



LONG-TERM PLAN

MID-2017 – MID-2020

PREFACE

This is the Long-Term Plan for mid-2017 – mid-2020 of the Vereniging voor Studenten Psychologie en pedagogiek aan de Vrije Universiteit (VSPVU). With this Long-Term Plan a guideline is drawn up for the upcoming three years. This ensures an association that keeps developing. In addition, this Long-Term Plan provides guidance and stability in the Policy Plans of the upcoming Boards.

This plan has been implemented through evaluations of the Long-Term Plan in mid-2014 – mid-2017 and by ideas that have emerged during a meeting where at least one delegate from the 67th Board, 68th Board, 69th Board, 70th Board and the 71st Candidacy Board was present. This Long-Term Plan will outline a profile of the association and the objective for the upcoming years. In addition, ideas will be put forward so that these key points can be realized.

70th Board of the VSPVU

Chairwoman
Secretary and Commissioner Education
Treasurer and Commissioner External Contacts
Commissioner Communication and Media

Famke Pintér
Margot Bakkes
Bart van Wijck
Amelie van den Boom

INTRODUCTION

The VSPVU has existed since 1947 and is a continuation of the Vereniging Studenten Psychologie aan de Vrije Universiteit and the Vereniging voor Pedagogische Wetenschappen, called 'Hilaritas'. This merger was mainly from a practical point of view, because the two associations were located under one faculty. The association started as a study-oriented association, but now it also organizes many other activities.

Through this third Long-Term Plan we strive for steady progress within the association. This Long-Term Plan should be used as a guideline for the upcoming years and will give the upcoming Boards more guidance for their policy. The attachment to this Long-Term Plan contains specific ideas that will make it possible to achieve the goals for the upcoming years.

This Long-Term Plan, together with the Policy Plan, will be evaluated at the end of every academic year during the General Meeting.

CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

In mid-2017, the VSPVU consists of 14 committees and three pilot committees (namely the Barcie, Pedcie and Ouderdagcie) that organize different types of activities. In addition to these committees, there is a Board, a Counsel of Advice and a Financial Audit Committee. The VSPVU consists of active members, inactive members, former members and honorary members. Active members are members of a committee. The activities of committees include parties, borrels, trips, but also lectures, conventions, excursions and selling study books and summaries. The number of active members in the academic year of 2016-2017 is around 100 students. In the academic year of 2014-2015 60.5% of the first-year students became members, in 2015-2016 this percentage was 69.9% and in 2016-2017 it was 60.1%. In total, the VSPVU currently has approximately 1580 members.

With the start of the academic year of 2015-2016, the faculteit der Psychologie en Pedagogiek (FPP) merged with the faculteit der Bewegingswetenschappen (FBW) to become the faculteit der Gedrags- en Bewegingswetenschappen (FGB). The study association Vereniging in Beweging (VIB) and the VSPVU have been chosen to retain their own identity and not to merge. The biggest reason for this is that the goal of the study associations, namely to represent the interests of the students, would be more difficult to realize in the event of a merger. As a result of this decision, the VSPVU is no longer a faculty association, but a study association.

In recent years, a greater involvement of the Pedagogische Wetenschappen students in the association has been sought. The Pedagogiekie (later approved as Pedcie) was established in the academic year of 2014-2015. This pilot committee started in the academic year of 2015-2016 and organizes activities such as lectures and excursions with the target group of students studying Educational Sciences.

In recent years, efforts have also been made to improve communication with members. Through structured lectures and clear messages on the Facebook page, the VSPVU hopes to reach its members better. Both the pause film and the monthly agenda were launched in the academic year of 2015-2016. The pause film contains the posters of the upcoming activities and any other announcements. The teachers are requested to play it during the breaks of the lectures. The aim of the monthly agenda is to provide a quick and good overview of the activities that are organized in the month in question. The Facebook page is still the main way of communication to members. The Facebook page has 1630 like on 1 June 2017.

The VSPVU room was located in the basement of the Transitorium. However, in the academic year of 2016-2017, the VSPVU opened its room in the MF. The association is now located on the ground floor next to the VIB and the Medische Faculteitsvereniging VUmc (MFVU). In this room, the member room and the Boardroom are separated by a glass wall. A bar has also been installed in the new room, following a sponsorship contract with Bavaria. The Barcie was established in the academic year of 2016-2017. This pilot committee will start for the first time in the academic year of 2017-2018 and will be responsible for borrels in the room.

Finally, the Statutes of the Association were adjusted in the academic year of 2016-2017. In addition, the School has announced that from the academic year of 2017-2018, students can also opt for an English-language Bachelor's degree in Psychology. The VSPVU must therefore become bilingual.

IMAGE

The VSPVU currently has many members who are not active and do not show up at activities. Conversations have shown that the VSPVU is seen by these members as a closed group that is difficult to be a part of. The VSPVU generally has a fine internal culture: the members who are actively involved in the VSPVU feel welcome. Unfortunately, this atmosphere apparently does not radiate to the outside world, causing the VSPVU to be experienced as not so inviting. To improve the image of the VSPVU and to make everyone feel welcome within the association, consideration should be given to how the active members express themselves externally and how the non-active members can be involved in the association. After all, the goal of the VSPVU is to serve the interests of all the members.

DIVERSITY

Diversity is a key point of the VU. As a result, the VU has a diverse student population. The VSPVU must strive to see this diversity reflected in its activities. The setting of the VSPVU does not seem to serve the needs of many students. The term "association" generally entails a prejudice. This prejudice often relates to the consumption of alcohol and the parties, with which we only serve the needs of only a small group of students. However, our goal as VSPVU is to look after the needs of all Psychology and Pedagogische Wetenschappen students. It is recommended that you talk to these students. In this way, more insight can be gained into their wishes and interests, so that the VSPVU can also offer more for them.

ADDED VALUE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

For the VSPVU it is of great importance to be of added value for students. In addition to the fact that social added value is of great importance to a student, there is also added value in offering opportunities to distinguish themselves from their fellow students. Participation in committees within the VSPVU gives students the opportunity to develop further on a personal and professional level. The significance of active membership for both students and the association must be emphasized in the coming years. With committee and possibly Board experience you distinguish yourself from other students, these experiences must be meaningful to be valuable on your resume. Efforts should be made in the coming years to increase this reciprocal added value in order to increase the significance of active membership. If the demand for active membership increases, the number of places for active members must grow.

CAREER

The VSPVU can do really good in the work field preparation. The Opcie was established to bring students in contact with companies and organizations in the work field, with the aim of making connections and possibly creating internships and workplaces. The Opcie has missed its goal in recent years by mainly organizing activities in the form of an excursion. For this reason, it is important to emphasize the goals and tasks of this committee. The VSPVU also provides too little support to start working after obtaining your diploma. The VSPVU needs to organize more trainings, courses and workshops according to the needs of the students, so that more focus is focused on the future of the members. A goal that connects to this is to increase the involvement of teachers, who are currently not sufficiently involved in the VSPVU. By increasing this involvement, the study and work field related aspect of the association is emphasized more.

CONTINUATION

The VSPVU must continue to actively participate in meetings outside the VU, such as the SSPN and LOOP, as well as within the VU, such as the meetings with the FSR, the SPS-NIP, Stedelijk Bestuur VU, the School, the G5, the USR, the UVO and the FSOGB. This active participation helps the VSPVU to further develop and can help to promote the interests of the association. The VSPVU must be open to participation in new meetings.

EPILOGUE

With this Long-Term Plan, we hope to provide guidance for the upcoming Boards. For the goals that are stated here, the aim is to achieve them within three years. It is important that every Board remains aware of the Long-Term Plan when writing a Policy Plan and when implementing their policies. With this Long-Term Plan, we expect to preserve the VSPVU as a sociable, professional and innovative association.

ATTACHMENTS

In this attachment you will find concrete ideas for achieving the goals per aspect.

IMAGE

To improve the image of the VSPVU, it is first of all important to listen to what the students want. In order to also reach the students who are not involved in the VSPVU, we recommend that you talk to students of Psychology and Pedagogische Wetenschappen during, before and / or after lectures and ask about their opinions and needs in order to be able to respond to them. It is also important to realize that a first impression counts. The introduction days, first lectures and the first mini-events are important moments to adopt an open attitude towards everyone. What can also contribute to the feeling that everyone is welcome is to examine how the core of the VSPVU presents itself to the outside world. For example, the question can be asked to what extent the vests for active members influence the emphasis on differences between active members, members and non-members.

DIVERSITY

To increase the diversity within the association, it is recommended to emphasize the study and work field related aspect, while it must be made clear that the association is more than just drinking and partying. The VSPVU has two sides and both sides can be promoted in a different way. In this way the interests of all members can be further represented. Promotion can take place, for example, by attending lectures with a table at the exit of the lecture hall and possibly holding ticket sales, explaining the VSPVU and distributing VSPVU promotional material. Then the study-extending activities in particular can be promoted and emphasized. In this way the less / not involved student can see both the professional and social addition of the VSPVU. Furthermore, it is necessary to think further over the next three years about an approach to involve the non-members and the so-called sleeping members more in the study association. For example, you could request tips from other student associations / institutions. In addition, keep looking for more ways to increase the diversity within the VSPVU

ADDED VALUE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

To increase the added value of active membership, this membership must be valuable on your resume. There are several things that you could apply to increase the value of committee and / or Board experience. An example is distinguishing between different types of membership. This can be done in various ways. For example, you can connect a "bronze, silver, gold" system to the membership. With bronze as the least and gold as the majority in the association. You could also develop a kind of premium membership where you, for example, get priority over study-related activities and / or commissions. You could also distinguish two types of membership; a substantive membership and a social membership. This makes membership more transparent and more clearly defined. Perhaps this can appeal to students more. These are things that make membership more formal and increase added value. We strongly recommend that the committee application procedure be reviewed and that when membership is given a new look, it must be aligned with the new form of membership. Another aspect that could also increase the added value of active membership is the issue of certificates after the end of the committee year. In this way, active members have tangible proof of their participation. In addition, consideration can also be given to any recognition from the faculty. The contribution scheme could also be changed. An amendment to the Statutes of the association has already made it possible, for example, to pay an annual contribution, but the advantages and disadvantages of this must be carefully considered.

CAREER

To make the objective of the Opcie visible again, it can be useful to change the Opcie and to declare it a pilot again. The Opcie missed its goal by becoming a committee that mainly organizes excursions. By failing to achieve this goal, the VSPVU no longer contributes to (master) students looking for a job. We can bring this back to the Opcie and in this way bring back the field of orientation to the VSPVU. You can also look at the organization of courses, workshops and training courses that connect with the preparatory aspect. You could put this to the Opcie, or to the Commissioner Education of the Board. Consideration could also be given to forming a new committee with an emphasis on the field-oriented aspect, a possible volunteering committee or a work experience committee for example. In communicating with members, it is important to emphasize that field-related experiences can be gained and that this can distinguish them from other students by, among other things, the connections they possibly make. It must be emphasized that this can have an effect on finding a job. You could increase the involvement of teachers by, for example, organizing activities to which teachers can also contribute or participate. You can also invite them to room borrels, for example. Furthermore, it is important to make it clear to the teachers that the VSPVU is a study association and that you are happy to connect with what the teacher tells and implements in the lectures and seminars.