



POLICY PLAN
2023-2024

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PREFACE

Dear reader,

The 77th Board of the Vereniging voor Studenten Psychologie en Pedagogiek aan de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (from next on referred to as VSPVU), presents the Policy Plan for the academic year of 2023-2024. We want to thank you for taking the time to read our Policy Plan, which is based on the vision of the 77th 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 77TH BOARD OF THE VSPVU

Chairman

Julia Horsmans

Secretary

Esmee Blankers

Treasurer

Lucas Ehrlich

Commissioner Communication and Media

Isa Witteman

Commissioner External Contacts

Simon Westhoff

Commissioner Education

Melissa Sier

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 77th Board, several main points emerged: Committee Development, Communication, Members, Involvement and Events, Sustainability, 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 77th Board is to be presented to the members of the association during the first General Meeting (GM) of the academic year 2023-2024. 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 Raad van Advies (RVA) and Kascontrole Commissie (KasCo). The VSPVU also has a public and Board room located in the Medical Faculty, 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.

POLICY PLAN

The Policy Plan, as drawn up by the 77th Board, will be implemented during the academic year of 2023-2024. As the 77th Board, the main points are Committee Development, Communication, Members, Involvement and Events, Sustainability, Health and Safety and Policy Continuation. Each of these points will be elaborated on below. By the means of this Policy Plan, the 77th Board expects, together with its members, to further develop the association.

COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT

In the academic year 2023-2024, there will be a total of 14 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
- Congresscie, the Convention Committee
- Feestcie, the Party Committee
- Illusie, the Introduction Committee
- KasCo, the Financial Audit
- LEX, the Lectures and Excursions Committee
- Opcie, the Career Committee
- Pedcie, de Pedagogiek Commissie
- Reiscie, the Study Trip Committee
- RvA, the Advisory Board
- Sportcie, the Sport Committee
- Wintersportcie, the Ski Trip Committee

Committees

- The Actie, the Activity Committee, will organise 4 events, of which one is to be a cultural related event and three events free for the committee to decide.
- The 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.
- The Chronicles, the Yearbook Committee, will make the Yearbook and will host a Yearbook release event.
- The Congrescie, the Convention Committee, will host one convention in the beginning of the academic year of 2024-2025.
- The Feestcie, the Party Committee, will organise at least three parties, one of them being the PSY-kickoff. The committee will not organise a gala as this will be a biennial event.
- The 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.
- The LEX, the Lectures and Excursions Committee, will organise at least three events.
- The Opcie, the Career Committee, will co-organise the Career Days with the Faculty.
- The Pedcie, the Pedagogiek Commissie, will organise at least three events related to Pedagogical Sciences.
- The Reiscie, the Study Trip Committee, will organise a study trip abroad. The Committee can opt for a pre-union and/or reunion event.
- The Sportcie, the Sport Committee, is responsible for hosting at least 3 sport related events.
- The Wintersportcie, the Ski Trip Committee, will organise the ski trip as well as at least one pre-union and one reunion event.

COMMUNICATION

Translate statutes to English

The statutes are currently only written in Dutch. We aim to add a translation of the Dutch statutes in English. This way everybody can read the statutes. It is important to note that the Dutch statutes will always be leading, and no conclusions can be drawn from the translated version.

MEMBERS

Membership

In the academic year 2023-2024, 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 29th of October 2023 at 23:59.

New members

The 77th Board aspires to obtain 230 (38.33%) new Bachelor members, as well as 30 (8.33%) new masters members. This will be in addition to the 645 yearly contribution students.

Committee picture

To show extra dedication to our committees, we will hang a picture of every committee on the wall to maintain motivation and an overall happy environment.

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 10:00-17:00. During Board meetings, the room will be closed. The Board will announce the definite opening hours before the start of the period. During exam weeks the room will be open from 11:00 until 15:00. Note that times may differ, which will be notified by the 77th Board via Instagram and the Active Member chat. The room will be closed on national and school holidays.

GM Bingo

The 77th Board will reintroduce the GM Bingo to boost participation in the General Meetings. At the GM we will have a Bingo for which all attendants get a Bingo card. After the GM a winner is announced, who will receive a prize. After the first semester, the 77th Board will evaluate whether the GM Bingo has any effect on participation in the General Meetings.

Speelkwartier (Recess)

Every Friday, unless communicated otherwise, there will be a 'mini' borrel from 16:00-17:00 organised by the 77th Board. During this borrel, members can play board games and socialise after a long week of studying. The Board will provide some snacks and the bar will be opened. There will always be one, preferably two Board members present. This will be promoted by the Board at least once every period. If due to circumstances the Speelkwartier can't happen, members will be notified by the 77th Board.

Member initiative

The 77th Board will promote the member initiative on Instagram. The 77th Board will organise at least two Shark Tank evenings during the Speelkwartier hour. Members have the opportunity to pitch their innovative ideas and compete for a portion of the Member Initiative Budget. Similar to the popular TV show, members can present their ideas for an event. Members can also apply for the member initiative regularly through email. The

best initiative(s) will receive funding from the Member Initiative Budget as well as support and guidance from the Board.

Member opinion

The Board will aim to involve members in the decision-making process by using non-binding poll questions on Instagram stories at least twice a year. Examples of topics to vote on are themes and activities.

Introduction Event for Master students

To expand our outreach to more students, 77th Board will organise an Introduction Event specifically for the new Master students at the VU. This event will take place at the beginning of the academic year.

Route 77

During the upcoming year, the Board will organise the Route 77: Race To Victory. The Board will come up with 77 challenges throughout the year, which will be released at General Board Meetings to the committee chairmen. Each committee will form their own racing team complete with unique team colours corresponding to the committee colours found in the Corporate Identity Form. The Board will release challenges at least at 3 of the GBMs which have to be completed before the next GBM. For completed challenges, the committees will receive points. The committee that obtained the highest number of points wins the Route 77 and will be presented at the end of the year and receive their prize.

Committee Sponsors

Understanding past challenges in securing sponsorships, the 77th Board is launching a new initiative, that will make it easier for committees to find sponsors. The Board will provide a list with sponsors for each committee, containing sponsors that have been approached in the past and new sponsors that may be a good fit. This way the chance of overlapping sponsors is reduced, and the committee will have to do less research on what possible sponsors are. This list is not leading, and each committee still has the

opportunity to come up with their own sponsors, as long as they are approved by the Board.

Alumni

The 77th Board aims to increase involvement of alumni in the VSPVU, by sending at least 2 newsletters during the academic year to keep them updated on the latest VSPVU events. Furthermore, the Board will organise an alumni borrel.

SUSTAINABILITY

We will aim to make the VSPVU more sustainable. To ensure sustainability within the association, a sustainability plan will be drawn up by the committees. This means that each committee will have to think of a more sustainable way to organise at least one of their activities of the academic year, eg. transport, recycling, waste separation. The committee members will be made aware of this by their contact person at the first meeting. The committee with the best sustainable idea will win extra points for the Route 77 which will be announced at the GBM at the end of the academic year. The Board will aim to put sustainability on the agenda at least once for activities to be organised, with the exception of the mini events and the Speelkwartier if not feasible.

The use of paper will be avoided as much as possible. The Board will aim to use online forms where possible. Furthermore, birthday and holiday cards will be handed out in person when possible, instead of sending them via post.

All VSPVU events that include food provided by the Board or committees will be vegetarian by default unless communicated otherwise. Single-use plastic to serve drinks and food will not be purchased. A separate bin for deposit on cans and bottles will be placed in the room. Deposit money (from plastic bottles/cans fees) collected outside of committee events will be allocated to sustainability within the VSPVU. Committees that turn in their own deposit receive the money for themselves.

The 77th Board will host at least one event dedicated to sustainability, for example a clothing exchange (VSPVintage). Furthermore, the 77th Board will look for ways to sell more sustainable merchandise. Decorations used at events will be recycled as much as possible by using the storage inventory created by the 76th Board.

The Reiscie will aim to look into more sustainable means of transport.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The 77th Board will continue writing a formal Code of Conduct / Social Safety Plan similar to the Calamity Plan in the Internal Regulations (Article 8) as drafted by the 76th Board. This Code of Conduct will provide clear guidelines and expectations regarding inappropriate behaviour, such as bullying, aggression, discrimination, and sexual harassment, within our association.

POLICY CONTINUATION

Each Board member will write a blog post at least once a year, updating on the progress of events and to provide information on personal tasks that were completed. The blog posts will be spread out throughout the year. This also will be helpful for VSPVU members that are interested in becoming a Board member. This will be promoted multiple times a year to make sure members know it exists.

Committee ten

In the academic year 2023-2024, committees will have access to their committee ten budgets until Sunday the 25th of February 2024. If committees fail to use it, the leftover money will be reallocated to an Active Member activity, to still give it back to the Active Members.

Flexibility for events

The 77th Board will rename some 'borrels' of committees into events. This allows committees to be more creative and have more flexibility in what they organise.

Promotion

The 77th Board will continue to post Monthly Calendars on social media, with exceptions during the summer holiday and Christmas break. Instagram highlights will be kept as well. In these highlights the Board will share important information and event highlights. The 77th Board will continue using a physical calendar in the VSPVU room.

The 77th Board will give at least 4 lecture talks for first as well as second year Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences 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.

External

The 77th Board will try to renew and strengthen relationships with external contacts. The 77th Board will try to attend as many Constitutional Drinks of brother and/or sister associations as possible. Additionally, to strengthen the bond with neighbouring associations (MFVU and V.I.B), the Board will try to attend borrels from these associations at least once.

Idea box

The 77th Board will continue with the idea box. There will be a physical idea box in the VSPVU room as well as an online form on the website. There is also an option to send an email to the Board with your idea. During the General Meetings, these ideas will be read aloud.

Frequently Asked Questions

The 77th Board will keep the section FAQ on the VSPVU website that was added by the 76th Board and extend where necessary. This way, non-members who are interested in the VSPVU can gather information regarding the VSPVU more easily.

EPILOGUE

The 77th Board of the VSPVU set up this Policy Plan with the best benefits of the association at heart during the academic year 2023-2024. 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 77th Board of the VSPVU