



POLICY PLAN 2020-2021

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PREFACE

Dear reader,

The 74th 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 2020-2021. 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 74th Board, previous Policy Plans and the Long-Term Plan 2020-2023. We hope to contribute to the development and growth of the association with this Policy Plan. Everything in this Policy Plan is based on the fact that activities won't be cancelled due to COVID-19.

We proudly present ourselves:

THE 74TH BOARD OF THE VSPVU

Chairman	Martijn van der Zee
Secretary	Iris Doodeman
Treasurer	Demi Acquoy
Commissioner Communication and Media	Stefan Canic
Commissioner External Relations	Sofia Mendez Quirios

INTRODUCTION

The Vereniging Studenten Psychologie aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam (Association for Students Psychology of the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam or VSPVU) was founded in 1947 by Mr. Sanders. The study Child Studies knew her own association: "Hilaritas". The association conjoined to become the Vereniging Studenten Psychologie en Pedagogiek aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam (Association for Students Psychology and Child Studies of the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam) in 1961. Both studies were established within one faculty and therefore the VSPVU became the faculty association of the Faculty of Psychology and Child Studies (FPP). The purpose of the VSPVU is to look after the interests of the students, in the broadest way. Since the 1st of June 2015 the Faculty of Movement Sciences and the Faculty for Psychology and Child Studies fused into the Faculty of Behavioural- and Movement Sciences (FGB). The VSPVU and the Vereniging In Beweging (Study Association for Human Movement Sciences) chose, despite the fusion of the faculty, to keep their own identity. The VSPVU lost the title of faculty association and became a study association.

From the time when the VSPVU 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, sports and cultural events. In recent years however, the goal has slightly shifted back towards educational events. Based on the Long-Term Plan, previous Policy Plans and the vision of the 74th Board, a number of main points emerged: Committee development, Accessibility, Involvement 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 74th Board is to be presented to the members of the association during the first General Meeting (GM) of the academic year 2020-2021. Alongside the Policy Plan the budget will also be presented.

CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

The VSPVU includes active and non-active members. The active members are part of committees that organize different activities. In the academic year 2020-2021, the VSPVU knows fifteen committees, namely the Actie, Balie, Barcie, Chronicles, Congrescie, Feestcie, Illusie, LEX, Liftcie, Lucie, Tranz, Opcie, Pedcie, Reiscie and Wintersportcie. The Liftcie, Opcie and Tranz are pilot committees. In recent years, effort has been made to create a good balance between leisure and educational activities. This was achieved through the establishment of, among others, the Congrescie and the Opcie. Also, a new committee was created to represent Child Studies and University PABO students within the association, called the Pedcie.

In view of professionalization, the VSPVU has adopted a corporate identity in the academic year 2012-2013. This means that there is a fixed layout for promotional material and a new logo. Since the changes on the website in the academic year 2016-2017, students can register for membership online and ticket sales for activities can be held online. In the academic year 2019-2020, the website has been renewed and given a fresh look, so that the overview would be improved and the website would become more attractive to visit.

In the summer of 2016, the VSPVU room moved from the Transitorium to the Medical Faculty. 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 MFVU. A bar has been placed in the new room, which allowed for setup of the Barcie.

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 2016-2017 the Statutes have been altered. The Statutes will be altered again in the academic year 2026-2027 at the latest, or earlier if deemed necessary.

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 constantly developing as an association for both Dutch and International students. In the academic year 2018-2019, further internationalization of the Association has been developed by translating important documents and all transcripts into English, except for 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, namely de Heeren van Aemstel.

In the academic year 2019-2020, the study Psychology has become a numerus fixus study, which allows for a smaller number of first-year students to enroll in this study and results in smaller amount of first-years from the year 2020-2021 onwards. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in the academic year 2019-2020, the VU was temporarily closed and activities had to be either hosted online or were cancelled.

POLICY PLAN

The Policy Plan, as drawn up by the 74th Board, will be implemented during the academic year of 2020-2021. The main points are Committee Development, Involvement, Accessibility, Promotion, Merchandise, Members, Convention, External, Internal 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

Hybrid Committee Names

During the academic year of 2018/2019, the committee names were changed into English pilot names, to internationalize the association and to clarify a committees' function. This led to a change in association identity. To return to the original identity of the association it has been decided to change the English names into hybrid names. The hybrid form consists of the Dutch names, as used by the 71st Board and the years before, and the full name of the committee stated in the corresponding language. For the internal use, the official Dutch names will be used, as for the external use the hybrid form will be utilized. The names will be as following:

- Actie, the Activity Committee
- Balie, the Book selling Committee
- Barcie, the Bar Committee
- Chronicles, the Yearbook Committee
- Congrescie, the Convention Committee
- Feestcie, the Party Committee
- Illusie, the Introduction Committee
- KasCo, The Financial Audit
- LEX, the Lectures and Excursion Committee
- Liftcie, the Hitchhike Committee
- Lucie, the Lustrum Committee
- Opcie, the Career Committee
- Ouderdagcie, The Parents' day Committee
- Pedcie, Pedagogiek Commissie
- Reiscie, the Study trip Committee
- RVA, The Advisory Board
- Wintersportcie, the Ski trip Committee
- Webcie, the Online Committee

Streamlining of Committees

During the past few years, the experience has been that the year planning had too many activities, which lead to lower motivation and therefore less participation in events. Aspiring to increase the attendance rate of events, quality will be opted over quantity. Coming year there will be five borrels instead of six, two parties instead of four, four Barcies

instead of five and a maximum of two promotion borrels for the reiscie, rallycie and wintersportcie.

As another consequence of streamlining the year planning and its partial overlap with the Actie, it has been decided to abolish the Sports Committee as an operating committee for this year.

Optimizing Committees

In the academic year of 2019/2020, the Magazine Committee was replaced with the Online Committee. However, this concept proved to be unsuccessful. It has been decided to replace the concept of this committee with a committee that will be making online productions consisting of at least two podcasts with experts in the work field and at least two interactive productions with other members. To ensure that people notice the potential of this committee, the board will fulfil the goals of this committee if it is not filled. In order to make this committee succeed, a manual will be set up for it.

The Liftcie (former hitchhike committee), will be changed into the Rallycie, the Rally Committee. The Rallycie will organize a weekend out of town where people go by car. Participants have to arrange their own car to go there and they will get assignments to do along the way, for which they can earn points. The group that gets the most points will win a prize. The speed at which people eventually arrive at the location is not relevant to earn points, as this is in no way a race because that is deemed too dangerous. This idea will be further developed with the committee.

In previous years, Committee Manuals were used for the transition between committee chairmen. Because of a lack of information and updates in the committee manuals, they will be converted into an improved presentation given by the previous chairman and their contact person to the new chairman. This will be coordinated by the board to ensure a smoother transition between chairmen. The content of the manual will be evaluated at the end of the year with the chairman and the contact person from the board. It will then be revised and changed if needed.

Convention

To ensure that child studies is represented at the convention in 2021 at least one child study speaker needs to be present. If the Pedcie, LEX or Opcie have any budget left after having done all their own scheduled events this will be given to the Congresscie since they have many expenses.

INVOLVEMENT

In previous years not all committees used the committee ten budget. Committees will have access to their committee ten budget until the 31st of January. If committees haven't used the money before the deadline, the contact person will attempt to organize an activity. If nothing has been planned by the 14th of February, the contact person will stop trying to plan an activity.

Member Initiative

The board offers the opportunity for members to organize one or more activities throughout the academic year. If no activities are planned by April 30th, the board will plan an activity with the money reserved for the initial member initiatives. This deadline is later than the March 31st deadline set by the 73rd board. If an event is organized by a member, one of the board members will assist the members with their initiative.

In the current year schedule two member initiatives have been planned. In previous years there was a lack of coordination and promotion that the opportunity existed. The board will be responsible for organizing events in case no events are organized by the members by April 30th, compared to the March 31st deadline set by the 73rd board. The board will use part of the money that was reserved for that. If an event is organized by a member, one of the board members will assist the members with their initiative.

General Meetings

In order to stick to the essence of the BOTC it has been decided to no longer award BOTC points for attending General Meetings. To still encourage going to GMs, the *most committed committee* or “CoCo” will be introduced. This will be a competition among committees regarding their commitment at the general meetings. After every General Meeting one committee becomes the CoCo, which will earn a prize. The specifics will be added later. Coming year, the BOTC will consist of one big assignment and 3 smaller assignments for which points will be awarded. After each GBM there will be new assignments.

Last year, four GM’s took place during the year. However, the GM in the spring has been deemed redundant. Hence it has been decided to abolish the GM in the spring. At least 3 three general meetings will thereby be hosted; in September, January and June.

ACCESSIBILITY

The accessibility of the room will be subject to change during the coming year due to COVID-19. The specifics regarding these changes can be found in our COVID-19 regulations.

VSPVU room workplace

To ensure a workplace for committees the Board room will be available to reserve for a maximum of two hours at a time during office hours. However, the board always has priority and access alongside the committee using it. Longer reservations are a possibility but only in agreement with the 74th board. The board will provide an online document with timeslots every Friday in which active members can reserve and schedule the room themselves for the coming week. Reserving the room is not meant for study purposes and solely for committees to ensure they can have a place where they can work together in peace on their committee-related tasks.

PROMOTION

LinkedIn will be updated twice a month with an update of our past educational activities and/or planned ones with exception of summer holidays. This will be done to emphasize our educational side on a business oriented platform and to create relevance in that scene.

Lecture Talks

Due to COVID-19, monthly pre-made promotion videos created by the 74th board will be shown during the online lectures until January, since from that point onwards physical lectures are expected. From January onwards physical lecture talks will be done by either 2 members of the 74th board or the candidacy board. During the physical and virtual lecture talks the monthly agenda will be shown as well.

Monthly Agenda

To create more activity awareness the monthly agenda will be shared on Instagram and Facebook every first working day of the month, with the exception of January due to Christmas holidays and July and August due to summer holidays. In January, the monthly agenda will be uploaded on the first Monday after the holiday. In addition, educational events will be shared on Canvas and LinkedIn, on the same day as the monthly agenda.

Monthly Compilation

To give the members the opportunity to look back on past activities, a monthly clip with videos of events that happened in the past month will be shown. This will be posted on social media on the first working day of the month, in unison with the monthly agenda, with the exception of January due to Christmas holidays and July and August due to summer holiday.

Promotion in Room

At least once a week, the television in the VSPVU room will show a slideshow with the latest pictures of past events unless people would like to utilize it for something else.

MERCHANDISE

During the year the 74th board will actively attempt to sell the old merchandise, for example by bringing umbrellas to borrels or parties when it is raining. Furthermore, at least two new merch products will be. Examples of merchandise could be socks or underwear.

MEMBERS

In the coming year the board aspires to get 275 new members out of all 1st year students, which is 51%. Furthermore, our goal is to get 55 new master students.

New Members

To also welcome the students who arrive in Amsterdam in January due to the COVID-19 measures taken by the VU, the board will organize an extra Welcome to Amsterdam in February if COVID regulations allow it. There will also be a Welcome to Amsterdam in October.

Study Sessions

During the week before the exam week and the exam week itself, the board will provide study sessions on every working day. This means that the board will rent a room in which students can study with other students for the upcoming exams. Furthermore, snacks and beverages will be provided in these sessions. In period 3 and 6, due to it being shorter than the other periods, study sessions will only occur in the exam week.

EXTERNAL

The 74th board will attend at least one borrel of the VIB and the MFVU to maintain a good standing with our neighbour association.

During drinking events organized by the VSPVU outside Amsterdam, one of the two sober members organizing the event will need to be in possession of a driver's license if a car is present.

To obtain a variation in the venue of promotion borrels, no two committees can have the same venue to host their promotion borrels. Furthermore, to make sure the year schedule doesn't get overloaded there is a maximum of two promotion borrels for the Reiscie, the Skicie and the Rallycie. The first will be approximately one month before and the second will be approximately one month after the trip organized by that committee.

INTERNAL

This will be the first year in which some members have to indicate that they want to stay a member. To ensure this happens on time the 74th board will set a deadline on Sunday the 25th of October 23:59 for members to continue their membership. The board will use promotion via Instagram and Facebook to notify the members to do this.

The board is going to formulate a plan that can be initiated in case of a calamity so that a quick response and proper communication can be guaranteed towards the members and the VU. This plan will be presented during the first GM of the academic year of 2021-2022 at the latest.

To increase the motivation for joining a committee the board will set up multiple meet the committee events. One will be held during the introduction week and another will be held during the first week of the academic year. By doing this the board also gives non-first year students the opportunity to visit this event.

POLICY CONTINUATION

A Facebook and WhatsApp group will be created amongst the first-year students to ensure communication between them and the board. Birthday and Christmas cards will be sent out to all the active members. In order to ensure members show up to the borrels earlier, at least one pub crawl will be organized preceding a borrel.

To get the chairmen involved they will be contacted at least the Monday before the GBM by their contact person to evaluate the current standings of their committee and what they would like to discuss in the GBM.

Should the treasurer want to use the board debit card, the contract has to be checked by the vice-treasurer.

The board is going to host one alumni event due to the importance of involving former members and recent successful events. Also, a Welcome to Amsterdam event will be organized in the beginning of the year to welcome the first years.

The physical idea box will remain in the room from which the ideas will be discussed during the GM's. The posters in the room will be hung up by the board at the assigned location

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).

Epilogue

With the points described above, the 74th board expects to positively develop the VSPVU. If this policy plan is voted in in the first general meeting of the academic year 2020-2021, it will be evaluated at every other planned general meeting.

The 74th Board thanks you for reading this policy plan.

Kind regards,

The 74th Board of the VSPVU