



POLICY PLAN  
2019-2020

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# PREFACE

Dear reader,

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Board of the Vereniging Studenten Psychologie en Pedagogiek aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam (hereinafter referred to as VSPVU) presents the policy plan for the academic year 2019-2020. We want to thank you for the time you take to read our policy plan. This policy plan is based on the vision of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Board, previous policy plans and the Long-Term Plan 2017-2020. We hope to contribute to the development and growth of the association with this policy plan.

We proudly present ourselves:

## THE 73RD BOARD OF THE VSPVU

Chairwoman

Kirsten Koolhof

Secretary

Andrew de Ruiter

Treasurer

Alessia van Overbeeke

Commissioner Communication and Media

Kerem Özel

Commissioner External Relations

Karlo Welch

# INTRODUCTION

The VSPVU has its roots going back to 1947. During this year, the 'Vereniging Studenten Psychologie aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam' was founded by Mr. Sanders for psychology students. Child Studies at the time had their own separate association 'Hilaritas'. In 1961, the two associations were merged under the name 'Vereniging Studenten Psychologie en Pedagogiek aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam', better known as the VSPVU. When the two studies; Psychology and Child Studies were merged under one Faculty, the VSPVU functioned as a Faculty association of the Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogy (FPP). On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2015, the Faculty of Human Movement Sciences and the Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogy were merged into the Faculty of Behavioral and Movement Sciences (FGB). However, this did not result in a merge of the associations of both faculties. Due to the fact that both the VSPVU and Vereniging In Beweging (V.I.B.) remained separate, the VSPVU became a study association and not a Faculty association.

The purpose of the VSPVU was primarily focused on study-related events for Psychology and Child Study students. Over time, the VSPVU has developed into a study association with a wider range of activities, such as parties, travel, sports and cultural activities, while maintaining the focus on education.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Board came up with their own Policy Plan after taking the previous policy plans in consideration made by former Boards.

The Policy Plan of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Board is to be presented to the members of the association during the first General Meeting (GM) of the academic year 2019-2020. The Budget will also be presented during the first GM of the academic year 2019-2020. If voted in, the 73<sup>rd</sup> Board will evaluate the policy plan and financial statement in the upcoming three GM's.

## CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

The active members are the committee members who organize events. In the academic year 2019-2020 there will be sixteen different committees. Dit zijn de Activity Committee, Bar Committee, Bookselling Committee, Career Committee, Convention Committee, Hitchhike Committee, Introduction Committee, LEX, Magazine Committee, Parent's Day Committee, Party Committee, Pedagogiek Commissie, Ski Trip Committee, Sports Committee, Study Trip Committee en Yearbook Committee. The Lustrumcie will not be an active committee this academic year. The Sports Committee, Hitchhike Committee, Parent's Day Committee, Career Committee and Magazine Committee are pilot committees. An attempt has been made to find a balance between educational and recreational events by former Boards. Also a new committee was created to represent Child Studies and University PABO students within the association, called the Pedcie.

In the academic year 2016-2017 a new website was created. On this new website, members can sign up and committees could offer online ticket sales for events. Members are also able to pay using the iZettle and this a portable payment machine which the association could use on events.

The association participates in the Stichting Studieverenigingen Psychologie Nederland (SSPN) and Landelijk Overleg Onderwijskunde en Pedagogiek (LOOP) for a few years.

In the summer of 2016, the room of the association moved from the Transitorium to the Medical Faculty. The room is located in the same hall as the rooms of V.I.B. and the MFVU. A bar has been placed in the new room and the Bar Committee has been set up to make use of the extra possibilities offered by the new bar.

To emphasize safety in the association, a First Aid Course was offered to their members in the academic year 2015-2016.

The Statutes will, according to Dutch law, be altered again in the academic year 2026-2027 and if necessary, altered earlier.

From the academic year 2017-2018 onwards, students have the opportunity to follow both the English Psychology track and the Dutch Psychology track. The association has therefore become bilingual and is increasingly developing as an association for both Dutch and International students.

In the academic year 2018-2019 they spend much time to develop further internationalization of the Association by translating important documents and all transcripts into English except the Pedcie-documents. The committee names were also translated to English and voted in as pilot. In addition, changes have been made to the Internal Regulations that affect voting on the Candidacy Board and a mourning protocol has been added. A new pub for the Board borrels has been found.

## **POLICY PLAN**

The policy plan, as drawn up by the 73<sup>rd</sup> Board, will be implemented in the academic year 2019-2020. The main points are Commitment, Members, Committees, Brand Recognition, Awareness and Policy Continuation. These will be explained below. By means of this policy plan, the Board expects, together with its members, to further develop the association and to promote accessibility.

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Board will also evaluate and rewrite the long term plan of the VSPVU.

## **COMMITMENT**

### **MINI-EVENTS**

The goal is to encourage members to meet on a low level by having at least five mini-events. This be for example a New Years Dinner and Pub Crawl.

### **TRANSPARENCY**

It was found that members don't always understand the work a Board does. To make sure members understand what the Board does, there will be put more effort into making her activities as transparent as possible in the academic year 2019-2020. This will be done by a text of the Board in the context of a small blog.

### **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

Retaining good contact with the external relations of the association is important. In order to achieve this goal, the aim is to get better contact with the coordinators of Psychology and Child Studies courses. We would like to do this by for example sending an introductory e-mail to certain coordinators about the association and her events in the first semester. The contact with the coordinators will be achieved in consultation with the faculty.

### **MERCHANDISE**

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Board aims to make merchandise for the association. This will be beneficial for the promotion of the association and it will be a nice memory for members. The aim is to sell all our merchandise through the website, authorization forms and in the room.

### **VSPVU-ROOM**

In order to improve the accessibility of the room, the aim is to make the room a more inviting place for members and external contacts which also improves the professionalization of the association. This will be done by adding new furniture. A clean association room is also important when having members and/or external contacts over. Therefore, the aim is to clean the room two times per week excluding the Christmas and Summer Break.

# MEMBERS

## NEW MEMBERS

During the academic year 2019-2020, we will aim for 499 new members of which 484 bachelor students and 15 new master students. The aim of this high amount bachelor students is because the VU is growing and there will be more Psychology students this academic year compared to last year. 484 students is 55% of all the new Psychology and Child Studies students which the VU will welcome.

## MEMBER INITIATIVE

The aim is to allow members to request the Member Initiative budget up until a fixed date to promote the Member Initiative better. The date will be set at the 31st of March 2020. The remaining money after the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2020 will be spend on a Board event for all members. motivation and details

## WORKSHOPS

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Board finds it important to help the students in their academic development. There will be looked into options for organizing workshops such as 'Presentation skills' and 'Leadership'. In this way there will be a low-key event which members can attend to develop their skills. We will hold a poll or survey to measure the interest in the workshops.

## ACTIVE MEMBER APPLICATION

Members who signed in for an application for a committee will receive an e-mail. An information e-mail will be sent in the fourth week of September to prevent a long waiting time for students who signed up. Within another two weeks of the email they will get an invite for an application. If the committee already has a Chairman, the email will be sent by him or her. Otherwise the Board will send out the email.

# COMMITTEES

In the academic year 2018-2019, the 72<sup>nd</sup> Board changed the committee names from Dutch abbreviations to full English names. In line with the internationalization, it is good to keep these names as a pilot for another year to stay consistent. Therefore, there will be made some adjustments during the academic year 2019-2020.

## PILOT COMMITTEES

There are four current committees which are a pilot: Career Committee, Hitchhike Committee, Parent's Day Committee and Sports Committee. These four committees will stay pilots this academic year, in order to further analyse how the functioning of these committees could be expanded. In the General Meeting of June these committees will evaluated. Also, the Online Committee, previous Magazine Committee, will become a pilot committee this year.

## MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

The Magazine Committee will not continue in the academic year 2019-2020. This is due to the unpopularity of the Tranz the previous years.

## ENGLISH NAMES

The Council of Advice will be renamed to the Advisory Board. Due to the internationalization of the association, this change has been made in order to simplify the naming of the active members who will advise the Board during the academic year. The Child Studies Committee will be altered into the Pedagogiek Commissie, since this committee is all Dutch.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

In December 2019, the 73rd Board will send out Christmas Cards to her Active Members and brother and sister associations.

## BRAND RECOGNITION

### MEDIA

In order to reach more people on Facebook, a larger investment will be put on the paid promotion. This will also count for Instagram. The emphasis will be placed on Instagram by more posts of the association. LinkedIn will be updated with information about the association and its Active Members. This will increase the communication and career opportunities for the Active Members with external contacts.

### WEBSITE

The website is an important way of communicating with members and external contacts. The aim is to maximize the potential that the website could have for the association. Therefore, our aim is to create improvements on the website. This could be, but is not limited to, making more use of the blog and reworking pages in order to improve the usability. Genkgo (website host) will be contacted to further develop the website.

### EDUCATIONAL

In the academic year 2019-2020, Board members will give lecture talks to certain subjects in every year of the bachelor Psychology and Child Studies with exception of minor subjects. This will be done by at least one member of the Board or candidacy Board.

## AWARENESS

### ENVIRONMENT

Due to the climate change the world is facing, our goal is to improve our association in ways that benefits the environment. Therefore, our aim is to reduce the use of plastic cutlery, straws and plates.

### SAFETY

In the academic year 2018-2019, the Boardpass has been abused, so there will follow a policy for the debit card. A minimal of 24 hours is needed to request the use of the Boardpass, this includes all members of the Board. The treasurer of the Board is the only authorized person to approve the use of the Boardpass by a committee or Board member.



# **POLICY CONTINUATION**

## **TRANSLATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION**

The goal is to keep providing all public documents in both Dutch and English, so all committees will translate their documents to both languages except the Pedagogiek Commissie.

## **GENERAL MEETING**

During the academic year 2019-2020 at least four General Meetings will be organized. In the General Meetings, it is important to give all the members a chance to share their thoughts and ask questions. Therefore, the (online) idea box will be discussed during the General meeting.

## **GENERAL BOARD MEETING**

General Board Meetings are important to keep up to date about the committees. There is an opportunity to ask for advice from the chairs of our association has. It was found useful to sit down with the chairs before a GBM to discuss the state of the committee, this will be implemented in the academic year 2019-2020 as well.

## **MEETINGS**

Members of the Board will attend various meetings such as SSPN, LOOP and G5. This way issues within an association can be discussed with similar association and solutions from outside can be brought up.

## **FUNCTIONING**

It is important for committees to be aware of their tasks. Therefore, there will be a focus on function trainings and the committee manuals. These function trainings will be organized by the Board in the months October, December and March for all active members and will be tailored to the function of said member. Besides these training moments, an Active Member is always able to request a function training by a member of the Board if he or she finds it useful. The previous Chairman of all committees will be imposed to adjust their handbook if necessary and the Board can adjust the handbook as well if it is found necessary. This will hopefully help the functioning of all Active Members in their position.

## **BIRTHDAY CARDS**

Birthday cards for the active members will be send by the Board during the academic year of 2019-2020 from October 2019 until 2020.

## **BUDGETS**

The Committee-ten budget exists to encourage bonding within the committee via a committee outing. It has a fixed date for declaring and that date is set on the 7nd of January. If the Committee-ten budget has not been fully requested, the remainder amount will be used by the Board to organize an event for the active members.

Lastly, the Flexible Committee budget is a good implementation for a committee who wants to improve their event. Every committee is able to do a request which should be voted in during a General Board Meeting. For a request the committee has to make a plan in corporate identity, including a budget and e-mail it to the Board the day before the next General Board Meeting. There is also a possibility of voting in the VSPVU-room for the chairs.

## **EDUCATION**

In the first week of September and October, the Board will provide snacks and membership forms during the lecture break of one subject for the first year students.

## **FIRST AID COURSE**

Our aim is to organize a First Aid Course at the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year. The aim of this event is to promote awareness on medical safety and to achieve ableness of members within the association as well as non-members to successfully apply first aid in times of need. This is especially beneficial for the association, since there can be instances during committee events where qualified aid is required and this aid can be given by the members.

## **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS POLICY**

The Board of 2017-2018 came up with a drugs and alcohol policy. In the academic year of 2019-2020 this policy will be upheld again during all the events and if found necessary, adjusted.

## EPILOGUE

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Board has set previous stated goals to hopefully achieve a positive growth for the association. This policy plan will be presented in the first General Meeting of the academic year 2019-2020. When the policy plan has been voted in by the members of the association, the policy plan will be evaluated during every General Meeting.

Thank you for reading our policy plan for the academic year 2019-2020.

Kind regards,

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Board