversity and inclusion externally, especially to go deeper into certain diversity and inclusion days via social media. This way, we can draw our followers' attention to these days and their context at appropriate times. We want to express diversity and inclusion through:

- Using the SVO's social channels to promote diversity and inclusiveness;
- Actively promote national days around diversity and inclusion and explain the context;

- using inclusive language in SVO-related media statements in accordance with the Writing Guide offered by UU;
- offering opportunities to associations and foundations how to use their platforms.

#### 4. Sustainability

Sustainability is also a topic that is becoming more and more important in society and one that many associations and foundations are also becoming increasingly involved in. Next year, we will also start working on this topic and hope to give associations and foundations more concrete tools to make them more sustainable. We want to achieve this by:

- Maintain the sustainability and diversity committee set up last year;
- Bringing sustainable policies to the attention of boards.

#### **Maintaining close contact with the Green Office of Utrecht University**

The Green Office is a community for students and staff of the university. Every faculty also has a Green Office. At Humanities, however, it has not existed for a long time. As many associations and foundations are increasingly focusing on sustainability in their policies, we want to facilitate this through the Green Office GW. We would like to help associations in their policies by:

- Actively maintaining contact with the Green Office;
- Organising activities and/or workshops in collaboration with the Green Office;
- Actively promote the opportunities the Green Office has to offer student associations and foundations;
- Offering a workshop specifically for candidate boards focusing on embedding sustainability in the new policy plan.

#### **Pursuing plastic-free meetings**

As the SVO board, we too think it is important to treat the world as sustainably as possible. We therefore want to do our bit in this in various ways, for example by striving for plastic-free meetings. We want to do this by:

- Stopping the use of plastic, such as disposable tableware, party supplies and packaging;
- Explore the possibility of the SVO borrowing crockery, for example;
- Encouraging student associations and foundations to govern plastic-free.

NB: all plastic cups used have been purchased some time ago and we want to make o (and then not buy again).

#### **Keeping open the option to switch to a sustainable bank**

## 5. Confidential contact persons

Many humanities associations and foundations have appointed confidential counsellors in recent years and we are very happy with this. However, we have noticed that many associations still have difficulties in appointing confidential counsellors and there is still a lot of room for improvement in terms of professionalisation. We want to help associations and foundations with this by:

- Organise an SVO this year related to confidential contact persons in the hope that associations can create a policy around their confidential contact persons and delineate what exactly a confidential contact person does;
- Going around the various associations and foundations to talk about how they envisage or have set up a trustee.

## 6. Master classes

Every year, the SVO board holds a number of master classes together with a professional. These master classes can be about anything but are mainly aimed at improving the skills of directors in any way. Unfortunately, we notice that the master classes are not well attended and we would like to change this. We would like to do this by:

- At SVOs where the agenda is not too full, spend half the time giving a master class. This way, boards coming to the SVO can gain new skills and pass them on to other board members.
- Early indication of when a master class will take place so that board members can take it into account.
- Through social media channels, ask which master classes board members would like to see.
- Going round association chambers to identify needs for master classes.



## 7. Awareness

Unfortunately, we have found that student representation (assessors, OCs, the Board, Faculty Council and University Council) and the SVO do not have much awareness among students of the faculty. However, these are important bodies for the faculty and for the students of this faculty. We therefore want to give this more publicity this year. We want to do this by:

### **The SVO**

The SVO is of course mainly for the boards of associations and foundations. However, we also organise activities for members and contributors of these associations and foundations. We would therefore like it to be a bit easier for students to know who we are and understand what we do. To raise our profile, we would therefore like to do the following:

- Going by association rooms to promote activities, but also to see how they are doing;
- Being active on social media including stories behind the scenes and take-overs;
- Introducing our committees on the Instagram page.

### **Student representation**

By student representation, we mean the bodies that represent students in the various layers of policy. It is very important for students and student administrators to be aware of these. After all, these bodies represent students' interests. We want to make student representation better known by:

- In the Meta-SVO, reflect on the organisational structure of the faculty and its representatives;
- Actively raise awareness on social media for student representation by, for example, promoting Participation Week;
- Making Politics Night all about the university elections.

## **4. Committees**

### **4.1 Career Night**

#### *Position*

- Hard core: the committee that will organise Career Night together with the student assessor and a staff member.
- Soft core: at least one delegate from each study association will be in the soft core. This will support the hard core in organising, including finding alumni and speakers for the event.

#### *Policy*

As in past years, this year's Career Night will again be organised, where students can interact with alumni through workshops, question hours and an alumni market, among other things. Last year, choosing one topic (sustainability) that was looked at from different angles was a great success. We will therefore definitely take this into this year.

### **4.2 Sustainability and Diversity Committee**

#### *Position (5)*

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Commissioner PR
- General Member

#### *Policy*

Last year, this committee was created in place of the Activities Committee. In the past, the Activities Committee organised a sustainability dinner. This is now done by the Sustainability and Diversity Committee. The committee tackles issues around sustainability and diversity to create more awareness among associations and foundations.

### **4.3 The Great GW Almanac Committee**

#### *Position (5)*

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Editor
- Editor

#### *Policy*

The Great GW Almanac Committee produces an almanac for all participating study associations and foundations. The committee keeps in close contact with the study associations and foundations for input on various sections. We also ensure that someone from the committee is present at SVOs and SVO activities to include this in the almanac, if necessary. This way, texts and images are collected that can be used in the almanac.

#### 4.4 Humanities League

##### *Position (5)*

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Commissioner PR
- General Member / Game Commissioner

##### *Policy*

Every year in May/June, the Humanities League committee organises a big football tournament for the whole of Humanities. Associations can register teams, which will then play football against each other in pools. We traditionally finish with something to eat.

#### 4.5 Calendar committee

##### *Position (5)*

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Commissioner PR
- Commissioner Design

##### *Policy*

Once a year, the Calendar Committee releases the well-known boards calendar, often in the form of a Sexy Boards Calendar. The profit raised from this calendar is earmarked for a good cause, to be determined by the committee in consultation with the SVO board.

#### 4.6 Politics Night

##### *Position (6)*

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Commissioner PR
- Commissioner External
- Logistics Commissioner

##### *Policy*

Last year, the Politics Night committee organised an evening where speakers from different political parties debated against each other to show their points for the municipal elections. Because there are no very big elections this year, we would like to organise a similar evening but for the faculty and U Council. We have noticed in recent years that fewer and fewer students vote for these councils but they do a lot for the university and the students of Utrecht so we hope to promote it with this evening.

#### 4.7 Let's Go!

##### *Position (5)*

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Commissioner PR
- General Member

##### *Policy*

Let's Go! organises two parties every year.... These parties are meant for all associations and foundations of GW and all members and contributors of these associations are welcome to buy tickets for these. The committee will try to break even on costs and ticket sales at both parties.

#### 4.8 CashCo

##### *Composition (min. 2)*

- Member
- Member

##### *Policy*

The Cash Committee will audit the SVO throughout the year based on the budget, expenses incurred and realisation. They will liaise closely with the SVO board treasurer to help keep the SVO's finances accurate.

## 5. Epilogue

With this policy plan, we hope to have given you, the boards of Humanities, a clear overview of our spearheads and plans for the coming academic year. In any case, we are looking forward to it and we hope you are too. We will do our utmost to create a nice platform for you to meet, collaborate and bond. We look forward to seeing all your faces at the SVOs, partying late into the night at Let's Go and having a good discussion at PoliticsNack. Let's make it a great year together!

Much love,

The Ninth Board of the SVO  
Chiara, Bridget, Michiel and Puck

*"Samen voor Ontmoeting"*