

Report LUS Breakfast Club 2

FOS (Financiële Ondersteuning Studenten) and student participation

December 21st from 9:00-10:00 at HUBSPOT, Leiden

Present:

- Hester Bijl (Vice Rector Magnificus)
- Jeroen 't Hart (Director Expertise Centre Student and Educational Affairs)
- LUS members: Ghislaine Voogd (LUS chair), Enrico Priora (FGGA), Daniël Vossenbergh (FdR), Naomi Nota (FGW), Iris van der Hoeven (LUMC), Julius Pilzecker (FdA), Julia Sinnige (FSW), Yuri Bonnanno (FWN)
- Assessors: Laura van der Plas (FSW), Bernice Dekker (FWN)
- Student board-members from: K.R.S.V. Njord, L.V.V.S. Augustinus, A.L.S.V. Quintus, PKvV, A.L.S.R.V. Asopos de Vliet, LUSSA
- Students from: FGGA, FWN, FGW, FSW, LUMC, Archaeology

In total there were 34 participants.

Introduction

1. FOS (Financiële Ondersteuning Studenten/Financial Student Support)

It is hard to find out what the university has to offer to the students in terms of the possibilities a student has in performing extracurricular activities. The FOS (Financiële Ondersteuning Studenten / Financial Student Support), for example, is something most students have not heard of. That's why we've opened the breakfast club with a short presentation on the FOS, given by Ghislaine. The FOS is a fund managed by SOZ for students who might incur in delay during their studies because of a situation of force majeure, extracurricular activities or the combination of studying and top sport.

This meeting mostly focused on the second group of students, which can be divided into three sub-groups:

- Non-faculty associations that are no member of the PKvV; they apply for FOS directly through SOZ;
- Faculty associations such as faculty councils and study associations. LASSo is responsible for the distribution of the FOS;
- Student association that are member of the PKvV, in which the PKvV is responsible for the distribution of the FOS.

2. Student Participation

This topic is actually an addition to the last breakfast club (which mainly focused on international students in The Hague). The integration of internationals in a Dutch student environment can still be improved:

what are the main difficulties the student associations encounter when it comes to international members?

FOS

1. FOS & PKvV

The PkVv is responsible of dividing the fund between the different student associations. When more associations (like sport associations) join, the PkVv their budget will increase.

The application for the funding can be difficult (PKVV), since the board members have to hand in a lot of papers at the Plexus. An idea would be to do this through digital forms, to make it easier for the board members of associations

The PKvV noted to Jeroen 't Hart that they found it difficult to divide the scholarship months between their members. They have a new member soon (Dinsdag Avond Club). Kirsten from the PKvV stated: "It's really difficult for us because we get more members but not more money. This means we have to divide the money differently'. To this comment, Jeroen noted that the last time the PKvV got a new member, SOZ gave them extra months. This was the Leiden Debating Union. He says it is possible to get more months if they get more members. Kirsten was surprised hearing this.

The PKvV is now contacting most of the sports-associations in Leiden to discuss possible membership. As noted earlier, sports-associations have to apply for financial compensation at SOZ directly. This is a difficult process. Jeroen wouldn't find it problematic if these sports-associations would be under guidance of the PKvV. He actually would prefer having a 'koepel' organization to divide the months instead of SOZ.

With some boards, the former board members 'decide' how heavy the workload is for the following board members. This influences how much money the following board eventually receives. When there are unexpected events, such as constructions et cetera, there might be a heavier workload than is anticipated for by the former board. This can be troubling, although the PKVV seems flexible.

2. FOS & LASSo

The FOS fund is divided between the faculties. To do so, they look at two different things:

1. The number of studies at the faculty
2. The number of students that study at the faculty.

Those two factors determine the amount of money a faculty receives and this can fluctuate.

Within faculties, the assessor divides the money between the different boards and educational committees. To do so, they use a system where study associations can earn point for activities they arrange. This can be a difficult job: the assessor needs to have an overview about everything that's arranged in the faculty and this can be a lot of work. The assessors feel this puts a heavy workload on them.

3. FOS & SOZ

During the meeting, a question was asked by the board of LUSSA, the new study association for the BA Security Studies and MA CSM. They put a lot of effort in setting up the association but they cannot (yet) apply for a fund as they are not 'officially recognized' by the University. Would it be possible for them to get their compensation for this year in retroactivity?

We also discussed tuition-free studying. This is possible for full-time board members. They can follow as many courses as they want. They still get their financial scholarship as compensation on top of their tuition.

There is no rule for receiving the scholarship, as for example at the VU, where 5th year students don't get their compensation as they are already 'delayed'. But: there is a maximum number of months' students can get. Jeroen believed to remember this is 18 months in the whole study-career.

The board members of sports associations would like to see more cooperation and flexibility for top athletes (e.g. with deadlines) from the University.

Some people (one particular person at the table) are not happy with the fact that Leiden is oriented towards big associations that much, she pointed out there were no options outside the big fraternities, because of the less funding they get. All the

2. Student participation

1. *Student associations and participation*

Dutch students seem to join associations more than internationals, and most of them are from Leiden. There is still a gap between Leiden and Den Haag for the big associations

It is not very clear to internationals what options there are in terms of student associations, because there is no central organ for internationals that clearly implicate the options. There is the international office but that is not only for internationals, it is for every student. Hester will look for an option to make a general office where internationals can go to get info about the associations.

2. *Student associations and international membership*

International participation, temporary membership of internationals is a solution for attracting internationals, just like a buddy system during one of the drinks to get a good impression of the student association. Associations like Quintus and Augustinus do face problems during hazing (ontgroening), which every member should go through.

The rowing associations Njord and Asopos have a maximum amount of members, that is why they do not really focus on attracting more (international) members. Nevertheless, they are setting up International Committees.

Buddy system through internationals office is a great system to get a chance to see what associations are about. It should be meant for Dutch students too, necessity to change the name to something that also includes 'non-internationals'

Active participation should not be forced on students that have no interest, information should be provided, but no need to include people that are not willing to participate