



POLICY PLAN 2018-2019

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PREFACE

Dear reader,

The 72nd Board of the Vereniging Studenten Psychologie en Pedagogiek aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam (hereinafter referred to as VSPVU) hereby present the policy plan for the academic year 2018-2019. 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 72nd Board, previous policy plans and the Long Term Plan. With this policy plan we hope to contribute to the development and growth of the association.

We proudly present ourselves:

THE 72ND BOARD OF THE VSPVU

Chairwoman	Dascha Verhagen
Secretary	Sjoerd van den Assem
Treasurer	Liz Masselink
Commissioner Communication and Media	Thierry Witschge
Commissioner External Relations	Eleanor Koomen
Commissioner Education	Eline Garssen

INTRODUCTION

The 'Vereniging Studenten Psychologie aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam' was founded in 1947 by mr. Sanders. Child Studies knew her own association: 'Hilaritas'. The associations 'Vereniging Studenten Psychologie aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam' and 'Hilaritas' were merged in 1961 into the VSPVU as we know it today. The studies Psychology and Child Studies (when mentioned, Child Studies includes both Child Studies students and University PABO students) were established under one School and through this way the VSPVU could function as a School association of the School of Psychology and Pedagogy (FPP). The purpose of the VSPVU is to promote the interests of the students studying Psychology and Child Studies, in the broadest sense of the word. Since June 1st 2015, the School of Human Movement Sciences and the School of Psychology and Pedagogy merged into the School of Behavioral and Movement Sciences (FGB). The VSPVU and Vereniging In Beweging (V.I.B.) will retain their own identity despite the merger. Because of this, the VSPVU has become a study association instead of a School association.

The VSPVU used to focus primarily on study-related activities. Over time, she has developed into a study association with a wider range of activities, such as parties, study trips, sports and cultural events. In recent years, much time has gone into improving the professionalism of the VSPVU. Based on the Long Term Plan, previous policy plans and the vision of the 72nd Board, a number of main points emerged: Commission development, Accessibility, Involvement, Brand recognition, Safety and Policy continuation. These main points are the foundation of this policy plan and will be explained in the following chapters.

This policy plan will be presented in the first General Meeting (hereinafter referred to as GM) of the academic year 2018-2019. If this policy plan is approved, the policy plan will be evaluated in the planned four GM's. In addition, the Board will present a budget in parallel with the policy.

CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

The VSPVU consists of active members and non-active members. The active members are part of the committees that organize different activities. In the academic year 2018-2019, the VSPVU knows fifteen committees, namely the Actie, Balie, Barcie, Chronicles, Congresscie, Feestcie, Footcie, Illusie, LEX, Liftcie, Opcie, Pedcie, Reiscie, Tranz and Wintersportcie. The Barcie and Footcie are pilot committees. In recent years, effort has been made to create a good balance between social and educational activities. This was achieved through the establishment of, among others, the Congresscie. A new committee has also been set up to better represent students from Child Studies within the VSPVU, the Pedcie.

In view of professionalization, the VSPVU has adopted a new corporate identity in the academic year 2012-2013. This means that there is a fixed layout for promotional material and a new logo. In order to modernize the VSPVU, iDeal was adopted as payment method in the academic year 2015-2016. Since the academic year 2016-2017, there is a renewed website. On the new website, students can register for a membership. It is also possible to offer online ticket sales for the activities of the committees.

From 2016-2017 onwards, the summaries are provided by AthenaSummary. The book and summary sales have been moved to the VU bookstore, where the VSPVU has its own counter.

The VSPVU participates in the Stichting Studieverenigingen Psychologie Nederland (SSPN) and Landelijk Overleg Onderwijskunde en Pedagogiek (LOOP). In the academic year 2014-2015, a handbook and master guide were drawn up by the SSPN. This handbook has been made to lay the foundations for the SSPN and to organize a joint activity in this way. In the academic year 2014-2015, LOOP organized a symposium entitled 'Fight separation'. In addition, in the academic year 2015-2016, LOOP has developed a master guide and handbook. In addition, in the academic year 2017-2018, the SSPN organized a conference on various topics in the form of *TED* talks.

From 2016-2017 onwards, all Bachelor's programs in Psychology and Child Studies follow a new curriculum. This curriculum means that students receive small-scale education and have more compulsory contact hours. From the academic year 2017-2018 onwards, students have the opportunity to follow an English Psychology bachelor. The VSPVU has therefore become bilingual and is increasingly developing as an association for both Dutch and International students.

In the academic year 2016-2017 the Statutes have been altered. The Statutes will be altered again in the academic year 2026-2027.

In the summer of 2016, the VSPVU room moved from the Transitorium to the Medical School. The Board room and VSPVU room have become one room, separated by a sliding wall of glass. The room is located in the same hall as the rooms of V.I.B. and the Medische Faculteit VUmc (MFVU). A bar has been placed in the new room. The Barcie has been set up thanks to the extra possibilities offered by this.

POLICY PLAN

The policy plan, as drawn up by the 72nd Board, will be implemented in the academic year 2018-2019. The main points are Committee development, Accessibility, Involvement, Brand recognition, Safety 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.

COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONALIZATION

At the moment the committee names are in Dutch, but since the academic year 2017-2018 a lot of international students have become a member of our association. It is important that it is clear for everyone what every committee does and stands for, and that is why the committee names will be changed. This means that the Actie will be called the Activity Committee, the Balie becomes the Bookselling Committee, the Barcie the Bar Committee, the Chronicles becomes the Yearbook Committee, the Congrescie will be changed into the Convention Committee, the Feestcie becomes the Party Committee, the Footcie the Sports Committee, the Illusie will be called the Introduction Committee, the LEX the Lecture and Excursion Committee, the Liftcie becomes the Road Trip Committee, the Lucie the Lustrum Committee, the Opcie the Career Committee, the Ouderdagcie changes into the Parent's Day Committee, the Pedcie into the Child Studies Committee, the Reiscie becomes the Study Trip Committee, the Tranz the Magazine Committee, the Wintersportcie the Ski Trip Committee, the Raad van Advies will be called the Council of Advice and the Kas Controle Commissie the Transaction Check Committee.

In order to further achieve the internationalization of the association in the professional field, all new and necessary documents of the committees from the academic year 2018-2019, will be translated in English by the relevant committee. The translated documents should be available in the committee Dropbox before the start of the committees of the academic year 2019-2020. The documents of the 72nd Board will be translated in the same way. Translating the documents makes it possible for international students to fulfill a position within a committee and the Board.

OPTIMIZING COMMITTEES

In order to optimize the functioning of committees, a number of changes will be implemented. The chairmen will be contacted by their contact person during the week preceding each General Board Meeting (hereinafter referred to as GBM) to go through the information about the relevant committee, which will be shared in the GBM, orally or in writing.

For specific functions within the committees, namely for the Sponsor Coordinators and Promotion Coordinators, at least three meetings will be organized during the year, to provide more intensive guidance for the coordinators. These meetings will be with the Commissioner External Relations and the Commissioner Media and Communication respectively and will be initiated by the 72nd Board.

There will be a template for committee clothing. Committee clothing that does not conform to this template, may not be worn during a VSPVU activity. The Board has, at all times, the final say in whether or not the clothing is according to the template.

For at least the first three days of the book and summary sales of each period, there will be at least one member of the Board or Candidacy Board present at the VSPVU desk in the VU bookstore, in addition to the scheduled Bookselling Committee (current Balie) members. This is to ensure that sales are made as quickly and smoothly as possible.

The Career Committee (current Opcie) is intended as a committee that introduces members to the field of their study and to bring members into contact with possible internships. In accordance with the Long Term Plan 2017-2020, the aim is to have this committee consist of mainly third-year Bachelor students and Master students. We will also advise the Career Committee to organize a career day in collaboration with SPS-NIP and the School.

In the academic year 2017-2018, the Road Trip Committee (current Liftcie) experienced problems with filling up the Hitchhiking Weekend. Due to this, the Hitchhiking Weekend, which will be organized by the Road Trip Committee 2018-2019, will take place in October 2019. In addition, in the academic year 2018-2019 an activity, to be determined, will be organized by the committee.

COMMITTEE BUDGETS

In recent years, it has been made clear that it is difficult to estimate how much sponsoring a committee can obtain. This led to some committees having too little budget, with others having a surplus. To tackle this problem, the budgets of many committees have been reduced this year and the Flexible Budget has increased. To actually lower the threshold for committees applying for the Flexible Budget, applications up to 150 euros can be granted by the Board, outside of the GBM. When an amount is allocated to a committee, all committees will be informed by e-mail, with the reasoning of both the relevant committee and the Board attached. If the amount exceeds 150 euros, or if the Board deems it necessary, the decision to grant the money will still be made in the GBM.

ACCESSIBILITY

ROOM

To improve the accessibility of the association room of the VSPVU, the 72nd Board will clean the room and tidy up at least once a week. In order to further promote room visits by members and external parties, the 72nd Board strives to keep the room attractive.

To further innovate the VSPVU room, a physical idea box will be placed in the room, which allows members to bring their ideas to light in a different way than via the website.

During the year, at least four mini-event will be organized, during which a film will be played in the association room, with the aim of creating a better bond between members and maintaining the bond with the association.

PROFESSIONALIZATION

To improve the professional appearance of the VSPVU room, the promotional posters will be assigned to a fixed location. This means that committees deliver posters of their activities to the Board, after which the Board will place them in the room. In this way members will be informed of the upcoming events in an orderly manner.

The monthly compilation will be displayed on the television in the association room during every break from the first week of the months October 2018 through June 2019, next to the monthly agenda.

INVOLVEMENT

General Meeting

In the academic year 2018-2019, a GM will be organized at least four times. This gives members sufficient opportunity to ask questions and give feedback with regard to the state of affairs within the association. In order to guarantee the order and quality of GM's, a member of the Council of Advice (current Raad van Advies) will take the role of GM-chairman during each GM.

During the GM the physical idea box from the association room will be present. This allows members, wishing to retain anonymity, to bring forth their ideas. By including the idea box, the agenda item "Ideas" will be given a different interpretation, namely that the ideas submitted in the idea box up to that moment can be discussed during the GM. At the same time, the possibility remains to present an idea orally during the GM.

TRANSITION YEARLY CONTRIBUTION

Currently there is an alternative arrangement within the VSPVU, concerning annual membership fees and members can renew their membership per year by giving their consent. The 72nd Board will request current members to sign for continuation of their membership during and after lectures, at least once a week, except during the exam weeks, during the first semester and at the VSPVU desk in the VU bookstore, when at least one Board member is present, or in the association room. Continuing membership will also be made possible on the website.

The alternative arrangement will be re-evaluated in the academic year 2021-2022 and the most logical step for the VSPVU is to switch to annual membership fees. From the academic year 2018-2019 onwards, investments will be made to make this transition as smooth as possible. This is to protect the VSPVU from a financial deficit in the academic year 2021-2022.

BRAND RECOGNITION

MEDIA

In previous years, the promotion of the VSPVU was done mainly through the social medium Facebook. Media such as Instagram, Snapchat, a monthly mail and physical promotion such as flyers and posters were used as well. During the academic year 2018-2019, at least three times a week, a photo or video will be placed in "My story" of Instagram and Snapchat. This can be used for the promotion of activities, both of the Board and of committees, or to keep members informed about the state of affairs within the association.

In the academic year 2018-2019, a design will be made concerning a new VSPVU app. The aim of this app is to share the VSPVU photos and activities and to realize better communication towards members. In addition, this is an excellent opportunity to promote through push messages. The news about the VSPVU reaches the members more quickly in this way, because they are generally in possession of a smartphone. This will provide a more direct form of communication to our members through a new social medium. The app will be launched in the second semester of the academic year 2018-2019.

PROMOTION

At least two Board members will partake in a lecture talk in the lecture rooms of the various studies and study years of our members. This will take place at least once per semester in each study year and minor. The lecture talks will at all times be carried out by members of the Board or the Candidacy Board only.

In order to increase brand awareness, the aim is to offer more forms of merchandise (examples could be: pens, mugs, Doppers or a form of clothing).

Once again, investments in clothing will be made for the active members, as a token of appreciation for their commitment to the association. However, the clothing for the active members will not be available for non-active members.

SAFETY

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

The 71st Board has decided to establish a drug policy for all activities organized by the VSPVU. In order to provide transparency to the members and to guarantee their safety as much as possible, this policy will be adjusted and there will be a clear line in the consequences when rules of the alcohol and drug policy are violated.

FIRST AID

To encourage further safety and to provide an opportunity for all members to develop in a new way, the aim will be to organize a first aid course. Members of the Board will be required and other active members will be particularly encouraged to participate in this activity, when it takes place, to increase safety on activities.

POLICY CONTINUATION

The VSPVU will continue to participate in consultations such as the SSPN, LOOP, G5, Universitair Verenigingen Overleg (UVO) and Facultair Studenten Overleg Gedrags- en Bewegingswetenschappen (FSOGB).

Sending birthday cards to active members, which was introduced in the academic year 2017-2018, will be continued this year from November 1st 2018 to November 1st 2019.

In the first semester of the academic year 2018-2019, an event will be organized for first-year students, the same as in the first semester of the academic year 2017-2018. The aim of this event is to introduce first-year students to the Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam, the city of Amsterdam, the VSPVU and each other. In addition, a "First Year Break" will take place at least three times in the first semester.

The chairmen will be asked to write a committee policy plan this academic year, to form a common thread for his or her committee. If the chairman has well-founded reasons not to write a committee policy plan, this is not mandatory.

At the beginning of each month during the entire academic year 2018-2019, a monthly compilation will be placed on the various social media.

The aim is to gain 368 new Bachelor's and fifteen new Master's members in the academic year 2018-2019. This is 56% of the total number of new students on Psychology, Child Studies and University PABO. This percentage is based on the recruitment of the academic year 2017-2018 by the 71st Board.

EPILOGUE

With the main points as described above, the 72nd Board expects a positive development for the VSPVU. This policy plan will be presented in the first GM of the academic year 2018-2019. If this policy plan is approved, the policy plan will be evaluated every planned GM.

The 72nd Board wishes to thank you for reading this policy plan.