

Annual report VeSte 2016-2017

VeSte faction 2017-2018 started officially on Monday 31st of August on their year in the Student Council. This year VeSte had the majority of seats (8 out of 12 seats) and therefore was able to accomplish a lot for our students. VeSte was involved in intensive organizational and educational changes of the WUR such as the Extended Daytime Timetable, the formation of international bachelor programs and repositioning of corporate departments within the university. In these dossiers, VeSte always aims to safeguard the active student life.

Extended Daytime Timetable

VeSte was heavily involved in the pilot on evening lectures and the consequential proposal of the Extended Daytime Timetable. Extra attention was paid on informing and involving the active students and our support groups. A survey was carried out amongst the different boards and committees to learn more on the impact of evening lectures on their functioning; and elaborate updates were given on the proposals of the Board and the choices that VeSte faced. In addition, the students and our support groups were actively approached to join the Student Council meetings with the Board.

International Bachelor programmes

The other big dossier VeSte played an important role was the International Bachelor programmes. After it became clear that five programmes would be switched to English, VeSte had extensive contact with study associations to inform them on the upcoming decision. On request of the Board, a brainstorm session was organised as well about the questions whether or not student associations should switch to English.

Initiatives

The extra manpower was also visible in the large amount of initiatives VeSte has conducted this year. Initiatives which were aimed at supporting students in various ways: involving and informing students about the university's policy, providing financial support and giving exchange guidance.

Involving and informing students – Students in programme committees

After VeSte already introduced new guidelines for application procedures for students in PCs, the new law Wet Versterking Bestuurskracht (WvB), provided for more rights and influence to programme committees. VeSte has made a guidance plan for programme committees to inform them on the upcoming changes in rights and the way this will influence their way of working.

Financial support- Tuition fee free board year and Flex studying

The active students VeSte represents often suffer financial consequences; when they take place in committees or boards they often experience a study delay. For the full-time board members, VeSte wrote a position paper and discussed with the EB the possibility to have a tuition fee free board year. For the students participating in a part-time board or a large committee, VeSte urged the Board to make participate in a nationwide pilot on flex studying (e.g. paying per study credit). Despite the efforts of VeSte and the wide range of support among our supporters, the Board argued that the administrative load was too high and rejected both the tuition fee free board year and flex studying.

Exchange guidance - VeSte Goes Abroad

In June, the website VeSte Goes Abroad was launched. This platform allows students to use an interactive global map in which information about the city, university and general local lifestyle options are provided. It is based on the experiences of students and aims to improve the decision making process for students to go abroad. The best global universities are now literally one click away.

Events

To further involve and inform students in formal and informal ways, VeSte organised a large amount of events. Some of these events take place every year, others were held for the first time.

Professionalization

VeSte finds it of importance to offer students tools to further professionalize their committee and board work and organised the annual Board Congress and Grand Meeting. The Board Congress, an evening where study- and students association boards are offered approximately eight different kind of workshops. These courses range from: accounting, lobbying, performing as a group and planning your work. During the Grand Meeting, students involved in education are informed on educational developments by different speakers. In addition, VeSte also gave several trainings to interested boards and students on how to have effective meetings and how to get your LinkedIn profile up to date.

Involvement

In addition to the brainstorm session as mentioned before, another brainstorm session was held to involve students in the Bring Your Own Device policy and discuss about the future of education. VeSte also improved the visibility lunches initiated by VeSte 15-16 by asking individual students for their opinion about topics as talent development and external financing of studies.

Information

In January, VeSte organised the annual Board Market. This is a service for individual students who want do a board year and want to orientate on the different options. In June, an information session in collaboration with the Rabobank was organised where students got lectured on the influence of a study debt on mortgages and what is needed when starting your own company.

Lustrum

This year VeSte the 20th board was installed and VeSte held her 4th lustrum. It was decided to celebrate this milestone by organising a lustrum week full of a wide range of activities. The kick-off was given by an Alumni drink where the board of 16-17 revealed a memorial stone. This stone will be placed at the Walk-of-Fame during summer. During the rest of the week, students and our support groups were invited to take part in launching the VeSte Goes Abroad website, a Pubquiz, a guest lecture on entrepreneurship, a StepVeStefette and as a final activity, an open party at D.L.V. Nji-Sri. The Lustrum week was a big success and the responses of our support groups were very positive.

Elections

In 2017, the Student Council elections were held and VeSte was proud to present eight enthusiastic candidates. Unfortunately the elections resulted in only seven seats this year, which meant our eighth candidate did not make it to the Student Council. Coming year, VeSte will still have a majority in the Council and the new faction is highly motivated to improve the university for you again next year!

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 2016-2017

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