

Policy Plan 23/24

Faculty Student Council

Faculty of Social Sciences



Content:

- Education
- Internationalization
- Sustainability
- Communication
- Job Market Orientation
- Projects

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EDUCATION | Strategy

Maaïke Kes & Salomé Bonneyrat

AIMS AND GOALS

1. Lecture Free Week
2. Focus groups in PC's
3. Student misconduct towards teachers

Lecture Free week

- We aim to make sure the intent of the lecture-free week is clear for everybody within the faculty, relating to students and teaching staff.
 - A document exists with information on the lecture-free week put together by Loes Wijnen, which they will send out before the end of P1, 2023.
 - We will communicate on our socials that this document has been communicated with the students to remind them of this information, including more explanation of the situation.
- In spring, the education officers will follow-up with Loes how this document has been received and what could possibly be improved for next year.
 - We aim to make the information sharing about the Lecture-Free week a yearly occurrence, where this specific documents (edited after feedback) will be sent out each year before the end of P1 of that schoolyear.

Focus groups in PC's

- Last year, the FSR FSW started working with focus groups to evaluate the courses in each study programme of the faculty, instead of using qualtrics, where the fill-out rate is extremely low to none.
- The education officers will attend the kick-off meeting of the programme committees and explain the purpose of the focus groups to the programme committee members. It is intended that they will organize those focus groups within their programs.
 - We aim to support the programme committees to engage students in participating in these focus groups for better evaluations of the courses.

Student misconduct towards teachers

- Students have been using unprofessional and hurtful language to teachers in their evaluations on qualitricks.
- We aim to create guidelines for students to follow on how to give constructive feedback and evaluate the courses in regards to using Evalytics.
 - These guidelines could be implemented in the course manual of all courses. The guidelines should prevent students from using unjust language use to the teachers in their evaluations.
 - With implementing the focus groups for feedback, the aim is to control the language use here and the ‘messenger’ of the evaluation will also act as a filter between comments of students and constructive feedback to teacher.
 - The guidelines should include mentions of appropriate communication within debates and workgroups, both to other students with different opinions/viewpoints and to teachers guiding these conversations.

INTERNATIONALIZATION | Strategy

Katja Nuernberger

AIMS AND GOALS

1. Wellbeing & mental health
2. Diversity

Well-being & Mental health

Social Science students are exposed to an intense workload during their degree. First-year students as well as international students feel easily overwhelmed by the workload alongside their struggles. Therewith well-being and their mental health should not stand in the way of their academic career.

Issues

- Due to relatively high numbers of admissions and the ongoing, and worsening, housing crisis in the Netherlands, international students are facing an increasing outside pressure on finding housing and getting access to proper healthcare as well as overall needed support.
- First-year students often feel overwhelmed with the expected workload. This alongside the binding BSA easily leads to their mental health being affected, which needs addressing.

Points of interest

- We aim to cooperation with the former FSR Board on the evaluation of the data from the ‘Wellbeing survey’ as soon as possible.
- We want to distribute a survey as the measurement of further improvement after the first period as an opportunity to check on the overall wellbeing of first-year students within our faculty.
- We aim for more project developments together with the educational office as well as with Study advisors to aim for a more efficient approach to aid for students within our faculty.

Diversity

Students of our faculty are as diverse as the course presentation of our faculty itself. We, therefore aim for a more inclusive and open approach towards internationals as well as to each and every individual. We are therefore aiming to achieve an overall more open-minded, culturally sensible faculty approach, as well as the creation of an open and safe space for each and every student.

Points of Interest

- **Communication improvement**
 - **General E-mails**
 - We aim to make sure that emails sent out should include Dutch as well as English translation in order to get information across without excluding the international student body and therefore reduce misunderstandings.
- **International student engagement**
 - We aim for closer cooperation with EOS to engage more international students in activities held by our faculty. Further stressing the matter with the coordinators of career platforms to push for more inclusivity in the international frame of our faculty.

SUSTAINABILITY | Strategy

Katja Nuernberger

AIMS AND GOALS

1. Temperature control within the faculty
2. Overall faculty sustainability

Temperature Control

Tempratures showed inconsistency within our faculty and in the university buildings during the year. In order to save energy, as well as keeping up a healthy and enjoyable work and study environment, further focus on temperature checks is needed.

- We will to take over the project from last FSR FSW, where we would like to further work closely with the FCO/ maintenance team to aim for a standardized and controlled regulated temperature check procedure.
 - This will include close cooperation with the sustainability group to realize further successful work on a standardizable room temperature check that is aiming for 19°C - 21°C.

Sustainability within our Faculty

We would like to see more interest and awareness regarding sustainability within the faculty for both staff and students.

- We would like to see a closer cooperation with EOS in order to aim for a ‘thinktank’ on how our faculty from a student point of view would be able to achieve an overall more sustainable footprint.
- We aim to actively engage in the creation of university projects such as ‘green campus’ in order to raise more awareness for the overall significance of the sustainability aspects at our faculty as well as our university.

COMMUNICATION | Strategy

Esmay Duursma

AIMS AND GOALS

Outreach - Instagram

- Increase followers by at least 25% (600 → 750)
- Generate interaction with the followers through regular polls in Insta-stories.

Content - Instagram

- **Posts:**
 - Meet the council
 - One post with the whole council
 - One post per council member explaining their role and who they are
 - One post per two months giving updates about our progress in projects.
 - Posts about the student assessor, mentor program, program committee, and other functions when applications open up.
- **Stories:**
 - Regular reposting from other channels from our faculty and university.
 - Bi-weekly interactive polls and questionnaires:
 - Ask how the students are doing
 - Ask about what kind of changes students would like to see
 - Ask about what the students think is good about our faculty
 - Ask the students what they would like to add to our faculty
 - Bi-weekly 'office updates' - making clear what we do
- **Reels:**
 - Post reels from every event that we host

Styling

- Use overarching corporate identity style for social media outings
- Develop general lay-outs for responses to our DMs
- Generate coherent presence on our instagram
- Delete / archive the posts that are not relevant anymore, and thus cleaning up the profile, which keeps it relevant.

JOB MARKET ORIENTATION | Strategy

Maaiké Kes

AIMS AND GOALS

1. Organize the alumni event, postponed from last year.
2. Get in touch with Career Services FSS and collaborate.

Alumni event

- Last year the FSR FSW wanted to organize an alumni event, but this unfortunately got postponed due to the unavailability of many alumni.
 - We aim to get in touch with the alumni in October, and check in whether they would still be interested in seeing this event happen.
 - When interest is high, we aim to plan this event in the beginning of 2024.

Career Services FSS

- We will have a first meeting with career services of the faculty of social sciences in the beginning of October 2023. Here we will inform how we can complement each other.
- We want to cooperate with them, aiming to inform students more about what they offer and get them engaged in the services.
- We will attend some of their, already planned, events, when our schedule allows us, and share these experiences on our socials.
- We want to inform with them about PWC and how to collaborate more with them if necessary. This is due to reports of communication difficulty last year, and not knowing exactly how it may be of added value.

PROJECTS | Strategy

Okke de Vet and Shania van Sandijk

AIMS AND GOALS

1. Establish thorough relations with other organs through borrels, lunches and events.
2. Promoting the FSR among students of the faculty.

Collaboration with EOS

- The relationship between the FSR and the faculty association EOS feels more distant and formal at the moment, while we are of the opinion that we can add value for either side. Therefore, we aim to connect with them more and host activities together to get more input from students about faculty affairs.

Promotion of the FSR to FSW students

- We aim to increase awareness of and knowledge about the Faculty Student Council, and what this can mean for the students. We want to reach out to them through holding '*get to know me sessions*' in person whereby students can voice their concerns and/or feedback can be given to us, that helps us be even more representative of the student voice.