



Utrechtse Historische Studenten Kring

Policy Plan of the 97th Candidate Board of the Utrechtse Historische Studentenkring 2022-2023

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Introduction

Despite the last challenging years of the pandemic, the Utrechtse Historische Studentenkring (UHSK) is still standing strong. Members worked the association through this period and have remained active. With this strength, the UHSK will enter the next year in full force.

The 97th board will ensure that the UHSK remains an accessible haven for all history students in Utrecht. This will be realized by focusing on *connectivity* between the students of all years by producing a yearly almanac and a *Member Card*, organizing an *Inclusivity Day* and by more actively introducing the UHSK to first year students. This will be realized by organizing both a *Biannual Committee Market* and a *First-Year Weekend*.

Furthermore, some changes will be made to optimize the functioning of the UHSK. This *reform* will express itself through the dissolution of both the *Image* and *Family Committee*, the professionalization of our media channels and by streamlining the educational functions of the UHSK.

The 97th board will present itself as accessible; formally when needed, informally when possible. This balance between responsibility and fun will be accommodated by the various *reforms*, because of which the UHSK can remain accessible. As an association the UHSK strives for *connectiveness* after all. We are all different, which leads to a beautiful union. *Ex pluribus unum*, unity in diversity!

The 97th board will be led by the values of *Reform* and *Connectivity*.

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Member Policy

Members will always be paramount in the association. To radiate *connectivity* more attention will be paid to the accessibility of the association, namely by introducing a *Member Card* and by organizing an *Inclusivity Day*, *Biannual Committee Market* and *First Year Weekend*. *Room Hours* will also be reformed.

Inclusivity Day

In the context of *connectivity*, an *Inclusivity Day* will be organized by the board. This celebration will focus on connecting members from all years to showcase inclusivity.

In the week of the Utrecht Pride, at the start of June, the *Inclusivity Day* will take place. The UHSK is an association where everyone can be their authentic selves. It is instrumental to highlight this fact annually by connecting our association to the Utrecht Pride.

First-Year Weekend

As a substitute to the *Lifwedstrijd*, a *First-Year Weekend* will be organized by the board. This weekend will distinguish itself from the introduction camp by mandatory membership to participate.

The *First Year Weekend* enables new students to find a *connection* with the UHSK, even if they missed the introduction camp. By organizing this weekend in the middle of the first period it will not hinder the *Small Trip*.

Member Card

A *Member Card* will be introduced and given to all current and future members. With this card members will be able to use various discounts derived from sponsor deals.

The *Member Card* stimulates togetherness among members and will be handed out on activities and in the UHSK room. In this way involvement will be promoted.

Biannual Committee Market

The *Committee Market* at the beginning of the year has proven to be too short for a lot of members. Consequently, first years remain unaware of the full workings of every committee. By organizing a *Biannual Committee Market* the unfilled committees will get the chance to promote themselves again. Alongside the unfilled committees, *societies* will also be present to promote membership.

The market will take place in January and thus precede the biannual registrations. It will also be organized to follow up on a first-year lecture to encourage attendance.

Room Hours

In the past year the weekly *Room Hours* have proven to be too big of a task for the board. Turnout is also oftentimes lower than expected, which is why they will be reformed.

Instead of weekly, *Room Hours* will be organized once per month at minimum. By doing this, the board not only gets more time to come up with concepts, but also more space to make the *Room Hours* bigger. This way the *Room Hours* will stay special and the turnout higher.

Concrete:

- A yearly *Inclusivity Day* will be organized by the board.
- The *Lifwedstrijd* will be replaced by a *First-Year Weekend*.
- A *Member Card* will be introduced.
- A *Biannual Committee Market* will be held in January.
- *Room Hours* will be organized at least once per month.

Education Policy

In the context of reform the *Focus Groups* will be reinvented as *Course Evaluation Meetings*, with the purpose of making them more accessible and allowing all students to speak on their experiences with their courses. The *Education Forum* will also be abolished.

Course Evaluation Meetings

The *Focus Groups* are not sufficiently visited, namely because of the current membersystem, and will thus be reformed. The purpose of this reform is to appeal to more students to visit these *Focus Groups*.

To clarify the function of the *Focus Group* it gets renamed to *Course Evaluation Meetings*. These meetings will be held once per block, after a *Steering Group*. There will be three separate meetings for first-, second- and older-years.

The department assessor and student members of the Educational Committee will be invited to the *Course Evaluation Meetings*. The minutes of the meetings will be sent to the concerning course coordinators, bachelor coordinators, chair of the Educational Committee and the director of education.

Education Forum

The last years have proven the *Education Forum* to be unnecessary. Despite active promotion from the *UHSK for Better Education*, on both the media channels of the UHSK and those of the University of Utrecht, there has not been enough use of this service to warrant its existence. For this reason, the *Education Forum* will be abolished.

Concrete:

- The member system of the *Focus Groups* will be replaced by open *Course Evaluation Meetings*.
- The *Course Evaluation Meetings* will be held once per block after a *Steering Group*.
- The *Education Forum* will be abolished.

Committee Policy

Committees are vital to the association, which is why it is crucial to implement changes to the current committee policy. Once again in the context of *reform*, the *Image* and *Family Committee* will be disbanded and the distribution of functions within committees will be simplified by introducing a *Function Guide Document*. Alongside these changes, connectivity will be stimulated with a yearly almanac.

Image Committee

The *Image Committee* is responsible for creating posters of the events of the UHSK. This past year barely any requests for this service have been made. Furthermore, the 95th board implemented changes to the committee, of which none resulted in a more frequent use or better functioning of the *Image Committee*. As it no longer benefits the association as intended it will be disbanded.

The task of designing posters will be a task of the commissioner PR of the committees. During the function meetings at the beginning of the year clear instructions will be given to these commissioners.

Family Committee

The *Family Committee* is responsible for organizing both the *Sibling* and *Parent Day*. Because of the low turnouts at these activities, the events will be combined into one (1) *Family Day*.

Because the responsibilities of the *Family Committee* will consequently consist of just one event, this task will be placed in the care of the *First Year Committee*.

Almanac Committee

The *Almanac Committee*, as established by the 94th board for the nineteenth lustrum will be reformed into a yearly *Almanac Committee*. By representing activities, members, committees and societies, a togetherness will be created amongst all members.

The committee will consist of a minimum of six (6) members with the following functions: chair, secretary, treasurer, commissioner photography, commissioner PR and commissioner design. The range of tasks of the committee include designing the almanac, arranging a printing contract, making and collecting visual materials of and reports about activities and promotion.

The *Commissioner of External Affairs* will maintain close contact with the committee to enable possibilities concerning external sponsoring in the almanac.

The reveal of the almanac theme will coincide with the reveal of the Dies theme in February. The almanac will be published at the end of the academic year. There will be a reservation system to prevent surpluses in printing.

Function Guide Document

Every year functions are distributed within committees. It has been found however, that, first-years in particular, experience ambiguity on the contents of the various functions.

To simplify the function distribution, a *Function Guide Document* will be written as a complementary tool to the internal committee transfer. The document will clarify all functions within committees alongside the various corresponding tasks. The document will be sent to all committees after the committee formation and before the function meetings. The document will also be published on the website.

Concrete:

- The *Image Committee* will be disbanded.
- The *Family Committee* will be disbanded.
- The almanac will be published yearly by a reformed *Almanac Committee*.
- A *Function Guide Document* will be drawn up.

COVID-19 Policy

An appendix concerning the COVID-19 virus will be drawn up, which will be presented on the General Assembly of September. As long as COVID-measures are in force the appendix will be leading.

Media Policy

In a digitized society it is instrumental for the UHSK to present itself professionally on its various platforms. The media channels serve as a first impression for external parties and future members after all.

The UHSK currently has an Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook page. It may be viewed as unprofessional to have an inactive social media page, as is the case with the Facebook page. Because of this, the media policy will be *reformed*. All posts on the Facebook page will be deleted and only one new post will be visible to viewers which will direct to other active platforms: Instagram, LinkedIn and the website. This way the UHSK can still be reached through Facebook.

The biggest part of the tasks of the Facebook page will largely be covered by Instagram. For the business side of the UHSK the LinkedIn page will be utilized more frequently. Information about the UHSK and a calendar with all events can be found on the website.

Visual material on the Facebook page will be archived. As established in article 3.4 of the privacy policy, pictures will be archived, unless objections will be made.

Concrete:

- The Facebook page of the UHSK will be emptied.

Finances

The budget of the 97th fiscal year is elaborated on below.

Income

The item *Subscription funds* will be lowered from €275,- to €240,-, following cancelled subscriptions. The current number of subscriptions is six (6) regular members and twelve (12) supporting members.

The item *Book fund* will be lowered from €500,- to €150,-. Due to the cancellation of the book sales through bol.com, book markets and book sales in the room are the only income sources for this item. This decline estimates a more realistic amount.

The item *Book sales* will be lowered with €400,- from €1.600,- to €1.200,- as a result of the decreased sale of books through Studystore and as the UHSK obtains a lower provision on sold books, from 5 to 4,5 percent.

The item *Lustrum funds* is no longer part of the budget plan, as the 97th has no lustrum celebration.

Committees

As advised by the *Advisory Council Budget Review*, committee budgets will be centralized as much as possible to only cover their main activities. To prevent surpluses the items *Alumni Committee*, *Career Committee* and *UHSK for Better Education* will be equated to €500,-. These committees are primarily based on organizing one (1) big day activity. Experience shows €500,- is enough to fund such a day activity.

The item *First Year Committee* will be raised with €500,- from €400,- to €900,-. This increase is necessary to facilitate the newly introduced *Family Day*.

The item *Family Committee* will disappear from the budget plan because the committee will be disbanded.

The item *Lustrum Committee* is no longer part of the budget plan, as the 97th once again has no lustrum celebration.

The *Almanac Committee* will receive no item on the budget plan, as expenses and income will remain equal. Using a reservation list, the almanacs will be printed based on demand to prevent surpluses in the context of sustainability. Some pages of the almanac will be dedicated to sponsors. This income will be added to the *Sponsorship* item.

Board Expenses

The item *Activities* will be raised from €2.250,- to €2.730,- to accommodate the increased number of organized activities by the board, such as the *First-Year Weekend* and the *Inclusivity Day*.

The item *Studenten Geschiedenis Nederland* is increased with €5,- to €105 because of an increase in membership fee.

The item *Von der Dunk-lezing* will be lowered with €100,- to €400,- to create a more realistic estimate and prevent surplus.

Other

The item *Bonus budget* will be increased with €300,- from €1100,- to €1400,- to allow committees more space to set up new or bigger activities outside of their main events.

The item *Printing costs (Aanzet+Argus)* will increase from €2.162,84 to €2.225,42 because of increased printing fees.

Once again as advised by the *Advisory Council Budget Review*, the item *Unforeseen expenses* will disappear. The past years have proven too little use has been made of this item and the buffer funds are meant to cover unforeseen expenses already.

The item *UHSK app* will disappear because, as decided on the General Assembly of 19-01-2022, the UHSK app has been discontinued.

The item *Fixed expenses* will be lowered with €77,58 from €1.402,16 to €1.324,58. Even though the costs of the newspaper subscription rise with €2,- per month, the overall expenses decrease because of the cancellation of the Zoom subscription. This subscription is no longer deemed necessary because of the current situation surrounding COVID-19.

The item *Website* will be increased with €710,- from €825,- to €1.535,-. This raise is needed because the website-host, Congressus, increased its fees in december 2021. As a result, both monthly expenses and costs per active member have risen.

Reservations/Savings

In anticipation of the proposal of the 96th board to even the deficiencies of the buffer funds, as will be presented on the General Assembly in September, the item of *Buffer funds* will be increased with €150,- from €100,- to €250,-.

Conclusion

For ninety-seven years the UHSK has connected history students in Utrecht. The coming year this *connectivity* will be a central theme in the policy. This will be realized by several projects, including publishing a yearly almanac, organizing an *Inclusivity Day* and the *First-Year Weekend*.

To keep up with changing times, *reform* helps the UHSK to function smoothly. These reforms are expressed in the dissolution of the *Image* and *Family* committee, as well as the professionalization of our media channels.

The combination of *reform* behind the scenes and *connectivity* to our members will make sure the 97th association year will be one where all members will feel connected to each other; 'Geschiedenis is ons verbintenis!'

Allocation of Tasks

Dax Antheunisse – Chair (Deputy of Education)

Committees: Activities Committee, Holocaust Memorial Day, International Committee, Sports Committee

Tasks: Big Brothers, Internationalisation, , Photograpy Guild, Portrait Guild, Specialisation Market, Sustainability, SVO.

Amber Verspui – Secretary (Deputy of External Affairs)

Committees: Archive Committee, Argus, Gala Committee, Statute Committee.

Tasks: All-In, Inclusivity Day, Privacy, Survey, Von der Dunk-Lezing.

Isabel Makkinje – Treasurer (Vice-chair)

Committees: Aanzet, Excursion Committee, Historical Events Committee, Smposium Committee.

Tasks: Dies Week, OPA, Teacher Dinner.

Hans Kobes – Commissioner of Education (Vice-secretary)

Committees: Drama Committee, Political Café, UHSK for Better Education (UBO).

Tasks: Bachelors', Study Abroad-, Master' and Internship Information, Course Evaluation Meetings, Educational Committee, Student-for-a-Day, Teacher Prize.

Jona van Vreedendaal – Commissioner of Internal Affairs (Vice-treasurer)

Committees: Career Committee, First-Year Committee, Music Committee.

Tasks: Book sales, Committee Battle, Dies Week, First-Year Weekend, Internal Activities, Media Channels.

Tristan Hofkes – Commissioner of External Affairs (Deputy of Internal Affairs)

Committees: Acquisition Committee, Almanac Committee, Alumni Committee, Party Comittee.

Tasks: Biannual Committee Market, Book Fund, Department Trip, SGN, Sponsorship, Student Wellbeing.