

Yearly Rapport VeSte 2015-2016

VeSte faction 2015-2016 start officially on Monday 31st of August on their year in the Student Council. This year there were (again) seven seats for VeSte. The other members of the Council were represented by S&I (three seats) and CSF (two seats).

Large dossiers throughout the year

The year started off with quite some dossiers up and running, of which the FOS dossier was at that moment the biggest. Just before summer the previous SC had rejected the mediation of the Supervisory Board, which meant that we were left with this unresolved dossier. In the next months this was a continuous process resulting in the hearing at the National Dispute Committee on the 4th of February. Unfortunately we had to deal with a loss, but we can definitely say we did everything in our power.

Another dossier that was started up earlier in the year was the SC's initiative 'Open Honours'. This project was initiated from the viewpoint that being excellent in your studies should be made available for more students and that one can be excellent in many different way. In the end this project was really formed and altered over the months and became concrete in the sense that there will be launched a website in autumn where all the options for finding a challenge in your curriculum can be found. This varies from capita selecta, to summer schools, and other challenges hopefully more students will now be able to find information on.

The last main report we would like to highlight here is actually a reoccurring one: the Education and Examination Regulations. However, this year it included the discussion on study progress. What can be demand from students before starting their BSc thesis respectively ACT, which is part of the masters programmes. We have had quite some intense discussions with the OWI board on the initial proposal of the university: 102 credits of which 60 credits from your first year before starting BSc thesis, having passed 24 credits (followed 36) before starting ACT. Luckily we were able to have the latter part of the proposal adjusted to acquiring 12 credits before starting ACT, which was a big win for us this past year.

Initiatives

This year there were of course also some projects that were initiated by VeSte. A few will mentioned below

VeSte Goes Abroad: To improve the decision making process for students to go abroad and help them with all the questions after the decision, VeSte initiated a platform based on experiences of students. The format is finished and student are asked to fill in a survey to gather the information. This survey is created in cooperation with student exchange desk.

Culture in Wageningen: During a talk with the mayor we came up with the idea of having students more involved in the cultural activities offered in Wageningen. Together with the director of the Junushoff, Loek Buijs, we made a start with this. There is now a fixed student discount which we will continue to promote and get students acquainted with in the upcoming year.

Students in Programme Committees: VeSte introduced new guidelines for application procedures for students in PCs This in order to improve the transparency of the application procedure of the PCs.

Payments Deadline FOS: VeSte received several complaints from study associations that they had to wait several months, sometimes even over half a year, before receiving the FOS they applied for. VeSte addressed this at the rector and they promised that this could be done a lot faster once the new system (uniform amount) is introduced. We encourage VeSte 2016-2017 to monitor this carefully next year and to remind the rector if they don't act upon their promises.

Tuition fee free board year: The FOS dispute had a disappointing outcome. However, it also provided new opportunities and did a first investigation for a tuition fee free board year. The first results and follow-up questions are shared with the rector.

Events

This year there were several events organised by VeSte although it has not been a real focus of us past year.

Political Café: The Oekraïne referendum asked Dutch citizen to vote for a complicated case. Both VeSte and Hugo de Vries, Geen Peil, collaborated to inform people. Also with representatives of political parties that were pro and against the case to share their vision.

Grand meeting: Together with students of the OWI-board the first Grand Meeting for Education-involved students were organized. All students who were somehow involved in education were invited. The aim of the evening was to make these students better capable of using their power and exchange best practices.

Board Congress: the board congress was again a success with almost 90 participant and 12 workshops the participants could choose from. It was a nice first introduction for new board members with their tasks upcoming year.

Elections

This year we started off with as many as nine candidates on our list. We started preparing for elections very timely and tried to already involve the candidates as much as possible. This resulted in already quite some group bonding before their year had even started. Unfortunately the week before elections one candidate had to leave us, which left us with eight candidates, all highly motivated to get everyone a seat for the upcoming year!

We truly did everything in our power to make the campus as blue as possible and even had a 6m2 big screen outside on which all our candidates and spearheads would make their appearance. Together with the slightly more traditional blue cotton candy we exceeded expectations by indeed getting eight seat for the faction of 2016-2017.

We hope that they will have a just as terrific year, full of memorable experiences as we had.

It was our pleasure representing you.

VeSte Faction 2015-2016

Nick, Marieke, Teun, Wilco, Lois, Jay & Bram