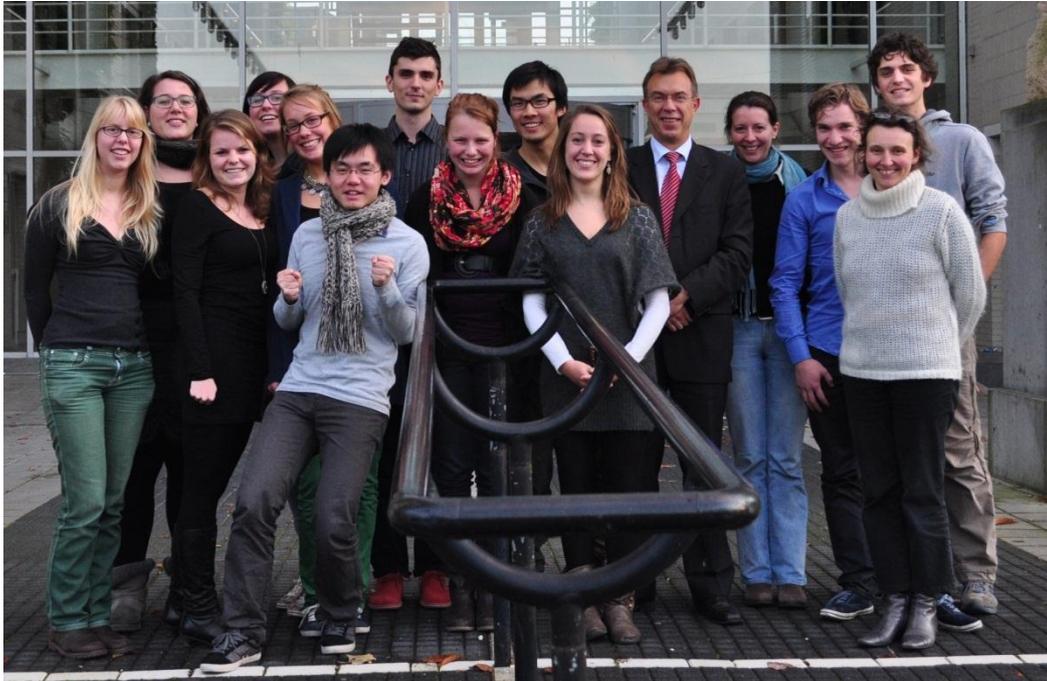


Annual Report Student Council 2011-2012



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY
WAGENINGEN UR

WAGENINGEN
STUDENT COUNCIL



Left to right: Romy Appelman (Chair Pulse); Willemijn Sneller (VeSte); Maria van Delft (VeSte); Anne Vogel (VeSte); Sanne Mirck (VeSte); Weizhi He (VeSte); Stefan Petrutiu (Pulse); Marloes Ike (Chair VeSte); Deli Pan (Pulse); Leonie Schönbeck (VeSte); Martin Kropff (Rector Magnificus); Hermijn Speelman (Executive Secretary); Rik Martens (VeSte); Angela Lewis (Technical Chair); Aart Claassens (VeSte)

Annual Report Student Council 2011-2012



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List of abbreviations

COR	Central Employees Council
EB	Executive Board Wageningen UR
FOS	Financial Support Students
ISO	Meeting of students from different universities
LSVb	National Student Union
PSF	Progressive Student Party
SC	Student Council
SSC	Student Staff Council
VeSte	United Students, party in the SC
AID	Annual Introduction Days
WSO	Wageningen Student Union
WUR	Wageningen University and Research Centre

Dear Reader,

Each Student Council (SC) is unique. The expected challenges, trials, victories and lessons vary somewhat from year to year but the spirit with which any particular group plows forward indeed forges a pioneer trail. During 2011-2012 the team has shown dedication, perseverance and professional commitment taking on own initiatives for themes such as culture, studying mothers, RSI/CANS inquiries, while rounding off dossiers passed on from previous councils such as the red flag report Quantity and Quality. Such 'third agenda items' were realized in the margins of the primary work which featured weighty dossiers. Among others, the Halbe Heffing, WU Budget, Student Facilities definitions, Social Sciences masters, Joint Degree BSc Tourism, EERs and Student Charter, and WUR Council work will not easily be forgotten! It was an emotional year and one of patience and hard work amid much uncertainty with governmental measures that put pressure on finding candidates for 2012-2013. Even though there were no elections, there are enough candidates to fill the council. Veste and PSF adjusted to the new reality of a merged WSO and PSF resulting in PULSE. With each new challenge comes the possibility for renewal and opportunities. I look back with pleasure at working with this group and I admire their intercultural insights and commitment to seeing things through to the end. The memorable moments of good humour and sharp discussion will resonate long after. I commend everyone on work well done and the personal growth that I hope will take each and every one on to great heights.

Angela Lewis
Technical Chair SC

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1. Councils at Wageningen University

1.1 The Student Council (SC)

The SC formally represents the interests of all students at the highest policy making level in the university. Last year, 2011-2012, the SC consisted of twelve elected students representing two parties; The United Students (VeSte) and the Progressive Student Fraction (PSF), which later merged with the Wageningen Student Association (WSO) and became PULSE. There were nine VeSte members and three PSF/PULSE members. The SC is the student voice towards the Executive Board (EB), especially the Rector Magnificus. The SC's major assignment is 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 (dis)approval concerning any case that directly applies to students.
- *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 of information*: The EB is obliged to properly inform the SC concerning issues of relevance for the SC.

1.2 The WUR Council

At the beginning of 2011-2012, the central participation councils have joined forces into a new WUR Council. The WUR Council consists of two central participation bodies: the SSC (Student Staff Council) and COR (Central Employees Council). Students, who are also a member of the SC, take a seat on the SSC. The goal of combining the councils is to yield a more effective and efficient participation for the entire organization. The legal rights stay with the separate councils; but there are joint meetings and joint committees. In 2011-2012, the WUR Council started and searched for a good way of working. The WUR Council is involved with different topics, such as education and research, finances, housing and personnel.

2. Student Council spearheads 2011-2012

2.1 Culture for students in Wageningen

Being a student in Wageningen means more than studying. A large proportion of your personal development takes place during the years of being a student. Therefore it is important that a city and a university offer opportunities to students for their academic forming.

After the university decided not to support Movie W anymore, the SC wanted to know where the boundaries were to support or not support certain cultural organisations. Therefore, the SC started a broader discussion on the use of culture and the responsibilities of a university to offer activities that help in academic forming.

During meetings with staff members of the university, and during the official consultation meetings with the Rector, the SC put the topic culture on the agenda of the university. The SC let the Executive Board explain what they think is important for students. The EB explained that the university takes its responsibility by supporting cultural activities. The university supports Studium Generale and (cultural activities of) student groups/organisations through funding or FOS (Financial Support Students).

The SC hopes to have started a useful discussion on the importance of culture for students, which may continue in the future.

2.2 Sufficient and adequate working/thesis places for students (RSI/CANS)

Because the SC received many indications that there are problems related to thesis working places, it decided to take up RSI (repetitive strain injury)/ CANS (complaints of arms, neck and/or shoulders) and (thesis) working places as a spearhead. The prevention of RSI/CANS and the provision of (thesis) working places was extensively investigated at Wageningen UR. The aim of this investigation was to get more insight in the amount of students experiencing problems, as well as gathering more knowledge about the kind of problems students experience. To reach this aim, the SC launched a survey in the beginning of 2012. In total 307 students (BSc and MSc) completed the questionnaire. The results of the survey, together with conclusions and recommendations of the survey, were presented in a report called 'Student Council report; Thesis working places and RSI/CANS.' Next to the report, also the staff department of Education & Research has made a report about student working places. Unfortunately the report was not available for the SC in 2011-2012, and therefore the discussion on RSI/CANS will continue next academic year.

3. Education

3.1 Governmental Plans

Last academic year has been a tumultuous year for students regarding governmental changes. The 'Halbe Heffing' was implemented (against which the national student organisations organised a court case) and the law proposal 'studeren is investeren' was presented to the parliament. Because the government fell, in the end only the cut on the OV-card has been implemented from that proposal.

Because the SC is of the opinion that it is important that the EB is fully aware of the consequences of these plans for students, the SC gave a successful presentation and discussed the governmental plans and the impact for (students of) Wageningen University during the consultation meeting with the EB in December 2011. The SC also wanted to create awareness among students. Therefore the SC organized information stands in Forum/Leeuwenborch and spread factsheets that ISO and LSVb had developed. The SC sent an email with detailed information about the plans to the study advisors to spread among their students. Moreover, some SC members took part in the national action week of ISO and LSVb by promoting a petition against 'studeren is investeren' and cycling from Amsterdam to The Hague to present that petition.

Because of these governmental measures, the university had to change its regulations. The SC worked on changes in the regulations for enrolment, the summer re-exam period and the compensation of the Halbe Fine for social sciences students and students with delay beyond their control.



menu
Restaurant De Tweede Kamer

<u>Afschaffing basisbeurs master</u>	€3200,- p/j
<u>Inkorten OV-kaart</u>	€1000 p/j
<u>Harde knip</u>	Gratis bij elk gerecht
<u>Langstudeerboete</u>	€3000,- p/j
<u>Tarieven 2e Bsc of Msc flink hoger</u>	€9240,- p/j

WAGENINGEN
STUDENTCOUNCIL

'Foreign students pay too much'

text: Linda van der Nat / Photo: AID 11:15u 19 April 2012 -Through their tuition fees, international students are helping to fund the university's internationalization policy. Not fair, says the student council, which opposed the hike in tuition fees. To no avail.

That tuition fees for non-EU students have to go up is undisputed. These students currently pay 10,500 euros in tuition, well below the cost price, which is about 17,000 euros. The university covers the difference itself. To put an end to this, the executive board decided a few years ago to raise tuition fees in stages until they covered costs. In 2012-2013, overseas students in their first year at Wageningen will be paying 12,020 euros, a rise of 15 percent.

'We understand why the university is raising tuition fees. The funding for education has to come from somewhere', says student council member Sanne Mirck of VeSte. 'But research has shown that the university is recouping the costs of housing, recruitment and the International Office through international students' fees too.'



'Students already pay rent'

The student council's main objection is to the inclusion of housing costs in the tuition fees. According to Mirck, students shouldn't have to pay towards the temporary housing such as that provided in Hoenderloo, in the Brink Residence and in containers on the Haanweg. After all, the students are already paying substantial rents for this accommodation. 'It is the university's decision to be so international and to actively recruit students from abroad. So there is no justification for then charging them for the extra costs when there is not enough accommodation. The university should subsidize that until they have found a permanent solution to the room shortage.'

To the disappointment of the student council the executive board ignored their advice. Next year the student council plans to open up the discussion again, says Mirck. 'The rector has promised us that a new cost analysis will be made. The way we see it, accommodation should not be included in that analysis. That is what we want to discuss, not the rise in tuition fees as such.'

BSA, but when two institutions are involved and differences occur, there can be a need to compromise. The SC therefore requested that necessary support mechanisms would be put in place, to ban the negative side effects a BSA can create. It also took some time to assure the students in Breda the right to bring a dictionary to their exams, but based on the Student Charter Regulation 'Code of Behaviour Foreign Language' it was finally agreed that also in Breda a dictionary will be allowed.

3.2 Price policy

During the Academic Year 2011-2012, the Executive Board proposed an increase in the tuition fee for non-EU students. According to the EB this raise was necessary to reduce the gap between what a non-EU student costs (cost calculation) and what these students pay. There has been quite some discussion about the Price Policy and the question of how to embed certain costs. These were difficult, but constructive discussions. The SC could see that the gap needed to be reduced to cover the costs. Still, the Student Council did not agree with the increase of the tuition fee, due to some of the components which were included in the total cost calculation, like temporary housing. Therefore the SC has decided to advise negatively, because the SC believed that in the end the University has to pay for the extra temporary housing, as it decided to keep actively recruiting non-EU students. The SC hopes for a more fruitful discussion as the EB promised to make a detailed calculation of the costs of a non-EU student for next academic year (2012/2013).

3.3 Education and Examination Regulations (EER)

The SC had to approve two EERs last SC-year. The first one was new, and developed especially for the Joint Bachelor programme Tourism, which is partly taught at the NHTV in Breda and partly at Wageningen University. The SC approved the EER under a couple of conditions, which were related to the Binding Study Advise (BSA) and usage of a dictionary during exams. The SC did not support the

The second EER that was discussed in the spring of 2012, was the EER for Wageningen University 2012/2013. One of the biggest changes was that a lot of rules were moved from the EER WU to the Rules and Regulation of the Examining board, a document on which the SC has no formal rights. In the end, there was only one content related issue that remained for the discussion with the EB: the language of the questions and answers of exams for BSc and MSc students. The result of this discussion is that BSc students can still request a Dutch version of every exam they take, and they can always answer their exams in Dutch or English regardless the language of the exam questions. MSc students cannot request nor answer exams in Dutch.

3.4 Accreditation and Performance Agreements

The Academic Year 2011-2012 was quite a heavy year for Wageningen University. Wageningen University was the first one to be visited by the NVAO for the institutional accreditation. A panel consisting of scientists, relevant industry representatives and students conducted group interviews with students (of program committees and the SC), teachers and (policy)staff members. In the end, the university was accredited and even received a special feature for 'Internationalisation'.

The next challenge for the university was to develop Profiling and Performance agreements for the ministry of Economic affairs (formerly known as ministry of Economic affairs, Agriculture and Innovation) about targets that the university should meet by 2015. The SC was closely involved in this process. The SC attended public input meetings, was involved via technical meetings and an extra consultation meeting in April 2012. The profiling agreements did not include radical strategic changes, because Wageningen University already has a clear profile (green, agrofood, life sciences, etc.). The development of the performance agreements was critically analysed by the SC, but after some good discussions the SC was satisfied with the final results:

- Study performance: The EB set the target that in 2015 75% of the Bachelor students should graduate within 4 years. Based on the advice of the SC the EB decided to not include the BSA in the performance and profiling agreements.
- BKO (basic qualification teaching): The SC and the EB agreed to formulate the goal that 45% of the teachers should have a BKO in 2015.
- SKO (senior qualification teaching): The EB formulated the goal that before 2015 an SKO will be developed. The SC warmly welcomed the extra competences like English, teaching in a multicultural setting and knowledge about the different professional fields as an addition to the standard BKO competences.
- Excellence programme: The EB formulated the goal to install an excellence programme. The SC was positive about these plans as long as it does not go at the expense of the regular student who is not participating in an excellence programme.
- Different tracks in the MSc phase: The SC was positive about the EB's plan to develop different tracks (e.g. research, education, policy, entrepreneurship) in the MSc phase. However, the SC is of the opinion that orientation for the different tracks should already be done in the BSc and not in the MSc phase.
- English BSc: The SC was positive about the plan to investigate if some BSc programmes could be completely taught in English.

Binding study recommendation in sight for lax students

Text: Linda van der Nat / Photo: Guy Ackermans 10:11u 10 May 2012 -Wageningen UR is considering giving Bachelor's students who don't get enough credits in their first year a binding recommendation to stop their studies. This plan is among the performance agreements the university sent to the Ministry of Education at the start of May.

The university is making a proviso: slow students will be able to continue studying at Wageningen UR if they invest in improving their study skills and respond well to supervision by a study adviser. The university does not feel a recommendation based purely on the number of credits is acceptable.



Target: 75 percent of the students have a first degree by 2015.

Zijlstra

The performance agreements are an initiative by the state secretary, Halbe Zijlstra. He wants 7 percent of higher education funding (and ultimately 20 percent) to be determined by the performance of applied and academic universities. The idea is that they should improve teaching quality and reduce the drop-out rate.

Wageningen's performance agreements include a promise that, in 2012, 75 percent of Bachelor's students will get their degree within four years. At present, that ratio is 62 percent. The university plans to achieve this target by offering first-year students courses on how to improve their study skills. This training will be compulsory for slow students. Students will also get more hours of contact with staff and more interim tests in the first term so that they get into the habit of studying right from the start.

Nonsense

Student Council VeSte is reasonably pleased with the university's plans. 'We oppose a binding study recommendation but we are prepared to discuss the option in combination with a study skills course and

4. Student Facilities

4.1 Student Facilities Definition

The Student Facilities Definition came forth from a big discussion which lasted already for a few years. In 2011-2012, the SC worked together with the university towards a document in which all rights of the SC on certain facility topics are elaborated on. As the law only states the SC's approval right on Student Facilities, it is up to the university to decide what is included in those facilities. Constructive discussions led to an agreement which the SC and the EB can continue working with. The Student Facilities Definition should prevent unnecessary discussions during the year about unclarity of the SC's rights. The Definition automatically changed the content of the Student Facilities Budget, as the topics which were included in the budget, had to be revised and adapted following the definition.

4.2 Language Services

Language Services, the language courses that the university provides to its students, is an important facility for the students of Wageningen University. Last year, a peer review took place on Language Services of which the SC received the review. Furthermore, a strategic cooperation with the language faculty of Radboud University (Nijmegen) has been considered. A division was made between 'must have' courses and 'nice to have' courses. The 'must have' will be taught in Wageningen, the 'nice to have' are more flexible and can be taught in Wageningen if a minimum number of students subscribe. If that number is lower, the course will be taught in Nijmegen. However, negotiations are still taking place because Wageningen University and the University of Nijmegen have to agree on the policy plan. Next Academic Year, nothing will change yet. The SC will stay involved in the developments regarding the cooperation.

4.3 WUR shop

As the WUR-shop is a recurring topic of concern, also in 2011-2012 the SC was involved with the developments. Last year, a card reader system was implemented. The membership of students at a study association can be easily checked with this system. The SC has been closely involved in the new Electronic Book Ordering System. Students can order books online, to be delivered at home or at the WUR-shop. This saves a lot of time at the WUR-shop itself. The WUR-shop has started a pilot at the BSc Animal Sciences. At the moment, improvements and adaptations are being done. Hopefully the shop can continue and expand this pilot in 2012-2013.

4.4 Catering

In 2011, the university and other actors involved wrote a vision on catering. With this vision, the tender process started in the Academic Year 2011-2012. In July 2012, the university installed CorMet as the new caterer for the Forum Building and DLO locations across the Netherlands. Good Food Catering was installed at the Leeuwenborch building. The SC stayed in close contact with the different stakeholders.

Exams and dirty nappies

text: Linda van der Nat / Photo: Guy Ackermans 10:43u 10 May 2012 -Normal life is turned upside down for students who get pregnant. Not only do they have to withdraw from the student life they have got used to, but also the organizations they have to deal with can be unhelpful and unclear. 'I don't know why they have to make life so difficult for us.'



Every year about 30 Wageningen students get pregnant. Many of them are mature Master's or PhD students, but some are young girls still in the swing of student life. It's a tough call for them. They exchange the carefree student life for dirty nappies, chronic shortage of sleep and a lot of responsibility. There are also practical problems related to their studies and to housing. Just as an example: student housing provider Idealis expects pregnant students to get out of their rooms, says Vera van Dam (29). By law, these rooms are for one person, 'and yet a baby does not make you an urgent case for the Housing Association. You just get told, move back in with your parents.'

Vera is one of the members of the recently launched platform for young student parents. The platform's aims are to exchange experiences and also to defend the interests of young parents to organizations such as the municipal council Idealis and the university. Because there is often a lack of clarity there as well. Vera: 'the deans

4.5 Central Computer System

A new initiative was taken to implement a Central Computer System. This system must help students to find an unoccupied computer in the library or elsewhere in the Forum/Leeuwenborch buildings. The SC had contact with university councils of other cities and came to the conclusion that this is a very common used system which is very useful to implement. The SC hopes to see more developments next SC-year.

4.6 Studying Mothers

The SC received a personal letter from several studying mothers facing problems. The SC has built some bridges to bring the studying mothers in contact with stakeholders that can help them. The problem was that pregnant students get too little support. They have to leave their Idealis apartment as soon as the baby is born, and have not enough money to pay for child care. The SC had contact with the municipality to ask for better housing opportunities for this student group, and with the university deans to get a more clear information flow from the deans to the students. The mothers are now in contact with the deans and municipality themselves, to arrange better support for their situation.

4.7 Quantity & Quality

The SC has been handling 'Quantity & Quality' for a longer time. Over the past few years Wageningen University has grown significantly in student numbers. The SC was worried that due to the high growth rate the quality of education and facilities is affected. Therefore the SC decided to identify current and future areas of concern regarding the quality of education and facilities. The current situation was studied and the developments during the past five years were monitored when possible. Several areas were considered, e.g. study advice hours, working places, sports facilities, student housing etc. After collecting data from the different areas of concern, the SC wrote a report called "The effects of increasing student numbers on the quality of education and facilities". The aim was to provide the Executive Board with indicators of the quality and how it develops. With this the SC hopes to convince the Executive Board to take preventive measures when necessary. The report has a signalling function. The SC hopes it will prove to be very useful in the coming years.

4.8 Movie W

In 2010/2011 the Executive Board finalised its plan to move the main administration building to Atlas on the campus. This meant that all organisations housed in the Duivendaal complexes, including LA13, would have to relocate. The move coincided with the decision to no longer house Movie W within Wageningen UR or structurally support them elsewhere. A one-time relocation investment settlement was finally reached between all parties, and Movie W was able to secure its future within the folds of the Venster.

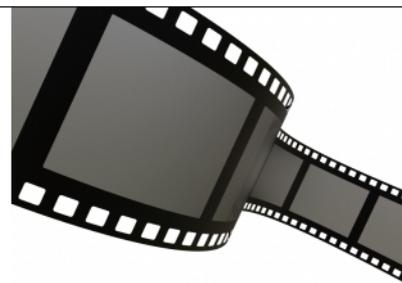
The SC followed this process closely and was involved in discussions with stakeholders at various levels.

>> IN THE NEWS

Movie W saved

text: Roelof Kleis 11:06u 13 March 2012 - Movie W has acquired enough money for a new lease of life. This arthouse cinema, which had been hard-pressed for a long time, will give a free screening to mark the end of its stay in LA13.

The arthouse cinema could finally bring out the flag when Wageningen UR officially pledged 50,000 euros just before the weekend for it to start anew. In fact, such a sum had been mentioned earlier on but the formal affirmation still had to come. With the money from Wageningen UR, the cinema is now financially sound, says its board, and work on equipping its new theatre can begin. Movie W will move into the building on the Wilhelminalweg where the Venster art centre is located.



5. Internationalisation

5.1 Upgrading English

In the past, students had many complaints about the level of English of their teachers and fellow students. Therefore the SC started the initiative 'Upgrading English'. As a result the EB promised to improve the level of English of teachers and students, and to evaluate this process annually. The evaluation will mainly focus on the effectiveness and attractiveness of English courses offered by Language Services, the development of tailor made courses for teachers and the revision of the list of Anglophone countries. The SC has the intention to monitor the different aspects of the English level and look for purposive solutions if needed.

5.2 English Usage in Study Associations

Fourteen out of seventeen study associations in Wageningen completed the SC's questionnaire in how internationalised the associations are, e.g. the language they use in communication and the ratio/number of international board members. The SC analysed the results and found that most study associations are open to international students, especially those associations who face many international students

5.3 Website for International Students

New International students need a lot of information about the Netherlands, Wageningen and their new student lives. The SC designed a questionnaire and identified a gap in the information system for international students. The information provided by Wageningen University was limited to university issues, whereas international students indicated a demand for more general information on for example the Dutch culture and the public transport system. After communication with the university, an integrated website for (new) international students is being initialised. In the near future new (international) students will find information about the university, the city and the country, all united on one website which is accessible from all over the world even without a WUR account.

6. Elections

The SC consists of 12 seats, divided among the SC parties or individuals who are elected in the SC-election. Every year students registered in the Wageningen University programs have the right to vote for their representatives in the SC.

To keep the students updated about the process of the election, the election committee of the SC published the timeline of the election schedule, date and result of the election on time in the Resource, SSC-online, EDUweb and Studentnet WU.

In 2011-2012, even though both parties have tried their best to find candidates, unfortunately there was no election as there were only twelve candidates nominated: eleven candidates from the SC party 'United Students' (VeSte), and one individual candidate, Miao Yu. All candidates were elected according to the SC Regulations of Wageningen University.

There are several possible reasons which lead to no elections: the tough policies, like the Halbe fine, made by the Dutch government, or less interest in student politics among students in the university. The SC sincerely anticipates the SC 2012-2013, by all means, may obtain enough candidates to held an election; it is one of the most important channels for the SC to approach to the students and create awareness among them, and one of the most democratic means for students to influence their representation.

No student council elections this year

text: Nicolette Meerstadt 20:11u 25 April 2012 - No elections will be held this year for the student council in Wageningen. Pulse has no candidates to nominate. Veste has now brought in eleven students for the council and there is one independent member.



Members of the current student council.

For the current academic year, Veste holds nine seats and Pulse - which was PSF at the start of this year - holds three.

This development is in fact music to Veste's ears. The party has grown rapidly in the past few years. 'But it's still a pity that there will be no elections,' says council member Rik Martens. 'A big turnout is a sign that you are really representing the students.' He also feels that it is a pity that Veste will have little counterweight within the council. 'Our target group are the active students, whereas the student council is for all students. It's also good to have a sparring partner in a party with other viewpoints.'

Next year, Veste would have to try its best to reach out to not just the active students. 'Not that this will make any difference for many issues,' thinks Martens. 'FOS (student support fund) won't change; housing is important for everyone, active or otherwise. But we will continue to lobby for exemption from tuition fees for student executives.' Furthermore, the party will make an effort to get the independent member involved in decision making.

7. Promotion

7.1 SC activities

In 2011-2012, the SC organised many activities during which the SC promoted the topics the Council deals with and what the SC can do for students of Wageningen University.

The 5th till the 9th of December 2011, the SC organised an exhibition on the stage of the Forum building, presenting all the members of the SC to students, and showing the diversity of topics the SC deals with.

Next to that, the SC organised a New Year's Drink on the 17th of January 2012. During this lively event, multiple speeches were given, the Teacher of the Year was presented, a magician gave a dazzling performance and a band provided the music. Many students and staff members attended this drink, making it a success.

In addition to that, the SC organised the "Fight for your students' rights" activity (FYSR). During this event, the SC challenged students to literally fight for their rights via sumo-wrestling, arrow shooting and throwing stress balls. A great way to show what the SC can do for students.

7.2 VeSte activities

VeSte is a very active SC party which organizes activities for all students who want to develop themselves and is focused on keeping the contact with the students as close as possible. Since the year 2010-2011 VeSte has gained a valuable partner in KLV Alumni Network. Together with KLV it becomes possible to organize even better activities.

VeSte eases the wait for the WUR shop

text: Linda van der Nat 10:28u 2 November 2011 -The first day of the new period saw the usual crowds queuing for the WUR shop. Student party VeSte handed out coffee, tea and biscuits to the waiting students.

AT lunchtime on Monday, the Forum hall resembled the arrivals hall at a train station. 'Ladies and gentlemen, waiting time for the WUR shop has increased to forty minutes.' VeSte members paraded with a megaphone up and down the queue of waiting students in the Forum hall, calling out in four different languages how long students would have to wait for their books. Others handed out coffee, tea and biscuits.



Large numbers of students pick up their books from the WUR shop on the first day of the new period. Which inevitably leads to long queues. Student party VeSte thinks both students and lecturers could do something to ease the situation, says Willemijn Sneller. 'Some lecturers only reveal what material is needed for the following period at the last minute. They could do that sooner. And students should make sure they have their book codes and money ready. We are using this action to point that out to them.'

The university will be starting a pilot scheme in the fourth period with an electronic ordering system. The hope is that this will make the long queues for the WUR shop a thing of the past.

7.2.1 WUR-shop Action

At the start of the first period, there were again huge cues at the WUR-shop. VeSte decided to change the ground floor of the Forum building into a train station, announced the delays and offered free coffee/tea and cookies.

7.2.2 Board congress at the Forum

In 2012, again the VeSte board congress was organized for board members from all student and study associations. During this board congress students had the opportunity to follow different workshops to prepare for their board membership. Examples of workshops are accounting, sponsorship, networking and team building.

7.2.3 VeSte lustrum

In 2012, VeSte celebrated her third lustrum. At the opening on Monday, with about 100 guests, there were speeches of the chair of VeSte, Tijs Breukink of the Executive Board and Michiel Uitdehaag of the municipality. There were movies about the history of VeSte and VeSte offered a painting to the Executive Board. On Tuesday, there was a master class 'How to start your own business?' offered by Startlife and the Chamber of Commerce. Wednesday, there was a barbecue for VeSte supporters at rowing association Argo and on Thursday there was an open party at the Junushoff, organised together with the AID board.

VerdSte^{year} Wageningen
THIRD LUSTRUM STUDENT COUNCIL PARTY

7.2.4 VeSte debate: study success

In February 2012 VeSte organized a debate about study success at KSV Franciscus. The Dutch government takes measures to improve study success. But how do you define study success? And are these measures successful? What is the value of extra-curricular activities? Members of the house of representatives (Boris van der Ham, D66; Anne-Wil Lucas, VVD; Tanja Jadnanansing, PvdA and Jasper van Dijk, SP) and Sebastiaan Hameleers, the chair of ISO (Interstedelijk Studenten Overleg) were discussing these questions. Together with a lot of students they participated in a debate, organized as a British parliament debate. The debate was chaired by Gijs Weenink of the Debate Academy and Rector Magnificus Martin Kropff introduced the different statements.

7.2.5 Promotion week

Because there were no elections, VeSte decided to have a promotion week. In this week VeSte-members were present at different student associations, were behind the bar at the Bunker and VeSte had an inflatable castle at the stage of the Forum building. In this promotion week VeSte 2011-2012 also started a new promotion concept: VeSte TV. Short fun movies were made and published via Facebook.

SUCCESS

VESTE
Student Council

Debat: Studiesucces
"The road to success"

28 Februari, 20.00 uur
Locatie: KSV St. Franciscus
Entree gratis

EDUCATION

Sprekers:

Sebastiaan Hameleers	(Interstedelijk Studenten Overleg)
Martin Kropff	(Rector Magnificus Wageningen UR)

Tweede Kamerleden:

Tanja Jadnanansing	(PvdA)
Boris van der Ham	(D66)
Anne-wil Lucas-Smeerdijk	(VVD)

WAGENINGEN STUDENTCOUNCIL **iso** **KLV** WAGENINGEN ALLEEN BIJ ZICH **de bbthk** ...

7.3 PSF/PULSE activities

7.3.1 Internal

PULSE SC members started the year in PSF. During the takeover days, a lot of focus was put into the current image of PSF and the need for a change. From wearing suits at the opening ceremony, PULSE SC members reached a point where they felt like more needed to be done, so the name and structure of PSF changed as well. A merge with the WSO, the student union, followed. Two former PSF-members continued as board members of the new PULSE Student Union and pursued their work in the council on behalf of PULSE.

7.3.2 Launching week PULSE

To celebrate the birth of PULSE and promote it towards the students in Wageningen, PULSE organised a so-called launching week. This week contained 3 days of flyering and promotion in Forum and Leeuwenborch, a debate on student housing followed by the constitution drink, a party in café 't Gat and a PULSE open evening during which students could meet PULSE by having a drink and attend some presentations.

7.3.3 ToiletPaper

This important means of spreading information among Wageningen students was continued. Its value is demonstrated when students make fun of seeing your picture in the toilet. This fact only means that they also read the other news on government and university decisions or the facilities, services and activities that PULSE has to offer.

WSO and PSF are launching a new student union: Pulse

text: Linda van der Nat 12:55u 9 February 2012 -It had been a Facebook rumour for some time but the official launch is next week. The Wageningen Student Union (WSO) and the Progressive Student Party (PSF) will be merging to form Pulse.

In the launch week, Pulse will be organizing an evening of debate on student accommodation on Monday 13 February and a big party in 't Gat a day later. On Thursday evening there will be drinks in Arion, with someone from the National Students' Union (LSVb) explaining the new government measures.

The merger between the student union and the Student Council party has been quite a challenge for the interim chairperson Romy Appelman over the past few months. 'It is very confusing because we share the same name but are actually two different organizations. Pulse aims to improve conditions for students. One way of doing that is by influencing university policy through the Student Council. We prefer to have a separate board for that task so that the Student Council members are free to operate independently from the student union.'

Think tank

Pulse will be in a transitional phase until the summer. Appelman wants to concentrate on getting the union functioning properly over the coming period. Former WSO services such as the second-hand bookshop, the delivery bikes and the working groups will get a new lease of life. Appelman says the working groups will be at the heart of Pulse. 'They will be actively tackling specific student issues such as accommodation, internationalization and teaching. These working groups are our think tanks, as it were, since they are closely involved in student life.'

It is not yet clear where the new union will have its headquarters. 'WSO was supposed to move from Arion to the Building with the Clock but it would be better for the Student Council party to be in Forum because of the meetings. A solution might be difficult to find because there is not much room in Forum. We are still in discussions about this with the university.'



Burdened by debt - thanks to Zijlstra

text: Linda van der Nat / Photo: Bart de Gouw 13:21u 22 March 2012 -Student debts that weigh you down like a ball and chain. That is how Wageningen student organizations VeSte and Pulse chose to draw attention to Halbe Zijlstra' plans the Forum on 19 March.

Like their colleagues in other student cities, Wageningen's champions of student interests were taking part in the campaign week run by the National Union of Students (LSvb). The entrance hall of the Forum was decked out with banners and Pulse, VeSte and Rood collected petition signatures destined for The Hague. All the campaigns target the various cuts in higher education. The slow student fine and higher tuition fees for a second Master's have already been introduced. State secretary Zijlstra also wants to scrap student grants for Master's degrees, restrict rights to free public transport and cut down on supplementary grants.



Day of mourning

On Wednesday a delegation from the Student Council parties VeSte and Pulse will cycle from Amsterdam to the Binnenhof in The Hague to express their concerns about the reduction of student travel rights. In The Hague the students will present the collected protest signatures to the Lower House of the Dutch Parliament. The highpoint of the campaign week will be the national demonstration on Friday 23 March in Amsterdam. It will be a Day of Mourning, and black-clad students will commemorate the dreams they must now forget.

7.3.4 Action week

In March, the national student union (LSVb) announced a national action week against the upcoming law 'studeren is investeren', in which the public transport card would be cut and the study grant for MSc students would be abolished. PULSE attended the demonstrations in Nijmegen and Amsterdam, promoted (together with Veste and ROOD SP) a petition against the law and cycled from Amsterdam to The Hague to hand over a petition.

7.3.5 Elections

The active people surrounding PULSE were advised to become board members of PULSE student union, to concentrate at the continuation of the union. This meant that PULSE didn't provide any SC candidates. Luckily the SC had exactly 12 candidates, so this did not create a problem for next SC-year.

8. Afterword

Dear reader,

The past year has witnessed numerous initiatives launched by the SC. During the many consultation meetings that took place over the course of the year, the SC's initiatives were put on the agenda and discussed. The SC not only came up with their own initiatives, they also gave continuity to those launched by their predecessors in previous years. It has been a true pleasure working with such an actively devoted and dedicated SC.

The initiative to write the SC Annual Report was taken up by the SC co-chairs just before the summer holidays started, and over the past few weeks, all SC-members have contributed their share of work resulting in a coherent and nicely illustrated report.

I hope you've enjoyed reading the Annual Report and that it has helped create more insight into the wide scope and range of activities of the SC.

Hermijn Speelman
Executive Secretary

9. Next year's Student Council (2012-2013)

VeSte



Jasmijn Appels



Anniek Elemans



Sanne van Geel



**Christianne
Kerkhofs**



Marit van Liere



**Wouter-Jan
van Roosmalen**



**Anneriek
Simons**



Esther van Vliet



Haoran Yang



Shaoyang Xu



Yingying Zhang

Independent member



Miao Yu

SC Secretary: Hermijn Speelman
SC Technical Chair: Angela Lewis