

General Assembly Machiavelli – 27th February 2019

Present:

Amina Ali
Roemer Andeweg
Thijs Barendrecht
Tommy Blomvliet
Ihlara Bouwman
Luuc Brans
Saskia van Dalen
Ana Dorscheidt
Maaïke Dudink
Vincenzo Gomes
Tobias de Graaf
Bram Hamers
Antonie van Hulst
Koert Janssen
Julia Keyser
Merle van Laake
Lise Lathouwers
Lex Mandos
Pepijn Molenaar
Anouk van der Poel
Linde Reus
Shannon Requin-Delfau
Evguenia Roussel
Esther Schmitz
Tiziana Schopper
Mitchel Sluis
Emil Hiddema
Lucas van Straalen
Max Smedes
Eelke Vlieger
Luc Vorsteveld
Joep Wessels
Isabel Willemsen
Emre Yalgin
Sam van Zuilen

Current Presidium

Chair: Maaïke Pijnacker
Vice-chair: Isabelle Auersch
Secretary: Anouk Verhaegh

Agenda:

- 17:30 Walk in
- 18:00 Opening
- 18:01 Discharge presidium
- 18:02 Installation presidium
- 18:05 Submitted pieces
- 18:06 Agenda
- 18:07 Minutes
- 18:08 Announcements
- 18:12 Action points
- 18:25 Discharge Application Committee
- 18:30 Presentation internal members Application Committee
- 18:45 Presentation external members Application Committee
- 18:55 Voting external and internal member Application Committee
- 19:10 Presentation board member Application Committee
- 19:15 Installation new Application Committee
- 19:20 Presentation half year report
- 20:05 Break
- 20:20 Presentation half year realisation
- 20:45 Motion
- 20:10 Any other business
- 21:15 Round of questions
- 21:20 Closing

Opening

Maaïke: Welcome all to this General Assembly. Please write your name on the attendance list that will go round the room now.

Discharge presidium

Installation presidium

Maaïke: Now I would like to call to the front the new presidium member, Anouk Verhaegh. Anouk if you could come forward?

Anouk: Hello everyone, so I am Anouk, a first year student in the international track of political science. For the last 6 months I have enthusiastically attended many

Machiavelli and with this position I am really excited to help also behind the scenes of this amazing study association. Thank you.

Maaike: okay we will now vote by acclamation on the installation of the new presidium member. So if you agree, please clap now. Agreed.

Submitted pieces

Maaike: We have one submitted motion about voting for the policy plans, and we have to add this to the agenda.

Agenda

Maaike: So behind me you can see the agenda. We have added to two things: one of the applicants for the Application Committee (AppCo) can not stay until the end of the GA, so we will discuss the AppCo before the discussion of the half year budget reports, after discussing last GA's action points. The motion will be discussed after the half year realisation. The agenda can be seen on the Powerpoint now.

Vincenzo: I have to leave at 8, so I would like to have the presentations of the half year reports earlier.

Maaike: Are you the only member of the audit committee present?

Vincenzo: Yes, but I did sent in a written statement with our recommendations.

Maaike: Okay the application committee really needs to happen now, so It would not be possible to move up the presentations, but we have received the recommendations and we can tell the GA.

Thijs: Or we could switch the report and the realisation?

Maaike: Well, they have to give advice on both, so we will keep it like this and now move on to the minutes.

Minutes

Maaike: Can i ask someone of the board to go through the minutes?

Antonie: I have a general question, don't the minutes need to be published within 3 weeks after the GA, can it be that the minute were not published within this time?

Maaike: They were published, but maybe on a different page.

Antonie: The minutes were published, but only two weeks ago and it is a different version then the old one.

Emile: Yes, this could be right. It was put in minutes folder, so we should put that in the minutes.

Maaike: We will put it in.

Announcements

Maaike: We have received a couple of authorisations.

Antonie van Hulst has been authorised to vote for Daan Stoop

Lucas van Straalen has been authorised to vote for Maureen Schepel

Lise Lathouwers has been authorised to vote for Nina Salomons

Roemer Andeweg has been authorised to vote for Gianluca Bauer

Max Smedes has been authorised to vote for Freek Wallagh

Ihlara Bouwman has been authorised to vote for Piet Seidenberg

Bram Hamers has been authorised to vote for Bertille Fauvel

Koert Janssen has been authorised to vote for Sytze Ferwerda

Sam van Zuilen has been authorised to vote for Atharv Dhiman

That where the authorisations.

Antonie: Were those also the authorisations for the motion?

Maaike: We will look it up in the statutes and get back to you after the break

Action points

Maaike: who can I call forward to discuss the action points?.

Thijs: The first action point were the transition documents for the acquisition committee. We have found these, however they are from 2012, so we should work to update them to 2019 standards and have them translated. We can make this an action point for the next GA.

→ **ACTION POINT**

Thijs: Next up are the changes in the policy plan, we have changed them and should now be published on the website.

The possibility for the discounts on events for the board or even no charge at all.

Together with the audit committee we will look into this possibility. There is nothing we can do now, but in the next GA there will be a motion

Also the board will look into the possibilities on how to spend the money that was left, for this Maaike can probably comment on this.

Maaike (Dudink): With the money left last year we have done some investments like buy a new computer and camera. We do have some money left and we have some options on which we can spend this. We could buy a bulletin-board for the boardroom or use the money to translate the policy documents. However this money has not been spent yet, as we first have to look if we do not need it to cover some unexpected expenses for Sofia or Egypt.

Discharge Application Committee

Maaïke: We would like to start with the discharge of the members of the application committee, Thijs would you like to say a few words?

Thijs: Although you are not all here, we want to thank all of you for all your hard work in the process and giving us a safe space where we felt at peace. We do not have a present for you now, but when you are all present we will. Please all applaud for them.

Presentation internal members Application Committee

Maaïke: So now that we have discharged the current committee we will have the presentation of internal members. You have 4 minutes to introduce yourself and then the GA has the possibility to ask you some questions. We will start with Luc Vorsteveld.

Luc: The internal member is the core member in installing the 56th board, so why am I suitable for this? I have been the president of an NGO that had to do with international volunteer. For this I had to work a lot with teams and leading them, so I know how to work with different group members. What I look for in board members is a motivation to be helping in Machiavelli, not just to improve their CV. I look for motivation to become the member within the board they want to become, and whether they have the skills and why they are suitable for the job. Their character and vision of what they will work with, but also in what way they approve of how the association works now I think are all important. Being a member of the AppCo important job and I will take it very seriously, also to work with the other members to find the criteria we would like to set. I think it important to have an open discussion with the other on the positions, so the different interest from internal, external and board-member will be well represented. With my experience, I feel like I am suitable to fill this position.

Maaïke: Does anybody have any questions?

Linde: You named your own experience. Do you think someone needs some special qualifications to become a board member for Machiavelli?

Luc: Yes they need affinity with association. But it also depends on the position within the board. There is the general skill of working in teams, which is the same in most boards. General skills would be most beneficial, in working together, and being the most active. We should together with the AppCo find what skills we are looking for and finding criteria with the 3 of us.

Lise: Do you still work at the European Youth Parliament?

Luc: Yes, I still work at it, it started in 2018 and is still going on.

Lise: How will you manage this, cause you have to be flexible to be part of the AppCo?

Luc: My position with the European Youth Parliament is quite a light position. My task is more supporting board members, who manage events and groups.

Antonie: How do you see your role within the committee?

Luc: The three AppCo members have different interests. I have experience as a member and represent them. The board member will know the technical aspects, and the external member acts as a check.

Maike: Okay, thank you Luc, next up is Pepijn Molenaar

Pepijn Molenaar: Hello my name is Pepijn Molenaar and I would like to be a member of the committee. First some things about myself and why I have applied for the position. I am a 3rd year political science student, in high school I liked Amsterdam so much that I wanted to study there and eventually did, which I like. When I started I felt really welcomed by Machiavelli and went to borrels and events. That is why I want to become a member. I want to make the new first years feel as welcome as I felt. I want to become an activating member who influences, so it continues being this open association. I know most of the main members through all the borrels I went to and trips I attended. I was also trip organizer and helped organize the political events, which helped me get to know the association from the inside. I think it is important for the new board members to represent the association and also have the social aspect. This means I will not just focus on competence, but also whether they fit in social atmosphere. I know the task they have to go through, because I wanted to become a board member last year, so I know the procedures and tasks of the AppCo. With my experience, I hope to make the applicants at ease. Lastly I would like all of you to vote for the best candidate, which I think I am.

Merle: I think it is good that you are an active member. Do you think it is hard to stay neutral because of this?

Lise: Is that not why you have an internal and external member in the AppCo?

Pepijn: I think it is important to know who is applying and know them in a different situation than the application process. Of course I can not be as objective, but I will be able to see who the person is.

Anouk van der Pol: Hi everyone, I am Anouk van der Pol, I am 22 years old and a 2nd year student. Why did I apply? I have been active member like Pepijn. I have

been part of two different committees and last year I helped organize the big trip. For this I had to read a lot of motivation letters. So although it is different, you need the same skill to judge these. I have worked with board members before, so I know what qualities are important to have as a board member. I also applied to be on the board last year, however I withdrew my application to focus on school, but I still went through the whole process. So because I have been through all of the steps, I know how they feel. This helps with being a part of the AppCo. The cohesion between board is really important and also working together. I will be looking for this in new board members. Sitting on the other side of the table is what interest me. It is a big responsibility, but also big challenge good way. I know many members, but not to active, so that I can still be neutral.

Presentation external members Application Committee

Maaike: Now for the external member position we have two applications, who will introduce themselves and then there is time for questions.

Chiel van der Camp: Hello everyone, this is the first time I have to do this in english, as I was a board member of Sarphati, so maybe sometimes I will sound weird. Last year I was part of the board of Sarphati, and now I am writing my thesis. With the extra time I would like to help to choose the new board of Machiavelli. Because I was on the board of the FMG, I think I know how it is to be in a board. I was vice chair which meant I was the first point of communication, which could be hard with the many opinions. There I handled the different committees. And from the start we needed to hand over the chairs for communication. There were many applications that needed to be checked. Then after we had chats with all the chosen chairs, not only see how people function. So what makes good leader, what not. What makes a good secretary and not. Then we had to choose a new board. I do not only have experience as board member, but also on this side of the table, because of all the applications last year, I already learned how to critically reflect upon applicants from our association. Because I applied myself, I can see through nerves our applicants, and make them be at ease, but this is fine, as I am now nervous. I will be looking for the person that has the ability to work together, as I think that is the most important. But also the member should grow into his or her position. Sometimes you have to choose the best team, not for the best person, to not bother the process of being a board. In being a team, for me it is the most important that you can work as a group and handle the position. If I missed anything, you can ask questions on what you want to know.

Antonie: What did you learn from previous AppCo experience?

Chiel: I now know how the application goes and how to review these, have the interviews and assessmentday. I already had to reflect on the candidates and out of experience I know how nerves can influence people and how people can act on interviews.

Amina Ali: Hi, I am very nervous so bear with me. I am currently doing a master and premaster at the VU. Why am I fit for this position? I did a board year, as second board ever for the association so I know how to form committee and how to select new board members, but also a how we can we get the maximum motivation. After this I worked for the program as board member of AEOS, where I learned a lot about group dynamics. As the association is big, we had different committees and the board, how knew the different boards. Aeos is a big association, and I had to form the committees and looking for the new board. Diversity in opinions and group dynamic is very important for the new board. Even though I am not an UvA student this will help me de a better member.

Antonie: What did you learn and are you hoping to learn the new members?

Amina: I hope to be learning about the motivation of people. What do you really want and what can we do to help you. The process is a two way street.

Linde: You know many things about other associations, but what about the Machiavelli?

Amina: I do not know a lot about Machiavelli, so that might be a struggle, but also it is also good to help stay objective.

Voting external and internal member Application Committee

Maaike: we need a normal member to help count the votes, to see if we do this correctly, who would like to help? Esther Schmitz will help counting. Please hold up one hand if you are allowed to vote, and two if you have an authorization.

The first round of voting was invalid as some people filled in the ballots wrong, so we will have to vote again, make sure you fill in both sides of the ballot.

The votes have been counted, we will not say the amount of votes, but if you would like to know, you can come to the Presidium after the GA. Pepijn Molenaar won as internal member and Amina Ali as external member.

Antonie: Who decides about the distribution of the thousand euros for assessmentday?

Thijs: There will be no decisions on this yet, but we will discuss this together.

Presentation board member Application Committee

Tommy: I am very glad to stand here as the board member who will be part of the AppCo and to work together with Pepijn and Amina. I know how the board works and this is something I will mostly put the focus on. Will they give 101%, is the part as a board member I am looking forward to selecting in the 56th board.

Linde: is there a tasks/positions within the AppCo?

Maaïke: Yes, but they will be decided on by themselves.

Installation new Application Committee

Maaïke: Officially installed as AppCo are now Pepijn Molenaar, Amina Ali en Tommy Blomvliet.

Presentation half year realisation

Maaïke (Pijnacker): As the audit committee is not here are the break, we will switch the half year realisation and the report.

Maaïke Dudink: First I will say a few things in general about the budget, if there are any questions you can ask me later. The book emission was less, so will not make that target. For the general costs: the new website costs are higher which is new information. IT is higher than budgeted, as we spent some money on a new camera. The training did not go through as no one was available the weekend it was scheduled. The transition weekend looks high, but it will be exactly as it is budgeted. The alumni boat tour will eventually decreased because of different incomes. For the political activities, the second chamber visit cost less, but for income from "Machiavelli Meets" was very low. For social events we have enough money left for the upcoming special borrels. For prom, we can not really make a clear picture as not everything was paid yet.

Antonie: What has not been calculated?

Maaïke D: Not everything was paid yet like the dinner and location. Any other questions for budgets?

Lex: What do you base your estimates on?

Maaïke D: We base our budget on what happened last year and what our main goals are.

Lucas: what about acquisition?

Maaike D: It is not as high as we wanted to be, partly hope to raise this over the last half of the year.

Antonie: Why did the website turn out higher than expected?

Maaike D: We were told it would cost the same as last year, and the invoices for last year said it would cost 1000€, but now it turned out almost twice as high. Jonas did not know either, or how it went wrong.

For the first party we made a small loss, but had good compensation with profit from First Weekend. For Sofia we had a problem with the contract so we did not have a full trip. We will try to cut back costs for this though the year.

Lucas: Why was it not realised that it went wrong?

Emil: At first with the registration, we did not realise that the contract was not immediately to be signed, but people already signed up. So after we sent an email to all the applicants, but that was a problem. But it is worked out now and will not happen again.

Lise: How much time was there between fixing it and the event being online?

Eelke: Well the thing was that the contract and trip were on two separate pages, and when I told people to sign the contract, they ignored me and two days before they withdrew from the trip.

Antonie: How will you make up for this loss?

Maaike D: We hope to profit more than budgeted. The assessmentday probably will not cost 1000 euros.

Antonie: Can you make a list of how these cost will be covered to be presented at the next GA? Maybe a good action point?

→ **ACTION POINT**

Lise: is this not contradictory, moving money around before you know how much it will actually costs?

Maaike D: If it turns out at assessmentday costs less, only then we will use it.

Maaike D: On the Brussels trips we made a small profit.

Lise: Could there maybe be a refund like last year?

Maaike D: I discussed this with the Kasco, and together we decided that it would not be smart.

This is the balance, does anybody have any question about it?

For the specifications, we are having trouble with transferring money for the name. We still need to be pay quite some things, as we are always waiting for invoices that

will only come in after or close to events. For Egypt we made a loss of 500€, which we can maybe get back. We have already paid 200€, but we are now looking at the UvA to give us some of this money, as they have advised against the trip.

For the larger incomes and expenses we have not spend any money on the Derde Dinsdag yet. All these numbers are just indications. The career event was done on UvA subsidies, we will look into id we can shift some money, as the education events will not cost us much more. The book sale will turn out a low lower. Also we are still missing 400 euro's.

look if we can shift the money because educational events will cost much anymore. Book sale will be a lot lower.

Linde: Maybe it can be made possible to pay in two terms for the trips, which is better financially for students because a lot of students cannot just pay 500€ at once.

Maaïke D: This is possible, but it should be discussed with the board. So for now no promises on this, definitely for this year.

Antonie: Previously it was possible.

Maaïke D: Then it should be possible.

Maaïke Pijnacker: Thank you Maaïke, could the Audit Committee now give their recommendations?

Vincenzo: The Audit Committee 2018-2019 is charged with the oversight of financial reporting and disclosure. We consider the financial statements of Student Association Machiavelli of the first half of the fiscal year 2018-2019 as reliable, integer and correct. We discovered the following two points:

1. The association is financially stable and is able to meet its financial obligations.
2. The presented financial report gives a reliable and comprehensive picture of the first half of the fiscal year of the association.

The Audit Committee deemed the collaboration with Maaïke as positive and constructive. We admired Maaïke's motivation and dedication throughout the first six months. She was always able to present the relevant documents and reports, which were frequently of high quality and precision. We hope that she will continue with the same commitment and we look forward to work with Maaïke again in the second half of the fiscal year 2018-2019. Therefore, the Audit Committee gives a positive voting recommendation.

Maaïke P: Now that we have the recommendation we will go to the voting procedure. If you agree, please applaud. Agreed.

Presentation half year report

Maaïke Pijnacker: The board members now only have 5 minutes to present their half year report.

Thijs: First we would like to say congratulations to the new AppCo.

Internationalisation and growing association: we think The Netherlands should still be a point of reference, but not very important for events. The Facebook page still reports first in Dutch, but all events are still in English. We do like to keep Dutch traditions like Sinterklaas. The attendance of Master students is low, so instead of trying to motivate all of them, we will now be giving more attention to already active master students. We did have a successful masterborrel, however the turnout is still not as high as wanted to be.

The cohesion: we are a very good group and have a lot of cohesion. Within the studies and between the tracks this is not as high, but this is a process over the long haul. We want to boardroom to be a central meeting point for members, but this is a work in progress.

The lustrum: I want the committee to have more authority.

Lucas: Right now the common room open from 13.00, but many students want to be there before one. How are you fighting for this point?

Thijs: We want all the board members to get access to the common room, however not enough bartenders. With this comes the risk of thing being stolen. So an option now is to the common room only being open for coffee to be drank in the Machiavelli room

Antonie: I do not feel like it is a lustrum, besides the boat tour. What about the more bigger events coming?

Thijs: Yes, there are still some things coming up, but I am now not able to say much about this. The biggest part is yet to come, after the last 3 events. We see this, and we are talking to increase the sense of lustrum

Lex: How much the study is growing in respect to membership and attendance?

Thijs: Both the attendance and number of new students grew. Most people still sign up for books and events. The growth has been slightly lower than the influx of students.

Lex: Is the attendance lower?

Thijs: For special borrels very many people are coming. When not, very low numbers, but not something we are worried about.

Chair

Thijs:

Internal policy: I needed some time to find my place, but now I love the meetings we have. The concept of shared autonomy from the first GA is now better, first this did

not happen enough. As a chair I should have asked more whether with events etc. there is help needed.

External policy: We try to represent Machiavelli on national groups to be aware of what other associations do. My work is not failing under this but can be stressful.

Lustrum: I am the lustrum coordinator. The committee members are very active and so I am not always needed. All members should enjoy this lustrum year. Master students are also invited, but they are still lacking.

Lise: I have a questions from Nina. You say that the atmosphere is still good, but the survey is not made public, so Nina doubts these claims.

Thijs: We indeed did not upload these yet, but the results will be up next week.

Lise (On Nina's behalf): Do you think you can you make this statement based on the 45 out of a 1000 members who filled it in

Thijs: Yes, we can. It is the first sentence in the report.

Lex: Do you think this representative?

Thijs: Yes, you should compare it to a restaurant. They have many visitors, but not many leave reviews. When people are content they tend to not leave a review. I agree that it is not completely generalisable, but it is still valid.

Lise: When will the results be up?

Thijs: Next week.

Lucas: The attendance at the GA is a problem as it is so low, but not everyone is invited on the Facebook page. This is something you could improve on. Also you said that you talk with a few board members a lot. Did you not have the one on one's?

Thijs: The one on one's are not really my style, I feel like when need to I can express my concerns.

Lucas: It might not be your style, but it might be convenient for other board members. But my question is answered

Lise (On Nina's behalf): Do you think your role as coordinator helps the bridge between the board and Lustrum Committee?

Thijs: They are experienced active members, so they know the board and who to got to. It is mostly important for the promotion schedule and agenda. I do not want to have too much of a say in their meeting, so they should have as much autonomy as possible. I sat down with the chair of the lustrum committee chair to see if any events could help improve the feel of lustrum.

Secretary

Emil: nobody ever really knows what a secretary does, and personally I do not always know either. But my small tasks be divided in a few categories:

Administration: It is new for me to make minutes in English. I am also fixing problems for members on the website. A point of improvement could be that there are many sections on the website, which can be confusing.

Promotion: The sweaters are widely spread and used. The social media is a little more divided over different members. Facebook might become less reliable, so we are improving Instagram. Also the newsletter should be approved to make it more frequent, because it is more personal. LinkedIn and Twitter are not as much used.

General Assembly: The last one went okay, but the Doelenzaal is more suitable. The communication with the presidium is going well.

Derde Dinsdag: There has not been one yet, but the first one is printing right now. It was a quite stressful point due to lack of experience, and I should have asked for more help with it. I want to also help the next board and secretary as a more stable committee.

Lucas: It was a good reflection. You did not succeed to send out the newsletter, why?

Emil: Last year the website supported the newsletter, but with the new site this did not work. So the transferring of member data was hard.

Antonie: The attendance of GA should be higher, how is the board going to fix this?

Thijs: We will do this by making it more known for everyone what it is. We made a video explaining this to be shared on social media, saying "this is where you can voice anything". The GA should be clearer explained.

Lise: You focus a lot on social media for promotion. Maybe you could focus on face-to-face promotion, I have not seen flyers or posters. Are there more focus points than social media?

Emil: Most events get posters, and big events get flyers that get handed out after lectures. I try to radiate my openness and that I am approachable, so I can share what is coming up.

Lucas: Machiavelli is very dependent on social media, but we never get the statistic of tracking the social media attention. Maybe this could be an action point?

Emil: Yes, I think it is important to show the attention Facebook is getting. We want to show what we experience with this.

→ **ACTION POINT**

Lise: What went wrong with the Derde Dinsdag?

Emil: I wanted a chair for the committee, but the process of looking took too long. The first years, I thought, would be too inexperienced. Second years who used to work on the Derde Dinsdag were not here anymore, but doing it myself happened to be too much to handle. I was too stubborn to ask for help, but I should have asked for more help from others and board members.

Lise: How many for the last 6 months?

Emil: We are on the route to three.

Treasurer

Maike Dudink:

Financial health: My system is to handle things as they come in instead of waiting for them to stack up. We will not realise the budget, but the subsidy from the UvA will probably not increase. The bookkeeping program will not translate, so we will have to find a new English system. Also many contracts will still be in Dutch, so that needs to be changed.

Communication: The budgets of the board members are quite independent, and I act mostly as a check.

Acquisition: This is something I struggled with and was not too interested in. The committee and its structure is great. The general goal is not close to being reached, but we will still get money in. This is a big goal for the next months.

Book emission: We try to keep in contact with the other associations. The first emission was great. Looking into the UvA library, will have influence on income as give people a platform sell their old books, which is cheaper than buying them new.

Lustrum: this is going fine and contact with lustrum when I am needed.

Lise: The UvA books is worrying me, would we get income from that? If that is not the case, would a partnership be good?

Maike D: We would not promote it, but the second-best option should be us. There is not gonna be anything we can do about it, and the platform was predictable in line with UvA's sustainability plan. So if someone goes to them for a book, but if this book is not available on their platform, we want to make sure they come to us to buy the book.

Linde: Do you not think we can set something up like it ourselves?

Maike D: We are not allowed to do so, in relation to our contract with Atheneum. We have thought about it, but it is also important to note there are new versions that are brought out of books. So this platform might fall short there.

Lise: If book emission is going down and this continues for the coming years, how can we secure our income?

Maike D: We do not a good enough idea to fix this yet. We do not know the numbers yet, but it has gone down.

Linde: There now is only one chance to buy the books, maybe add a second chance to increase the income?

Maike D: We actually do have it, but it should be promoted better that it is possible to still buy the books with the member discount in store.

Lucas: The analytics of the site could be very useful in helping this, could also be done with Google Analytics.

Maike D: Yes, could be useful.

Thijs: It is a nationwide problem, and we are looking for a nationwide solution which is being looked into.

Lise: Can we make it an action point to look into the loss of income through book sales?

→ **ACTION POINT**

Lex: Could we up the membership fee to help cover this loss?

Maike D: Yes, this could be done if it really needs to happen, as we do have a very low contribution in comparison to the other study associations.

Education Coordinator

Tiziana Schopper:

The committees: The first year council I heavily promoted with not as much turnout, but high quality input. The education committee was not necessary to be restructured.

Quality of Education: The evaluation was more informal, should be more formal. But the outcome was very good.

Internationalisation: This is greatly improved. With the department we greatly discussed about changes in the third year. There is still progress to be made with help of the department. I am also advocating for Dutch courses for internationals very much. I did get all the international board members these courses, but the students still not. I am also now working close with the new organisers of tentamentraining.nl.

Events: The events were of high quality, but it is important to increase attendance and interest in these events.

Ana: Why do you want to go back to formal setting, after the informal setting was so successful?

Tiziana: It makes it more clear whether something is meant serious or not, so the feedback is more reliable.

Sam: How many meeting have you organised with the council?

Tiziana: Because of timing, unfortunately some fell through. The wish for a second years council is not high, however this could still be done.

Sam: Do you have a plan or number for more meetings?

Tiziana: I do have the idea of more meetings, but there is now not really an interest or motivation to have them.

Sam: You said some meeting had low turnout because of deadlines or exams. This happened during multiple meetings, can you not take the timing of exams and deadlines into account more when planning the meetings?

Tiziana: My agenda allows very little time, also with the FMG congress, but I still try to plan the meetings to the best of my abilities.

Lucas: The education committee is one of the most important parts of the study association. Don't you think that the committee should have a higher priority over the FMG congress and personal studies?

Tiziana: I completely agree.

Political Activities Coordinator

Saskia van Dalen: I has been a year of ups and downs.

Goals: A goal is to focus more on structure and planning, as I am bad at it. So I make sure to work alongside others. The board is doing really well, and I feel it is important to remain a point of contact.

Committee: The restructuring of the committee I now figured out. The committee members now have more autonomy, which turned out really well. The cohesion and attendance is good and we are using different resources to show incentives for people to show their face. I will also start a debate club, talking about recent events. I experience that the time between happenings in the world and an event on them is too large. This will also be passed on to the next Pac.

Events: I want to put more emphasis on debate at events. The debate training not as successful, like some other events. However I feel like we are in an upward spiral. The Palestine/Israel event would be politically to one sided so we pulled out. With this decision we are very happy as it was the event was tense.

Social Activities Coordinator

Tommy Blomvliet:

Social cohesion: This is very important between all years and tracks. This however cannot be forced.

Committee structure: This has been changed, which I am happy with. A party committee is not useful. I think a smaller general committee is better.

Lustrum: The lustrum pubquiz was not necessary to be a organized together. However the end festival will be collaboration.

The events: The new location for the borrel, Woody's had be gotten used to. The future of Machiavelli showed that there is an ask for a bigger borrel aspect. The first weekend was great and helps organizing the second weekends. The parties taught me a lot that will be brought into the organizing of the next events.

Goals: I want to professionalise some aspects. And improve committee structure, also for my successor. I also want to try and help fellow board member more.

Antonie: We are not just here to criticise so I just wanted to say that I think you are doing a great job.

Lise: You did great, but with prom you got skipped on by Sarphati. Do you have any ideas on how to lay connections with other associations?

Tommy: I have already done this, but some did not want to cooperate, like AIM, who have their own prom. There is a plan for next year.

Linde: maybe you can let the committee organize the first party?

Tommy: That would be an option, but is up to my successor. They at that point to have very little experience. So maybe they should ask this years SAC members to do so next year.

Lise: how many cultural events are still coming the next half year?

Tommy: There are a few more coming, like the end festival. Also soon we have Political Science got Talent. I am also thinking about the option of going to a theatre.

Lise: So not really culture events?

Tommy: Not right now because busy with Political Science got Talent.

International Coordinator

Eelke Vlieger:

Sofia trip: My goal for this trip was a diverse, big group. The group was diverse, but we did not have enough attendants for a full trip. The problem was that RyanAir changed the flights, so the trip covered more tutorials. This made some people cancel and led to a loss.

Brussels trips: We had two trips to Brussel. On the last one some people overslept, so they couldn't make it. I also made the choice to go by bus, to equal cost for internationals who do not have free transport in The Netherlands.

Trip coordinator: both lustrum trips to Lisbon and Florance went great. Pepijn filled the role perfectly and added his own tune to the trip in Lisbon. Both the trips were of high quality.

Big trip: the planned trip to Egypt was a struggle, because of the warnings by UvA professors we had to cancel it. Instead of this we will be going to Tunisia in May. I will look into the option of paying in two terms.

IAPSS: The communication and planning is really bad. They have a new format that Machiavelli is interested in.

Conclusion: The trips have been great as feedback shows. Both the big trip and king of the road will be great as well.

Lise: Good choice on Egypt. Was the bus in the Brussels trip for convenience or price?

Eelke: It was a combination of both. A equal line between the students is more important.

Merle: Is there a possibility of skiing trip?

Eelke: It is really hard with the amount of trips that are already on the agenda, and we will never able to make it as cheap as organizers.

Lex: How did the Egypt proposal even get past the committee? Was it never advised?

Eelke: The safety status projected by the Dutch government recently, after the decision changed. The plan we had, was under safety risks, just like many countries visited before. We did not know that as political scientist association it was a higher risk. These statements are very hard to be found.

Maaïke: Thank you Eelke. We will now be voting. First we need the Audit Committee's advice. Although there are no members present right now, they have sent us a statement, which I will read out now.

The Audit Committee 2018-2019 is charged with the oversight of financial reporting and disclosure. We consider the financial statements of Student Association Machiavelli of the first half of the fiscal year 2018-2019 as reliable, integer and correct. Furthermore, the committee deems the statements on the future plans of this board, laid out in the Half Year report, as feasible and we trust Maaïke to keep financial control, which is particularly motivated by the shown dedication during the first half of this fiscal year. Therefore, the Audit Committee gives a positive voting recommendation for the Half Year report.

Now that we have the recommendation we will go to the voting procedure. If you agree, please applaud. Agreed.

Motion

Maaïke: We will now discuss the motion. Antonie will give a small presentation on the motion, then you can ask questions.

Antonie: What as we saw as a previous board that the approving of the policy plans is more a formality, as they get accepted by voting in acclamation. When you do not agree you do not get as much of a chance to voice your concerns, as you just do not clap. So we believe voting by ballot is more reliable and enhances the democratic value of the General Assembly.

Linde: I like the idea, but do you not think it would take way to long seeing as the GA already takes so long?

Antonie: We should not let that take away from the importance to vote and be heard.

Linde: Okay, but do you have the idea to shorten the GA's?

Antonie: Yes GA's do take very long, so maybe more GA's as all of this is taking way to long.

Linde: Would you want one ballot for all topics or multiple?

Antonie: No we will vote for the policy plans as a whole. The role of presidium in this is to see what changes in the policy plans themselves should be made. After these changes you would vote on the whole thing including the desired changes.

Mitchell: The voting process tonight maybe made it clear what is meant with this motion. I would like to make an amendment, to vote by raising hand to increase clarity and efficiency. Maybe we could do so as experiment next GA and look into the possibilities.

Luuc: Or you could look into electronic voting?

Antonie: This is about the voice of the members, not the technicalities of the voting. Also showing hands is not as disclosed, and has an element of social pressure.

Maaik P: Does the board have something to say about this?

Thijs: We do think democratisation is important and time is also very important. The policy plans should be voted on in a closed manner, as they are influential. However not on the half year reports, we do not think it is time-efficient to vote this way. So we ask to vote against. We will set it up next GA.

Lise: But then it does not apply to you. Also the financial report was not clapped enough about, which I think is a good example and very important.

Antonie: We should not be talking about time when it is about the influence of the members.

Maaik P: Maybe you could talk about the proposal made by the board? board?

Thijs: It does not mean we do not want to restructure the GA, but in the current structure it would take too much time with unimportant policies. **Antonie:** So the length of this GA is the influence in your vote against?

Thijs: Yes.

Mitchell: That is why I proposed voting by showing hands, it takes a lot less time and is individual.

Lise: That does still have a social shaming part. Also some things take a lot of time, but that should not take away from our influence as members.

Tiziana: If people want to change something they can say it in the GA. But if people vote against it do not speak up on why they do so, we do not gain anything from this new way of voting.

Eelke: We are talking about time and discussion. I think I have a good compromise: We should always have to option for a closed vote and if someone wants it, and really disagrees they can ask for a closed vote. This is common practice and saves time.

Luc: I am shocked by the heavy reaction from the board. I think it is a very sensible proposal. You should have expectation management, to restructuring and tightening the structure of the GA, to deal with the time. I am not sure why board is against it.

Merle: Why are we not considering electronic voting, by easily using a source like Kahoot?

Lex: I feel like the social pressure is higher to vote for the policy plans, as people who come to the GA know the board members.

Tommy: If it turns out the votes are against, how do we find out what needs to be changed as they have not spoken up before?

Antonie: The presidium should ask the people why they voted against.

Tommy: Is that not the same amount of social pressure as asking for closed voting?

Tiziana: I think the comment that the friendship with board members takes away people their ability to be impartial, is unfair to those board members. Also how do you get constructive criticism, with this new way of voting? .

Antonie: People vote against for a reason, so there feedback will always be constructive.

Tiziana: It does not work like that.

Saskia: You are contradicting yourselves when you were talking about the differences of clapping and closed voting. Now it is the same discussion, what would change?

Luc: There is now a very hostile environment. Can the board please be more receptive to this motion, to give members more power and influence?

Emil: We as a board do not want you to have less influence in the GA. I think it is good to think about what needs to be changed in the GA. But the board believes this motion should only apply to the policy plans, not to the half year reports. It is weird to vote against the way someone has done something over the last half year. Our opinion is not against the democracy of the GA.

Luc: If you agree with democ the GA, why do you not agree with the motion

Tommy: We said we would have opposing council and now we have been saying the same thing.

Luc: I am voting in favor of this motion.

Lucas: To summarise I think it is important to mention that it empowers the members. The reports are a reflection of the last half year, but they are not a diary. It is important to hold the board accountable, that makes the atmosphere of the GA better. The discussion happens before the voting, it gives the board an incentive to put more effort into the reports. In regard to electronic voting, this could be something to look into.

Maaike P: Will there be no amendment on what kind of voting the closed voting will happen?

Mitchell: I would like to amend it from closed voting, to electronic voting.

Maaike P: We don't yet know the opportunities of this

Antonie: Okay let's first look into this.

Thijs: First, I would like to say sorry for the hostile environment. This is probably because of the stress and passion we put into our policy reports. We do not see the good in closed voting on a documents, but just on the policy plans, that is not downplay. I think it would be a good idea to make it action point for next GA to look into the possibilities of closed voting or electronic voting.

→ **ACTION POINT**

Maaïke P: Okay, we will look into opportunities, but we will now vote on current form of motion.

Lukas: I just wanted to mention that the words ballot can be interpreted in different ways, also electronic.

Antonie: Maybe we can vote on this motion by a show of hands, looking at the time?

Maaïke P: It is possible to ask the GA on how they prefer to vote on this point. We can either do it with ballots or by show of hands. To decide this we ask for a show of hands in favor or against voting on the motion by a show of hands. In favor: 18.

Against: 1. We will be voting by show of hands.

Votes:

In favor: 20

Against: 1

Blanc: 0

Abstained: 1

This motion has been accepted.

Any other business

Antonie: This motion does not change anything on time wise. Should we look into the possibility of more GA's?

Emil: This could be an action point, to look at all the possibilities to shorten or restructure GA's.

→ **ACTION POINT**

Luuc: It is hard to get new members for advisory board, if these GA's take so long. For us it takes a up a lot of time in our free time.

Isabel: I know how tough it is to organise and keep members in time. I would like to note that discussion on the length. I advice against organizing more, because it will lower attendance.

Round of questions

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Closing

Maike: Thank you all for coming and getting through this long General Assembly. For your attendance you will all be given a coupon for a free beer at the carnival borrel at Woody's.

Action points

- Translating and updating the transition documents.
- How the lost cost on the Sofia trip will be covered with funds or savings over the rest of the year.
- Tracking the effectiveness of social media posts with statistics.
- Look into the solving of loss in profit because of declining book sales.
- Look into the possibilities of closed or electronic voting.
- Look into the possibilities of shortening or restructuring the GA.