



# POLICY PLAN

## 2024-2025

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# PREFACE

Dear reader,

The 78<sup>th</sup> Board of the Vereniging Studenten voor Psychologie en Pedagogiek aan de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (hereinafter referred to as VSPVU), presents the Policy Plan for the academic year of 2024- 2025. We want to thank you for taking the time to read our Policy Plan, which is based on the vision of the 78<sup>th</sup> Board, previous Policy Plans and the Long-Term Plan 2023-2026. We hope to contribute to the development and growth of the association with this Policy Plan.

We proudly present ourselves:

## THE 78<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF THE VSPVU

|                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman                             | Dylan Ingelse   |
| Secretary                            | Mabel van Gent  |
| Treasurer                            | Robyn Bernhard  |
| Commissioner Communication and Media | Isabel Bartelds |
| Commissioner External Contacts       | Anne Bruggink   |

# INTRODUCTION

The VSPVU was founded in 1947 by Mr. Sanders. The study Pedagogical Studies had known her own association beforehand: "Hillaritas", which conjoined to become the VSPVU (Association for Students Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) in 1961. Both studies were established within one faculty and therefore the VSPVU became the faculty association of the Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences (FPP). The purpose of the VSPVU is to look after the interests of the students on the broadest level. Since June 2015 the Faculty of Movement Sciences and the Faculty for Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences have been fused into the Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences (FGB). The VSPVU and the VIB (Study Association for Human Movement Science) chose, despite the fusion of the faculty, to keep their own identities. The VSPVU left the title of faculty association behind and thus became a study association.

From the time when the VSPU was founded, she 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, conventions, sports, and cultural events alongside education related ones. Based on the Long-Term Plan, previous Policy Plans and the vision of the 78<sup>th</sup> Board, several main points emerged: Committee Development, Members, Involvement and Events, Promotion, Health and Safety and Policy Continuation. These main points are the foundation of this Policy Plan and will be explained in the following chapters.

The Policy Plan of the 78<sup>th</sup> Board is to be presented to the members of the association during the first General Meeting (GM) of the academic year 2024-2025. Alongside the Policy Plan, the Year Budget and Year Schedule will also be presented.

# CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

The VSPVU consists of members who pay a yearly contribution to the association, Active Members, who are in committees and involved in the organisation of events, and a Board, which guides the association with the help of their Advisory Board (RvA) and Financial Audit (KasCo). The VSPVU also has a public and Board room located in the Medical Faculty (MF-D056), where members can stop by for a break.

From the academic year 2017-2018, the VU introduced the English track to the Psychology course, thus the association consists of Dutch as well as international students. From the academic year 2022-2023 onwards, documents such as the transcripts of General Meetings, are provided only in English. The only committee that will keep on providing all documents and events in Dutch is the Pedcie. This is because Pedagogical Sciences is solely provided in Dutch by the VU.

The VU implemented a numerus fixus for Psychology starting from the academic year 2019-2020, which allows for 600 students to enrol. Due to this there has been a decrease in the number of new members of the association.

In the academic years 2019-2022 the COVID-19 pandemic affected the association by limiting the number of physical events and making it harder to find Board Members. From the second semester of the academic year 2021-2022 onwards, everything turned back to normal concerning regulations. Since then, there is a Long Term Plan from 2023-2026.

In the academic years 2022-2024 the Board Members worked on creating a Social Safety Plan. During the academic year 2023-2024 the Social Safety Plan was voted in.

# POLICY PLAN

The Policy Plan, as drawn up by the 78<sup>th</sup> Board, will be implemented during the academic year of 2024-2025. For the 78<sup>th</sup> Board, the main points are Committee Development, Members, Involvement and Events, Promotion, Health and Safety and Policy Continuation. Each of these points will be elaborated upon below. By the means of this Policy Plan, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board expects, together with the members, to further develop the association.

## COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT

In the academic year 2023-2024, there will be a total of 12 committees (excluding RvA and KasCo). The committees that will be active this year are the following:

- Actie, the Activity Committee
- Barcie, the Bar Committee
- Chronicles, the Yearbook Committee
- Feestcie, the Party Committee
- Illusie, the Introduction Committee
- KasCo, the Financial Audit
- LEX, the Lectures and Excursions Committee
- Opcie, the Career Committee
- Ouderdagcie, the Parents Day Committee
- Pedcie, de Pedagogiek Commissie
- Piccie, the Pictures Committee
- Reiscie, the Study Trip Committee
- RvA, the Advisory Board
- Wintersportcie, the Ski Trip Committee

## *Committee*

- The Actie, the Activity Committee, will organise 4 events with an optional fifth event, of which one is to be a cultural related event, one of which is to be a sport event and two events will be free for the committee to decide.
- Barcie, the Bar Committee, will organise at least three events, of which at least three will be 'borrels' that take place in the VSPVU room. The Barcie is also allowed to organise an additional event.
- Chronicles, the Yearbook Committee, will make the Yearbook and will host a Yearbook release event.
- Feestcie, the Party Committee, will organise 3 events, of which one is to be a gala and of which the other one is to be the PSY-kickoff.
- Illusie, the Introduction Committee, will organise the Introduction Days and Illusie Weekend. The committee will be in charge of gathering mentors and will organise at least one event for these mentors, such as a Mentor Day or Mentor Weekend.
- LEX, the Lectures and Excursions Committee, will organise at least three events.
- Opcie, the Career Committee, the Career Committee, will co-organise the Career Days with the Faculty.
- Ouderdagcie, the Parents Day Committee, is a biannual event that takes place on a saturday. They will organise one event, the Parent's Day.
- Pedcie, de Pedagogiek Commissie, will organise at least three events related to Pedagogical Sciences.
- The Piccie, the Pictures Committee, will be a pilot committee during the academic year of 2024-2025. The committee will have approximately 12 to 14 members. There will be a chair and the remaining members will be general members. The Chair will create a schedule for each period to ensure that the Piccie is present during at least 80% of events per period, and that the committee members alternate between having 'camera duty'. This schedule will be shared with the Board and needs to be approved by the contact person from the Board. The General Members will be in charge of taking pictures with the Board camera. The Piccie members will receive training about the ins and outs of the camera and the rules regarding the usage during their first meeting.

When Piccie members need to use the Board camera, they will have to fill out a form beforehand containing their contact information. They also need to sign for liability, in case of self-inflicted damage to the camera. Piccie members who are scheduled to take pictures will have to be sober.

- Reiscie, the Study Trip Committee, will organise a study trip abroad. The Committee can opt for a pre-union and/or reunion event.
- Wintersportcie, the Ski Trip Committee, will organise the ski trip as well as at least one pre-union and one reunion event.

## MEMBERS

### *Membership*

In the academic year 2024-2025, members that became a member after 2019, will have to inform the Board that they want to cancel their membership by selecting to discontinue their membership in their account on the VSPVU website or sending an email to the Board. The deadline will be the 28th of October 2023 at 23:59.

### *New members*

The 78th Board aspires to obtain 240 additional Bachelor members in comparison to last year's total member count of 735 yearly contribution students (+32.65%), as well as 30 additional Master members (+4.08%).

In recent years, our membership numbers have declined. During the 78<sup>th</sup> Board year, we aim to increase our membership numbers. The 77<sup>th</sup> Board made an investment to membership and provided a discounted membership for Bachelor students. In addition to the discounted membership, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board plans to establish partnerships with companies, offering benefits that are exclusive to members of our association. These collaborations will provide valuable opportunities and incentives, encouraging more students to join and become (Active) members of our association. By enhancing the value of membership, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board not only hopes to attract new members, but also retain current members



# INVOLVEMENT AND EVENTS

## *Room opening hours*

The VSPVU room (MF-D056), in the Medical Faculty will be open for members and non-members from Monday until Friday from 11:00-17:00. During Board meetings, the room will be closed. The Board will announce the definite opening hours before the start of the period. Note that times may differ, which will be notified by the 78<sup>th</sup> Board via Instagram and the Active Member chat. The room will be closed on national and school holidays.

## *General Meeting Attendance*

The 78<sup>th</sup> Board will continue with the General Meeting Bingo, as created by the 77<sup>th</sup> Board, but will make some alterations to enhance effectiveness. At the beginning of the General Meetings members will receive a list of words that will be said during the meeting. The first group or person to cross 12 words of the list will receive a small prize. The 78<sup>th</sup> Board will evaluate if the alterations to the General Meeting Bingo have any effect on attendance during the General Meeting between the second and third official General Meeting of the academic year.

## *Speelkwartier (Recess)*

In extension to the 77<sup>th</sup> Board's idea, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board will organise a 'mini' borrel from 15.00-16.00 on every Wednesday that is not in conflict with any other events, unless communicated otherwise. During this borrel, members can play board games and socialise with each other. The Board will provide some snacks and there will be an opportunity to have some drinks. This will be done for a test period of 2 months after which the 78<sup>th</sup> Board will evaluate if this event is successful. If the 78<sup>th</sup> Board finds that attendance is too low, we will discontinue the Speelkwartier during the rest of the academic year 2024- 2025.

## *Member initiative*

We aim to make the member initiative more known and easier to pitch by mentioning the initiative during as many of the different position training sessions for the committee

members as possible. Moreover, the Member Initiative will be promoted at least twice throughout the rest of the year on social media. Members can apply for the member initiative regularly through email. Members can also pitch member initiatives to the Board members directly. If the event is feasible, the member(s) who pitched the idea will receive funding from the Member Initiative budget as well as support and guidance from the Board. If the Member Initiative budget is not used by May 5th, the (remaining) budget will be reallocated to mini events. The Board will check in with the committee members if anyone has any ideas before each GBM.

#### *Master's event/borrel*

The 78<sup>th</sup> Board decided that the Master Borrel event was not a success during the 77<sup>th</sup> Board and will not be organising this event during the academic year of 2024-2025. Instead, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board will be giving lecture talks in the beginning of the year, and in time for the Master's Events.

#### *Dominate 78*

During the upcoming year, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board will organise Dominate 78: the battle for victory. The Board will come up with 78 challenges throughout the year which will be released at General Board Meetings to the committee Chairmen. Each committee will form their own platoon of fighters with unique team colours corresponding to the committee colours found in the Corporate Identity File. The Board will release challenges at least at 3 of the General Board Meetings which have to be completed before the next General Board Meeting in order to receive the corresponding points. For the most completed challenges per period between the General Board Meetings, the winning committees will receive 3 bonus points, the second committee will receive 2 bonus points and the third committee will receive 1 bonus point. If two committees come in second, they will both be allocated 2 bonus points, and a 4th committee can come in third place. The committee that obtained the highest number of points wins the Dominate 78. This committee will be presented at the end of the year and receive a prize. To encourage participation from all committees throughout the academic year we aim to have a (semi-) live point counter,

which will be streamed on the TV acquired by the 77<sup>th</sup> Board, to motivate everyone to give it their best shot and compete with each other.

### *First years*

To promote the participation from first years in the association the 78<sup>th</sup> Board will organise an event in which we will help them with the ins and outs of university life. This varies from studying tips to the best study spots in Amsterdam to tips for finding housing.

## PROMOTION

During the 78<sup>th</sup> Board year, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, Canvas, and LinkedIn will be used as our social media platforms. Posts on Instagram, Facebook, Canvas, and LinkedIn will adhere to the VSPVU identity, while stories and TikToks can align more closely with current trends. Our most frequently used platforms, like Instagram and FaceBook, will be updated weekly, excluding holidays. Platforms that the 78<sup>th</sup> Board uses less frequently, such as LinkedIn, will be updated with education-related events.

In addition to Social Media, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board will hold at least 12 lecture talks for first and second-year students. This will be mostly done in the first two periods of the academic year. The upcoming events will be shared during the presentation, as well as a QR code linking to a membership form at the end of the presentation. After the lecture talk the Board member(s) will stay to answer questions.

The 78<sup>th</sup> Board will replace physical posters with digital streaming on the TV acquired by the 77<sup>th</sup> Board. Monthly calendars will also be created and streamed. The 78<sup>th</sup> Board will also redo the current template for posters and aim to renew some of the promotional materials in this way.

The idea box is occasionally used by members, and the 78<sup>th</sup> Board will promote its use more actively. We will place the idea box in a more central location in the room.

We will continue selling VSPVU merchandise. A poster displaying all available items will be shown on the tv in the room to ensure that members are aware of the merchandise we offer.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

The 78<sup>th</sup> Board will further develop the Social Safety Plan as drafted by the 76<sup>th</sup> and 77<sup>th</sup> Board, where needed. The board aims to look into ways of implementing this Social Safety Plan in a more practical manner where possible, such as making it easier to spot who has sober shift. The 78<sup>th</sup> Board wants to make the Social Safety Plan known to all our members. The 78<sup>th</sup> Board wants to make the Social Safety Plan known to all our members. The 78<sup>th</sup> Board aims to make the Social Safety Plan known to mentors during the VU Introduction Days, so they can share this with their groups. Throughout the academic year 2024-2025, during the General (Board) Meetings, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board will discuss the practical implementation of the Social Safety Plan at least twice.

## SUSTAINABILITY

During the 77<sup>th</sup> Board's term, all committees were tasked with incorporating sustainability into their events, a directive communicated by their contact person at the beginning of the year. This year, we will continue to focus on sustainability and explore ways to contribute positively to the environment. The 78<sup>th</sup> Board will maintain sustainability as a priority on their agenda, as long as it remains realistic and practical.

The use of paper will be avoided as much as possible. The Board will aim to use online forms and digital streaming to promote events as much as possible. Furthermore, holiday and birthday cards will be handed out in person when possible, instead of sending them via post. Moreover, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board aims to shift to fully online bookkeeping. Decorations used at events will be recycled as much as possible by using the storage inventory created by the 76<sup>th</sup> Board.

Following the 77<sup>th</sup> Board's example, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board will also host an event dedicated to sustainability.

# POLICY CONTINUATION

## *Committees*

As the Boards before, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board will continue with the Committee 10. The deadline to claim the compensation is March 1, 2025. After this, any leftover budget will be allocated to other activities for our Active Members, such as Active Member Weekend.

## *Meetings*

During the academic year 2024-2025, four General Meetings will be held to keep members informed. Additionally, at least seven General Board Meetings will be scheduled, allowing the chairs to stay updated, provide input, and receive feedback from one to another.

## *Alumni*

The 78<sup>th</sup> Board aims to increase engagement with alumni in the VSPVU, by sending the alumni at least 2 newsletters during the academic year to keep them updated on the latest VSPVU events.

## *Member opinion*

The Board will involve members in the decision-making process by using poll questions on Instagram stories at least twice a year. Examples of topics to vote on are movie choices and themes. The given options will be approved by the Board beforehand.

## *Study sessions*

During the academic year 2023-2024, the study sessions were not well attended. However, the 78<sup>th</sup> Board believe it is important to provide a quiet study space for members who prefer to study in a dedicated area. For this reason, we will continue to offer study sessions. To make studying more comfortable, we will provide coffee, tea, lemonade and snacks at each session. At the end of the year, we will share our feedback with the 79<sup>th</sup> Board, allowing them to decide how to proceed with the study sessions.

## *FAQ*

Since the 76<sup>th</sup> Board, a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section has been available on the website. This section will be maintained and updated with information on study-related subjects, membership benefits and support at the VU.

# EPILOGUE

The 78<sup>th</sup> Board of the VSPVU set up this Policy Plan with the best benefits of the association at heart during the academic year 2024-2025. We thank you for your time reading this Policy Plan and hope that it will be voted in during the first General Meeting. The Policy Plan will be revised during all other upcoming General Meetings.

Kind regards,

The 78<sup>th</sup> Board of the VSPVU

