

# Annual Report Student Council 2009-2010



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY  
WAGENINGENUR

WAGENINGEN  
**STUDENT**COUNCIL



**Left to right, standing up high:** Antonio Chamorro (PSF member till December 2009, from January 2010 independent); Hermijn Speelman (Secretary); Angela Lewis (Technical Chair); Wen Zhang (Chair PSF); Suzanna van der Meer (PSF) **Standing:** Ian Perry (PSF member till December 2009, from January 2010 independent); Susan van Aalst (VeSte); Anouk Platteel (VeSte); Judith van Niekerk (VeSte); Julie-Anne Tangena (Chair VeSte); Tang Weiqin (PSF) **Kneeling:** Yi Bingqing (VeSte); Kees van der Ark (VeSte); Eva Helmus (VeSte).

# Annual Report Student Council 2009-2010



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Dear Reader,

The Wageningen University Student Council (SC) of 2009 - 2010 was full of challenges and surprises. It was my first full term as Technical Chair, having only officially joined the SC in April of 2009. When I began as Technical Chair I never expected that within a couple of months I would stand alone coaching the new SC team. But former SC Secretary Marieke van Iterson's departure in October 2009 was easier to accommodate thanks to Anneke Vos van Dijken, Rinia Baldew and Wendela Schlebaum who gave their support during the months before Hermijn Speelman joined the team as SC Secretary support staff. Working with Hermijn has been a pleasure. The DBSC members and Party Co- Chairs have also been a pleasure to work with.

In the coming pages you are presented with an overview of what this Council has achieved. The *Internationalization* and *housing* topics became two key SC project areas beyond the core business of approval and advice on given Executive Board decisions and participation in committees. These spearheads have contributed to IPOP processes, and offered potential policy choices to build on in the future. Council members have also been active participants in the entire co- participation system. Their contributions to meetings and committees, projects and initiatives have ensured that students' voices echo throughout the organization. These voices increasingly feature the diversity that reflects the growing international character of the WU. The 2009-2010 SC has Chinese, Spanish, British and Dutch members. The spirit to make things work has paid off. I have watched this group grow in different ways and give shape to a unique year. A compliment to all that this year elections have been held drawing WU students from all corners of the globe into the selection process for a new team to represent them in 2010-2011.

Angela Lewis  
Technical Chair SC



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# 1. Councils at Wageningen University

## 1.1 The Student Council (SC)

The SC is a body of students which represents the interests of all students on the highest policy making level in the university. Last year, 2009-2010, the SC consisted of twelve elected students from two parties; VeSte and PSF. Seven members were from VeSte, PSF started with five members and later in the year three members from PSF and two independent members. The SC is the student voice towards the Executive Board (EB), especially the Rector Magnificus, and tries to find the best possible solution for regulations regarding education and student related facilities.

The SC has four official rights:

- *right to (dis)approve*: The SC has the right of approval on everything that directly applies to students. This means concretely that the SC can agree on plans, disagree and improve plans, or block plans of the EB.
- *right to advise*: The SC can provide the EB with advice on any issue related to students. The EB must provide good reasons if they do not follow the advice given.
- *right to initiate*: The SC can put forth ideas and suggestions, and the EB is obliged by law to respond seriously.
- *right to information*

## 1.2 The Student Staff Council (SSC)

The SSC consists of both students and Wageningen University staff. This council discusses issues that are related to both students and WU staff. It has its own rights, separate from the SC and CMO, concerning topics like the administration and control regulations (BBR).

### ***1.3 Central Co-participation Council (CMO)***

All central participation councils of Wageningen UR are represented in this body: students of both Wageningen University and Van Hall Larenstein, employees of Van Hall Larenstein, Wageningen University and the research institutes of DLO. This council deals with subjects which influence the whole Wageningen UR, such as new education buildings and the Wageningen UR budget.

## 2. Education

### *2.1 Sharp Distinction (Harde Knip)*

The minister of education of the Netherlands is of the opinion that creating a clear division between the Bachelor and Master, also known as the 'Harde knip' (Sharp Distinction), is a good measurement. When the plan is implemented, starting an MSc will not be possible before the BSc is finished. This plan is presented by the Dutch government to make students think about their future before starting an MSc. The plans are already in an advanced stage and the next government will probably approve the proposal.

The Sharp Distinction is important for the university, because of financial reasons. The financial loss will be substantial every year if the Sharp Distinction is not implemented. The funding of the university depends on the amount of students that graduate and the amount of years that they are registered as a BSc or MSc student. If students graduate for their BSc just some months before they graduate for their MSc, the university will lose money as they are not registered as an MSc student.

The SC has approval right on the Sharp Distinction plan. The SC understands the importance of the financial argument from the EB, but at the same time the SC thinks that active student life can be hampered by implementing the Sharp Distinction, and the freedom and flexibility students have in their education planning will be lost. Therefore the SC would like to have the best plan possible, keeping both financial arguments and active student life in mind. The SC thinks it is important for Wageningen University to deal with this Sharp Distinction in such a way that it will not lead to too much negative consequences for the students, as studying is so much more than just learning facts and figures from books.

## ***2.2 Monitoring Towards Flexibility***

The Board of the Educational Institute (OWI) has proposed to reschedule the Bachelor programs to create a free space of half a year to stimulate students to follow a minor (24 ECTS); this is called Towards Flexibility (TF). The scheduling was changed from 5 to 6 periods in total by dividing period 3 into two periods, now period 3 and 4. Between period 3 and 4, an extra re-exam week is scheduled. The division of period 3 has been made to ensure students can do minors of other study programs or at other universities more easily. This increases the mobility of students immensely.

It was a big step for the SC to give their approval on the TF in 2008-2009, and it was the responsibility of last year's SC to monitor the implementation of TF as it will be implemented in the Academic Year 2010-2011. The university will offer 46 minors in 2010-2011. Ten of these minors already existed, 36 minors were designed of already existing courses. In the Academic Year 2011-2012 more minors will be composed. In this process, the transition rules are very important because some courses will be lost due to the system. Last year the SC made the EB aware of the missing communication plan, which should be made to ensure good communication towards the students and staff with the implementation of TF. Activities like an info market and a website will be used to achieve this goal. The SC will keep monitoring the implementation next year.

### **3. Student facilities**

#### ***3.1 Student Physician and Vaccination Centre***

In the beginning of this academic year it became clear to the SC that the situation concerning the student physician would dramatically be changing. The current student physician will retire in January 2011, and there will not be a replacement. From that moment on, the vaccination centre will also be independent of Wageningen UR. The SC is concerned about this decision. The EB proposed that Corporate Education & Research (E&R) would work on an alternative plan for student healthcare at Wageningen UR. This proposal included that other parties should be able to perform the tasks of the student physician and vaccination service and that healthcare is properly accessible for all students. Also included in the proposal was the fact that there should be no barriers to financing healthcare (including preventive measures) for any activities related to education, such as work experience in tropical countries.

In October 2009 the EB and the SC agreed that Corporate E&R would work on aforementioned plan, that the SC would be actively involved in this plan and would receive regular updates of the process. The SC has approval right on the final plan presented by the EB.

#### ***3.2 Eating Facilities***

The committee 'Eating Facilities' has been established as a continuation of the mensae-debate of Academic Year 2008-2009. This committee consisted of three staff members and three SC members.

The SC is of the opinion that the fact that the former existing mensae did not work optimally, does not necessarily mean that there is no need for an evening eating facility for students in Wageningen. Goal of the Eating Facilities committee was to find out whether there indeed is a need among students to have an evening eating facility or not. To hear the students' opinion in this, a questionnaire was set up and sent to all students in Wageningen. This took place in April 2010 and more than 1000 students filled in the questionnaire. Presentation of the final outcome of the questionnaire and the recommendations to the EB took place in June 2010.

## Warm dinners and takeaways in Forum

**text: Albert Sikkema**

13:07u 12 August 2010 - The new academic year will see Albron starting a student canteen in the Forum, where students can have a warm meal for €3.95 in the evenings.

**C**atering company Albron will operate a student canteen in the Grand Café in the Forum from September. Students can order warm meals between 5:30 pm and 7 pm. The canteen will open for four days in the week, from Monday to Thursday. A warm meal with salad will cost €3.95. It can be supplemented with a soup and a dessert for an extra euro. Diners will have a choice of two dishes, one of which is vegetarian.



### Survey

Albron's move is the result of a survey of more than a thousand Wageningen students. The survey, carried out by the Student Council, showed that 86 percent of the students would patronize a canteen in the Forum. The students are mostly in search of somewhere to eat cheap and tasty food with friends.

If a meal costs €3.50, Dutch students would patronize the canteen four times a month, while foreign students indicated that they would be present eight times a month. If the meal costs five euros, the number of patrons would be halved, according to the survey.

Albron will also cater takeaway dinners in the canteen. About sixty percent of the students indicated their interest for this option.

*Reference: Resource website*

### ***3.3 Sustainability Project Wageningen UR (Femke Batterink)***

The sustainability project Wageningen UR is a project in which students, together with staff, think about how to improve the sustainability of Wageningen UR. The student in this project, Femke Batterink, represented the SC.

The second phase of the sustainability project is now coming to an end. Where the first phase focused on defining the ambition level of Wageningen UR, the second phase was about creating a plan of action to fulfil this ambition: to become a leader in sustainability<sup>1</sup>. The more important part of this plan of action, the actual measures that will be taken, are the result of the work of seven working groups, consisting of employees and some students as well. Those measures should actually lead to the Wageningen UR having a less damaging impact on the environment. The role of the Project Group Sustainability (PGD) was to coordinate and encourage this process. The PGD has also looked into the feasibility of the measures proposed.

The following projects are still under construction:

- Sustainable Campus, Wageningen UR wants to make its campus sustainable. It is a research project done in cooperation with other universities and AgentschapNL.
- A CO<sub>2</sub>-compensation fund, for Wageningen UR activities that cause much CO<sub>2</sub> money would have to be paid into this fund. The money would be used to fund Wageningen UR researches that focus on sustainability issues, or to implement measures at Wageningen UR that reduce CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions.

When all parties have approved the final PGD document, a third phase of the sustainability project will start. A new group (now called taskforce) will be established to keep encouraging the process. In this taskforce there will be room for a student to take part.

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<sup>1</sup> With regards to internal management (Dutch: interne bedrijfsvoering) and compared to other Dutch universities.

### **3.4 Campus**

#### **3.4.1 Infrastructure Bornsesteeg/Forum**

The SC has received many complaints of students about the crossing at Bornsesteeg and the street itself being too busy and dangerous at the start of the Academic Year 2009-2010. The SC has asked questions concerning this issue to the Municipality and Wageningen UR. At the moment this is an ongoing topic. The SC hopes to see improvement soon, because the SC is of the opinion that it really is a dangerous place for bikers and pedestrians. A new cycling track was built from Dijkgraaf to the Born, to decrease the use of the Nijenoord Allee and the road Bornsesteeg. It still has to be evaluated if this solution has been effective or not.

#### **3.4.2 Orion: building/student café**

Last year, the SC continued to take part in several working groups assigned to design the Orion, the new education building. Focus has been on specific areas in the building, such as designing the area of the catering and the student café. It is the aim of the SC, in cooperation with the study associations, to have a student café *by and for students* since it is the students that are the essence of the education building Orion.

Besides this, the SC's focus has been on designing enough and healthy workspaces for group- and individual workplaces.

#### **3.4.3 Grand Café Forum**

In autumn 2009, the SC learned that the Grand Café in Forum unfortunately does not attract many students. Therefore there were not enough customers to make the cafe economically feasible. A result was that the Grand Café was only open in the afternoon, forcing students (and staff) to drink coffee from the coffee machine. Among students this caused a lot of dissatisfaction. The SC took the initiative to have an open discussion with the university and Albron on how to improve the

atmosphere in the cafe, and to explore the possibilities to reopen the cafe also in the morning. Attention was given at the interior design of the cafe and the offer of drinks and snacks.

March 2010 Albron started, in collaboration with the university, a pilot in the Grand Café with a more elaborate offer in drinks and snacks, opening hours from 8am to 5pm and several new sofas and other adjustments to the interior. The pilot still needs to be evaluated, this will be done in June 2010.

*Reference: Resource website*

## Coffee in the morning again in the Forum

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**text: Alexandra Branderhorst** | 6:43u 24 February 2010 - The grand café in the Forum will open in the morning again from 1 March. This is the result of actions taken by the Student Council to enable students to have sandwiches and a cuppa coffee in the café in the morning.

**S**ince last summer, students and employees in the Forum could only get coffee from the dispensing machine in the morning.

No cappuccinos, espressos or sandwiches. The grand cafe on the ground floor opened only at 12 noon. A great pity, as Eva Helmus from the Student Council puts it. The capuccino sold at the grand café was only 5 to 10 cents dearer than the coffee from the dispenser, but tasted much better. And it would be fine to be able to buy something to eat before noon.'

The council received complaints about the closing of the grand café, says Helmus. 'We too felt the inconvenience.' Together with Wageningen University, the council lodged a request with Albron, the cafe management. Albron has now decided to open the café again at 8 o'clock in the morning for a trial period from Monday 1 March till the summer.



#### **3.4.4. Albron**

Students complained about the prices, about the opening hours and about the products offered, not matching the needs of students. The contract is commercial, meaning Albron doesn't get any funding from the university. The university did choose a range of cheap basic products compensated by higher prices of other products. Albron has a hard time making enough profit with students as their costumers. The Student facilities committee advised the manager of Albron on some sale and assortment choices in the advantage of students. Also the Grand Café was redecorated to increase the use and consumption. In 2011 the contract will be extended, changed or a new caterer will be hired. Discussions about the new contract and thinking about what changes are needed will be an important task of the SC 2010-2011.

#### **3.4.5 Campus Library**

The library director and some library staff have set up a library committee together with the members of the SC student facilities committee. The library committee meets twice a year. In general the SC thinks that students are rather satisfied with the library. The student facilities committee brought forward some complaints about people talking out loud. Two other issues were the unclear website, and the promotion of courses. In addition the SC advised the committee to work together with the language center in respect with the language self-study material; to know on which level to start this self-course. The possibilities to reduce the costs of buying articles not present at the Wageningen UR library was also discussed and some possibilities were published at the website.

## **4. Active student life**

Active student life is essential for keeping the university attractive for new students, and to ensure students in Wageningen keep having the highest satisfaction of our university (Keuzegids nummer 1). Students are the essence of keeping this active student life attractive. The university should provide the facilities necessary and stimulate students to develop themselves outside their studies as well.

One of the most important way the university provides this is funding of students who miss classes, because of their activities contributing to the active student life of students, called FOS (financial support students). The regulations which ensure students from different organizations and associations have right to funding, is written in close cooperation with the SC. The SC has approval right on the entire regulations. Next year (2010-2011) new regulations will be written for FOS. Therefore this year we have been talking intensively with all organizations, both receiving FOS and not receiving FOS, for our inventory. The SC now has a clear view of what students would like to see in the new regulations. This will be communicated to the SC of 2010-2011.

Good sport facilities are essential for a good student life in Wageningen. Although the sport facilities of Wageningen university are very good, the facilities have reached their limit because of the exponential growth of students. In February the CMO and the SC wrote a letter, in cooperation with the student sports foundation Thymos, to the EB in which the essence of the expansion was highlighted. In response the EB has decided to invest 900.000 euros in the University Sports Centre. With this money temporary and long-term solutions will be handled, including the fitness area which will be expanded with 400 square meters and additional instructor hours are being made available.

## Bongerd under pressure

**text: Yvonne de Hilster / Photo: Guy Ackermans** ;17u 17 February 2010 -The yoga course is fully booked within five minutes, indoor football goes on until past midnight, and a fitness class can involve more waiting than exercising. The University sports Centre is bursting at the seams through rising student numbers. The executive council is looking into the problem, on the insistence of Thymos sports foundation.



The University sports Centre is bursting at the seams

*Reference: Resource website  
Photo: Guy Ackermans*

## 5. Student housing

The main target of the housing committee is solving the room shortage in Wageningen. Therefore there are several different organizations represented in the housing committee: SFO, WSO and SC.

This year meetings were arranged with as many actors as possible. Good meetings with Idealis resulted in a clear view of the history of student housing in Wageningen and their plans for the upcoming year(s). In the near future 38 rooms will be finished in the centre. On the longer term a new Rijnsteeg will be build and possibilities will be sought to build even more.

Besides Idealis, the focus was on empty buildings of Wageningen UR. They could be used to house more students. This is still an ongoing topic which needs more attention next year.

At the beginning of the year students were able to sleep at hotel Hof van Wageningen for only €300 per month, which the SC made possible. Unfortunately this possibility wasn't used by many students, but might be a good option again next year.

The SC took up the initiative of trying to make it possible for students to buy their own house. This plan contains some political background since the municipality council cancelled some old regulations concerning the mortgage arrangements and demanded new ones. Throughout the year the SC worked on plans with many different actors. Most important were the Ceres housing committee, the municipality, a mortgage advisor, real-estate stimulating foundation (SVn) and the Rabobank. Due to many technical problems this plan is to be taken up by the next SC.

Next to the shortage of housing, the housing committee also focused on the quality of living. This is mainly the task of SFO, but with thinking along the housing committee contributed.

## 6. Internationalization

The SC focused on internationalization within the organization, as it was one of the spearheads of the SC this year. The topics discussed were mainly concerning facilities influenced by the increased amount of international students and staff. Areas where these changes or problems occurred, were mainly concerning facilities and integration. An inventory was made of the problems of both national and international students in the current international environment of Wageningen University.

Results:

- **Inventory:** Report based on interviews of the embedment of internationalization in the whole organization.
- **International lunch:** Discussions with international students on their expectations and experiences of Wageningen UR during lunch. The outcome of these discussions will be used as input by the university when deciding where and what to improve in respect to internationalization.
- **International organizations:** an international organization/platform stimulating integration and facilitating social multicultural student life is still missing in Wageningen. ESN and ISOW are essential for the integration. Therefore activities were organized with ESN, and ISOW was stimulated. The SC has stressed the existence of such an association to the EB and students, as it is not the main task of the SC to help associations practically or to set them up. A proposal for a 'new' ISOW has been written and sent to the EB.
- **International Office:** In the current state the international office takes care of international students before they arrive and the first three weeks in Wageningen. The SC would like to expand the office by also providing additional information for Dutch students on exchange possibilities. The next step will then be to really start an open office with a lot of information on everything concerning studying abroad and studying in Wageningen for all international students.
- **Integration activities:** writing proposals for events like White Day and Cultural Shock party.
- Constant input to the **IPOP workgroup internationalization**.

## **7. IT Group**

### ***7.1 Virtual workplace***

Wageningen UR offers employees and students, based on their role, a working environment that provides them with all digital information he or she needs in order to work and co-operate within Wageningen UR, indifferent of time and place. This is called the Virtual workplace (Virtuele werkplek). A feedback session of Virtual Workplace was held. The main goal for this meeting is to define the needs and demands of students as a role based on the information needs. The EB decided that the Virtual Workplace will be carried out. In the near future, there will be a work group which will work on the implementation of the Virtual Workplace.

### ***7.2 RSI prevention***

A lot of students have been confronted with the problems concerning RSI. From September 2010 on it will be possible to automatically start "Workpace", a program which helps prevent RSI, at all Wageningen UR computers. The SC has taken this first step and together with the Education and Research department of the university will start a campaign in September 2010 to make people aware of RSI and promote measures to prevent it.

## 8. Elections

There are 12 seats in the SC, which are divided between the SC parties participating in the elections. Last year these were: The United Students (VeSte) and the Progressive Student Fraction (PSF). Each year all WU students can vote for their SC representatives. First students have to choose between the two fractions, which creates a "list" of candidates, then students can vote for one student on the Party list.

Unfortunately last two years there have been no elections, as not enough candidates could be found before summer. Last year PSF found 6 candidates and VeSte 28, which meant elections could be held. The election result for 2010/2011 have been announced by the Rector Magnificus, Martin Kropff, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2010. The turnout at the election (the number of valid votes divided by the number of students entitled to vote) was 28.78%. 1185 votes have been given to VeSte and 394 votes have been given to PSF. This meant 9 seats went to VeSte and 3 seats went to PSF for the SC 2011-2012.

*Reference: Resource website*

## More than thirty candidates for the Student Council

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**text: Alexandra Branderhorst** 2:17u 26 May 2010 -It is sexy again to be in the Student Council. Students have 34 candidates to choose from. They have until 1 June to cast their votes.

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**I**n recent years, so few students have wanted to be in the Student Council that no elections have been needed. But the consultative body is suddenly sexy again. VeSte, one of the two student parties in the Student Council, has managed to find 28 candidates. 'Eighteen of them are at the bottom of the list and not seriously interested in office. They are all people who have supported us over the past year and are helping us work out our policies', explains Kees van der Ark, who currently represents VeSte in the Student Council. The remaining ten candidates, including one Chinese student, do want to join the Council.

VeSte has made quite some headway over the past year. The party insisted on the expansion of the Bongerd sports centre and looked for solutions to the accommodation shortage. They joined forces with the Wageningen Student Union (WSO) and the Progressive Student Party (PSF), the other party in the Student Council, to campaign against the short Christmas break.

## **9. Promotion**

### ***9.1 SC activities***

In 2009/2010, the SC organized several activities to make the SC more well-known and create space for the student's interaction and input. Important activities the SC held last year were:

#### **9.1.1 Christmas action**

The SC organized together with WSO a petition action to collect signatures from students for a Christmas holiday of two weeks.

The Christmas holiday in 2009 was only one week. This was decided by the EB in 2008 after considering all arguments of different actors, including the SC. As a lot of students were very unhappy with this decision, the SC decided to organize an action and asked WSO to help. A Christmas holiday of one week is just not enough for students to rest and get refreshed for the next period, especially for international students. The Christmas action during lunch on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, 2009 was a great success. 1500 students signed the petition, agreeing on the preference of two instead of one week of Christmas holiday. As a response to the action the EB decided to change the planning! Unfortunately this could not be arranged for the Christmas holiday of 2010, but this holiday has been extended with two days. From 2011 the Christmas holidays will last two weeks.

#### **9.1.2 New Year's drink**

This year the New Year's drink was organized by the SC in co-operation with WUF. The Teacher of the Year program was combined with the New Year's drink of the SC to involve more students in the elections of the Teacher of the Year. It was a successful event with more than 200 students enjoying the presentation of the Teacher of the Year award, an English comedian, drinks, snacks and music.

# Only one week of Christmas holidays

**text: Amrish Baidjoe / Photo: Bart de Gouw** On 10 December 2009 - 'One week of Christmas holidays?' a student cried out in surprise. 'And next year too? That sucks.' The Wageningen Student Organization and the Student Council organized a lobby for signatures on Tuesday 8 December for one more week of Christmas holidays.

**W**ith Christmas hats on their heads, the protestors walked about the Forum to request for signatures. They attracted many curious reactions and much support. 'Enough of your children after just one week?' a student wrote on a pamphlet to the rector, Martin Kropff. Within two hours, the WSO and the Student Council had collected more than a thousand signatures.

'Unlike all other Dutch universities, students in Wageningen are given only one week of Christmas holidays this year and the next', says Julie-Anne Tangena of the Student Council. 'In return, we will get an extra week of summer holidays.' She says that most students, however, don't really need that.

'They would prefer one more week of Christmas holidays. In particular, international students could use a week's extra time to visit their families overseas during the festive period.'



**Dressed up as Santa Claus, members of WSO and the Student Council lobbied for signatures for a longer Christmas holiday period.**

*Reference: Resource website  
Photo: Bart de Gouw*

### **9.1.3 Communication Toward Flexibility**

The implementation of the major-minor system in the BSc study programs by the academic year 2010/2011 will have consequences for the current student. As not a lot of information had been communicated to the students yet, the SC organized three information days in February in order to help students with questions they had about Towards Flexibility. The SC answered questions based on information from the OWI-board and SC-meetings. The information days were also used to improve communication between the SC and students.

### **9.1.4 Elections**

The SC ordered yellow bike-covers for the election week. The bike covers contained information about how to vote and when. All bright yellow bike-covers were put on bikes at the university buildings. Still, months after the elections, the bike covers can be seen all around Wageningen.

## 9.2 VeSte activities

VeSte is a very active SC party which organizes activities for all active students and is focused on keeping the contact with the students as close as possible.

### 9.2.1 Open party at Ceres

VeSte organized an open party at Ceres together with the AID board again, as it was such a big success the year before. This party was organized to get the name VeSte in the spotlight for a night. Last year a movie has been made to inform students about VeSte. It was a very successful party with over 1150 students attending.

### 9.2.2 Board congress at KSV St. Franciscus

A board congress was organized for board members from all student and study associations. During this board congress students had the opportunity to follow 8 different workshops which are all in the mindset of being in a board. The workshops were free of costs for all students and included workshops like etiquette, leadership training, sponsoring and annual budget information.

*Reference: Resource website*

## VeSte wins majority of seats for Student Council

**text: Alexandra Branderhorst** 7:49u 3 June 2010 - VeSte (United Students) has clinched nine seats in an overwhelming victory at the student council elections. The PSF (Progressive Student Party) manages to gain only three of the twelve seats for the next academic year.



### **9.2.3 Municipality debate**

In March 2010 students could vote for the composition of the municipality of Wageningen. To make sure that students were well aware of the vision of the different parties, VeSte organized a debate together with Ceres and invited the leaders of all political parties to join. The debate was focused on students, and therefore only student related topics were discussed. All students had the opportunity to ask questions during the debate and talk to the party at the info-market. All political parties were present and at least 80 students joined the debate and visited the info-market.

### **9.2.4 VeSte newflash**

As information services from the SC to students can be improved drastically. VeSte started distributing a newflash every period to keep students updated on activities of VeSte, and the activities in the SC. VeSte hopes to elaborate the newflash next year and to make it a household paper.

### **9.2.5 Supporters mail**

Not only is the information provision from the SC to students lacking, also the input from students about topics, like education and facilities, can be improved. Although SC members are very well aware of the opinion of students, new viewpoints/input is very useful for the discussions with the EB. Therefore VeSte started a supporters mail this year. In this supporters mail VeSte shortly gives an update of what is happening and asks students to respond on the topics. VeSte is stimulating students to give their opinion on dilemma's VeSte encounters. This initiative has been very successful with over 150 supporters and at least 30 reactions on the supporters mail every time.

### **9.2.6 Elections**

Organizing elections has been one of the highest goals VeSte wanted to achieve last year. Twenty-eight students were willing to be VeSte candidates last year! VeSte would like to thank all candidates for their hard work and investment.

After the candidates were found, the preparation for the promotion activities started. A lot of logistics and early mornings were necessary, but the goal of making VeSte visible for all students was reached without a doubt. Everyone who visited the Forum saw VeSte's castle made from beer crates. VeSte handed out free magazines for students at all locations and had info-stands at all important education buildings. VeSte was behind the bar at the Bunker and Woeste Hoeve and attended a lot of parties for promotion.

VeSte is very proud of the end result of 9 out of 12 seats for VeSte.

### **9.3 PSF activities**

#### **9.3.1 Toilet paper**

One of the most well-known communication methods of PSF is the **Toilet paper (PleeSF)**.



**PSF toiletpaper**

A toilet-publication by the Progressive Student Party

This news letter has been published three times last year to show all students who the PSF-members are, what PSF is doing, what students' rights are and information about many of the international events organized by PSF. PSF would like to keep this traditional communication method next year together with the PSF website to update students about PSF and Wageningen UR.

#### **9.3.2 PSF Internationalization**

Last year PSF had an international board; PSF thinks everyone is international in Wageningen UR. In order to take the lead in having English as common language within the Wageningen UR, PSF has written the information on the PSF-website, Toilet paper, and promotion items all in English.

#### **9.3.3 Privacy Regulations**

Last year PSF has paid attention to the Privacy Regulations. In this era people have to face a lot of cameras everyday and everywhere, even in our education buildings. More and more personal data are digitally available and these databases are used in various ways. Wageningen University has the slogan 'For Quality of Life' and according to PSF this quality can only exist when a certain level of personal privacy, freedom, is guaranteed. Therefore PSF, together with the SSC, discussed the Privacy Regulations of the Wageningen UR very carefully (the regulations will be made public at the website of Wageningen University). After discussions and before approving the regulations the following preconditions were set: > Protection of

personal data and privacy will be under the attention of the co-participation-councils and the EB, every year and the indication will stay up-to-date. > The regulations will be public at the internet. > Existing databases of VHL will be clarified. > Period over which personal data is saved should be reasonable and at least legal according to Dutch law. As progressive students, PSF thinks it is necessary to be aware of the importance to have a balance between control and freedom nowadays.

#### **9.3.4 Borney's survey**

Bornsesteeg is a pure international student flat in Wageningen UR; more than 600 international students are living there. However, from August 2009, the flat pub Borney's has been closed. In the beginning of 2010, the Borney's board came to PSF and asked for help in this issue. PSF decided to cooperate with the Borney's board and did a survey to get the opinion and suggestions from the tenants in Bornsesteeg about the Borney's issue by making questionnaire.

## **10. Afterword**

Dear reader,

It is my honor to write the first afterword in the Annual Report of the SC. Although I haven't contributed to the writing of the report itself, I'm very pleased to write something about how the report came into being. Despite various challenges faced at the beginning of the SC year, the members have devoted a lot of commitment to their efforts in making sure that 2009/2010 would result in a successful year. As can be seen from this final report, the SC members have succeeded in their endeavors, also thanks to devoted coaching from the Technical Chair, Angela Lewis. I hope you've enjoyed reading the Annual Report and that it has helped to create insight into the scope and activities of the SC.

Hermijn Speelman  
Independent Secretary

## 11. Next year's Student Council (2010/2011)

**VeSte:**



**Lise Albers**



**Luuk Brinkman**



**Erwin Hofman**



**Martijn Kuller**



**Airen Lugt**



**Frederieke Muijs**



**Sofie Terwel**



**Rob van der Ven**



**Yi Li**

**PSF:**



**Ewoud Nijhof**



**Jing Xiao**



**Niels Zondervan**

**SC Secretary:** Hermijn Speelman  
**SC Technical Chair:** Angela Lewis

## 12. List of abbreviations

CMO	Central Co-Participation council
EB	Executive Board Wageningen UR
FOS	Financial Support Students
GMR	Joint Participatory Council of VHL
ISO	Meeting of students from different universities
LSVb	National Student Union
E&R	Education and Research Department
OpCie	Programme Committee
OWI	Educational Institute
PSF	Progressive Student Party
SC	Student Council
SSC	Student Staff Council
VeSte	United Students, party in the SC
VHL	Van Hall Larenstein university for Professional Education
WSO	Wageningen Student Union
WUR	Wageningen University and Research Centre
SB	Supervisory Board Wageningen UR