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# Policy Plan 2018-2019

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55th board of Studievereniging Machiavelli



From left to right:

Thijs Barendrecht

- *Chair*

Maike Dudink

- *Treasurer*

Eelke Vlieger

- *International coordinator*

Saskia van Dalen

- *Political activities coordinator*

Tommy Blomvliet

- *Social activities coordinator*

Tiziana Schopper

- *Education coordinator*

Emil Hiddema

- *Secretary*

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# General Policy Plan

## Intro

We proudly present to you the policy plan of the 55th board of Studievereniging Machiavelli. First and foremost, we would like to thank the 54th board for their excellent period of transmission. Through their efforts they have provided us with the knowledge and experience necessary to make this board year a successful one. We are honoured to have learned from them and we are very much looking forward to following in their footsteps.

For already 55 years Machiavelli has been a constant factor in the life of Political Science students, it has put a lot of effort in enhancing the quality of education, it has given us many memorable nights, friends and even relationships. The internationalization has broadened our perspectives. We curious Political Science students have learned a lot from each other, and have once again proved that friendships knows no borders. Also this year we hope to be the association where friendships are made, that inspires, and that helps all students of political science.

We have structured our policy plan in the following way: Firstly, we will present our general policy plan, in which we set out the general goals we want to achieve as a board. The general policy plan consists of three main goals presented under the headers growing association, cohesion and the lustrum year. Secondly, every member of the board will present their personal policy plan. These personal policy plans will go further into detail as to what personal goals the board members have set for themselves.

## Growing Association

The growth of the association has been a major goal this past year and will continue to be so this year, and in years to come. Machiavelli is a growing association; this is largely due to the internationalization of the bachelor program. Through the second year of the internationalization, Machiavelli will continue to grow this year and hence also in the coming years.

International members are becoming a bigger part of Machiavelli. This means our activities need to have a more international focus. However, we respect the Dutch origin of our association. Therefore, the Netherlands as a point of reference in events, and the Dutch language are far from banned. This can also benefit our international members by generating more knowledge about the country they live in and its traditions. That is why we will continue to uphold events such as the *'Sinterklaasborrel'* and Machiavelli Meets Mokum. But it is very important to note that our international members are, and should feel equal to our Dutch members, which is why we try to keep a healthy balance between Dutch and internationally oriented events and activities.

Furthermore, Machiavelli is a highly professional organisation. Within the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and among other associations we are seen as a structured and competent organisation. We want to maintain this level of

professionalism whilst providing fun and valuable events for our members. Previous boards have made efforts to deepen the content and improve the attractiveness of events. This rewards active membership and stimulates high attendance. We want to continue putting focus on deepening and improving: high attendance is key to connect people. Active members make the association tick. By aiming for high turnouts on our events we strive to connect people from various backgrounds and from various years. We are exploring the possibilities on how to deepen the content of the events and improve the attractiveness of them. One way to do this is by giving our members a bigger say in organizing them, this also grants the opportunity for members to develop.

Currently events are largely organised by the coordinators themselves. Members of a committee sometimes feel like they do not have any input and can only do as told. This micro-managing can make coordinators feel stressed. To relieve the workload of coordinators in a growing association and to make sure members can contribute to events we want to restructure the committees. Each of the coordinators will restructure their committee in a different way. They will explain this in their personal policy plans. Each function of course needs a different kind of committee structure. Overall the committee members will be granted more authority and the coordinators will coordinate rather than taking the lead in every situation. We think granting the committees more authority will increase of active members and thus increase the attendance on events and the General Assembly. The change in all committee structures is a large change all at once thus must be done with a lot of attention. If it is not successful we will reflect on this and make changes. We decided to do this based on recommendation by the old board, our own experience and positive results achieved by other associations with a similar structure.

We think reflecting is an important part of a board year. Reflecting on events and experiences as a board is important and we strive continually to do this to improve Machiavelli and ourselves. The opinion of the members is the most important opinion in Machiavelli, but knowing the general opinion of the members is hard. As a board, you cannot talk to everyone in the association to collect their opinion and the General Assembly is usually visited by a select few. To improve this, we as a board would like to increase the attendance on the General Assemblies. One way we want to do this by making explanation videos on the GA, and its role in Machiavelli. By stimulating active membership with the above given examples we also hope to improve the show up at GA's.

Last year the event 'The Future of Machiavelli' was organised for the first time. A survey was taken to collect the opinion of the members. This was a successful event as it generated a lot of opinions and reflections. We decided we want to organise this event again this year. It will be important to reflect on the changes, for example the new committee structures, and on the second year of internationalisation.

## **Cohesion**

As said: members are the most important part of Machiavelli, it is therefore of the utmost importance that the relation between the board and members is

warm, open and honest. We want to be there for our members in times of need, and want to make sure that members know they can always talk to us. Whether it is about serious, or non-serious topics. We want to be approachable and always able to give an honest answer. It is self-evident that this should be the case during borrels and events but we also want every member to know that they can always contact us via Facebook, or stop by the boardroom. This year the move of the boardroom presents a challenge. It is located at B1.24 and is therefore less visible than the previous boardroom. We will continually encourage members to stop by the boardroom. We will also try to increase our visibility through the use of social media like Snapchat and Instagram. Last year the use of snapchat was a big success, and we want to start using Instagram more.

The relation between the board and the members is just as important as the relation between the members themselves. We want to stimulate cohesion between our members through social events. These events should focus on common ground between all the political science students. All of our members have to feel included, therefore we want to make sure there is no division between the international and Dutch members. We aim to do this by organising events that are relatable to everyone and by actively stimulating the use of English when international and Dutch members are in the same room.

This year is a Lustrum year which provides an excellent opportunity to increase the contact with our Alumni. We value the contact with our alumni. They have been through it all, and offer a wide array of job perspectives. Last year significant efforts were made by the 54th board to increase contact with our alumni. An alumni file has been made and an alumni event was hosted. We want to invite alumni to lustrum events and the alumni file will help us do this. Apart from this we also seek to organise at least one alumni event. By continuing the efforts to increase contact, we hope to provide a basis for the coming many years of Machiavellians learning from their own alumni.

## **Lustrum**

As mentioned before this year Machiavelli will celebrate 55 years of existence. This means that this year will be the eleventh lustrum year. In the previous non-lustrum years every board has put money aside which is to be used for making this an extra special year. To do so a lustrum committee has been formed and presented to the members of Machiavelli. We as board are confident that this committee is able to make this lustrum year an unforgettable year for all the members and alumni. The lustrum committee will mostly host events together with us and therefore good communication is necessary. To make sure communication between the Lustrum Committee and the board is as good as possible, our chair Thijs will be lustrum coordinator: meaning he will function as the communication link between the two. The board will always know what is going on in the lustrum committee and vice versa. So far the communication and cooperation has been excellent. We are looking forward to continue working together and to celebrate Machiavelli's 55th birthday in unforgettable way.

## Chair – Thijs Barendrecht



### Intro

Before presenting my personal plan, I would like to express my gratefulness to my predecessor Lucas van Straalen; you and the rest of the 54<sup>th</sup> board have put much care in preparing us thoroughly for our board year, your ongoing support makes us feel strengthened. You have done great work in the

internationalization of our study association, a big challenge that you turned into a big success. I also want to thank the application committee for their work and trust.

I am honoured to be the 55<sup>th</sup> chair of Studievereniging Machiavelli. It is my task to coordinate the board, and to represent Machiavelli: externally, to our members, our department, university and in the rest of the country. I would like to start with my internal plans, before moving on to the lustrum, external plans, and my long-term goals for the association.

### Internal policy

Machiavelli has a tradition of very capable boards, and it is with confidence I say that this board will follow in that tradition. My task as chair is to make every member of the board feel both welcome and motivated to use those capabilities to the fullest. My view on how to create this is by 'Shared Autonomy'. autonomy because everyone of us is very capable in his or her function: to enhance individual creativity it is important to give personal freedom. Shared because feedback and support are very important. I see an important role for me in leading the board meetings besides quiet waters and stimulating feedback. But not only inside the board meetings the lines should be close, if one of us needs support at any moment it is of the essence that we are not afraid to tell each other. One of the big benefits of such an atmosphere is unity: when decisions are made unanimously based on feedback and discussions, we not only combine knowledge but also responsibility.

To create an atmosphere that is both stimulating, serious and fun, spending a lot of time together is key. Also in informal ways, therefore we as board aim to see each other on a regular base outside of the boardroom, or Machiavelli events. The closer we are to each other the easier we ask for, and give support.

During the year I will also plan a few one on one conversations with all board members, this to reflect and look forward. What were difficulties that have been run in to? And how can I as chair, or we as board be more supportive? In these conversations I also want them to evaluate on my own performance. This way

I aim to grow as a chair and as a team. Becoming a team is a process, we have already come far but will always be developing

Most important within our association are of course the members. The open atmosphere we create as board should reflect on the way we approach our members, and how our members can approach us. Throughout the entire year, but especially within the first month, we strive to be the binding element within the association. Our events have to connect people of different backgrounds and ages with each other, and we as board will actively seek common grounds between people.

Our role in this has become even more importance after the internationalization of our study. We Dutch people tend to think of ourselves as open and approachable, but when taken a closer look our customs can be found very peculiar, and we tend to surround us in our own safe Dutch environment. Of course, curious Political Scientists as we are this doesn't go up for all of us, but it is something Machiavelli can help avoid. First of all, we ourselves strive to connect people with each other by being the social glue, second we are very prudent to Dutch centred themes for our events and third we work close with the department for example in promoting the buddy system. However, one of the biggest barriers for international students and Dutch students to mingle is language, we make it one of our main policy goals to find balance between English as lingua franca, and Dutch as the mother tongue of many of our members and as the language our association was built on. Of course the use of Dutch will not be abandoned and whenever only Dutch people are around Dutch will be spoken, however whenever a non-Dutch speaking person gets around switching to English enables everyone to join the conversation.

It's a big honour to be the chair of Machiavelli's first international board, not only as this makes us experience very closely how important language policies are, but also as it shows Machiavelli not only says to be, but really is open for everyone. A complaint that is often heard among members is the alleged existence of a so called 'inner circle'. Regardless to whether this inner circle is there or not, the allegation is enough evidence that it remains important to keep working on making everyone feel involved. As has been thought about by previous boards a possible way to do so is by restructuring committees resulting in more independence for committee members. This could take of pressure from coordinators and stimulate and reward members to take up a more active role within the association. The urge to do this is growing, as our association is growing too.

The past summer our office has been moved from the ground floor to B1.24. Our new office is bigger, so we can host more members, yet is less visible. Therefore in the first weeks an important task is to generate knowledge about our new location. In doing so we will work closely together with the other study associations, the Common Room, and Faculty Student Council. We wish to give our members a lot of coffee, and that together we can make many new memories in our new office.

## **Lustrum**

This year is a special year for our association: We celebrate that Machiavelli has been a part of Amsterdams Political Science students for 55 years. Not only are we the biggest study association for Political Science students in the Netherlands, those 55 years of history also make us the oldest. To make the 11<sup>th</sup> lustrum unforgettable, a lustrum committee has been installed in collaboration with the 54<sup>th</sup> board. The 55<sup>th</sup> board has great confidence in the committee and is looking forward to continue working together throughout the year. As chair of the association I am also represented in the lustrum committee as 'Lustrum Coordinator', my task is to be the bridge between the 55<sup>th</sup> board and the Lustrum Committee. However, the Lustrum Committee has a structure comparable to that of the 55<sup>th</sup> board: Chair, secretary, treasurer, people responsible for events, and for the almanac. The counterparts of committee and 55<sup>th</sup> will meet each other on a regular base.

## **External**

As chair I will represent Machiavelli in external organizations, both inside and outside our university. As secretary of the faculty association (Faculteitsvereniging Faculteit Maatschappij- en Gedragwetenschappen, FV-FMG), in the Platform for Political scientists (Platform voor Politicologen, PvP), and as the delegate of Machiavelli in the National Consultative Body of Public Administration Associations (Landelijk Overleg Bestuurskunde, LOB), the consultative body for the Roeterseiland Campus (Campusoverleg) and the International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS).

Together with our Educational Coordinator I also stay in close contact with the Political Science department. Maintaining the close ties we established with the department in the past is of big importance. Of course because this enables us to represent our members interests in the best way, but also because the department has helped us a lot over the previous years. Their knowledge and work has benefited our association and the quality her events a lot.

I will follow previous chairs in their work on improving the relations with the alumni-circle, their members are of great relevance for our members not only as they are the living example of what life as a Political Scientist looks like after our studies, but also because our shared events offer our members an opportunity to network.

The platform for political scientists is the body in which the four study associations for political science students in the Netherlands, are represented. EOS (Amstelveen), SPIL (Leiden), ismus (Nijmegen) and of course us. Last year the event 'Political Scientists Cross Your Borders' was created. An event on which the members of the four associations could meet each other. As Machiavelli's delegate I will seek to continue this event. The Platform also forms the board behind the Politics in Perspective Committee, consisting of members from all four associations, which annually hosts a congress.

In the Faculty Association all student associations of our faculty are represented by their chairs, in the association experiences are exchanged, common goals are set, and more than often cooperation's are started. For example this year we work closely together in our book sales, following the past year in which new conditions have been negotiated with Boekhandel Athenaeum. The treasurer and I will evaluate the new process and conditions thoroughly. We will also work closely together in making our new offices accessible, and functional. The Faculty association hosts one activity, and one party. As secretary my key tasks are making the minutes, and controlling the email.

The National Consultative Body of Public Administration Associations (LOB), just like the Platform for Political scientists, offers us a platform to work together with other associations in the entire country. The difference being that the focus in this case is Public Administration. I'll meet with the LOB every six weeks.

The LOB member associations are also responsible for deciding which city will host the National Congress of Public Administration. In 2019 we share the honour with EOS (VU) in hosting the congress in Amsterdam after ten years of absence. In order to make this a great success an independent board has been installed, consisting of four Machiavelli, and four EOS members. Apart from being chair of Machiavelli, I am also part of this board, my function being Location Commissioner. This position means everything regarding the venue of the congress is my responsibility.

As you see, there are a lot of external parties I will be involved in the coming year. Representing Machiavelli on a national level should benefit our members. This by sharing experiences and best practices, and organizing events together. Despite Machiavelli being a relatively big association, combining powers is sometimes needed. The new book deal that has been negotiated is a good example for this. The coming year we will also look into the possibility of organizing the masterclasses in cooperation with another association, or even associations. This could create a bigger platform on which more and better workshops and readings can be offered to our members.

It is my duty to be as open as I can be towards my board in informing them about my external activities. This is crucial as it is important to avoid working on my own island. Transparency is important both for the board to know what themes are playing on a bigger level, and also because informing the board will generate feedback that I can channel back to the external organs, an interplay.

### **Long term goal**

A lustrum year can only be a success, when it provides a solid base for another 5 years. Because of the internationalization a lot of energy logically flows to the first two years, as of course we want, and can play a big role in integrating the first years with each other. However, a danger is making our older members feel left out. My goal for the future of Machiavelli is creating unity in diversity: To create this it is important for our association to be as open as possible for all political science students, by organizing events that attract a wide array of members: First years, older years, master students and premaster students.

Some of us are older, some of us younger, some of us come from the other side of the world, some of us were born in Amsterdam. What binds us is that we are all Political Science students, and all Machiavelli members. Every member is part of the long history of Machiavelli, and so is every member a part of the future. *One past, one future.*

### **Conclusion**

I am very much looking forward to the coming year. I wish to meet many new people, be of help where I can be, and to keep Machiavelli the lovely association she is. More importantly, I wish you a great 55<sup>th</sup> Machiavelli year. New friends, new memories, and great study success. I hope to see you soon in the office for a cup of coffee, and on our many events throughout the year.

Thijs Barendrecht  
Chair

## Secretary – Emil Hiddema



### Introduction

With great honour and pleasure I would like to introduce myself as the secretary of the 55th board of Studievereniging Machiavelli.

Before I go into my personal policy goals I want to thank Antonie for his tremendous help and effort into guiding me into this new adventure. Especially I

would like to thank him for his help with the new website. Antonie and I have worked intensively during our transmission to get this new website launched as smooth as possible. And again with great pride I can announce that the website has successfully launched.

The third thing I would like to mention: something I gather much respect for the past year, is the 54th board has handled the internationalization. They have created a very nice atmosphere for all the new and older year students in which we can build of from.

The last thing I want to thank Antonie for is his professional approach on the *Derde Dinsdag*. On his watch it has evolved into a very decent looking and politically interesting magazine.

### My goals and expectations

After this introduction I would like to start of my policy plan with describing my ideas for the coming year on all tasks that belong to a secretary. Generally the task of secretary is considered to be too invisible and consists of a lot of small tasks which eventually form big tasks. These small tasks can be divided in to the following categories: Promotion, *De Derde Dinsdag*, General Assembly and lastly Administrative tasks. These categories are not ranked by importance, because in my opinion they are equally important.

### Promotion

For promotion I want to strive to achieve the most professional approach. Together with all the coordinators I would like to have unified promotion. By this I mean that every Facebook post and other social media post should be recognizable and distinguishable. On the other hand I want to use Instagram more actively since this social media platform is considered a fast rising in popularity social media platform. This year I also aim to invest more time in platforms which are more used by older years and master students which are LinkedIn and Twitter. Unified and professional promotion also entails the posters and regularly distribution of promotion articles. This year we have the great honour to be a board during a lustrum year. That also means that will have to work intensively with the lustrum committee to achieve the same level of unified promotion as for the regular Machiavelli events. The agreement I want

to make with this committee is to implement the lustrum promotion through our own promotion channels, to me that is the best way to achieve the best turnout possible for lustrum events.

### **De Derde Dinsdag**

Same as for the promotion I want to create an artistic and professional atmosphere. For this member magazine I'm looking for a certain 'wow-factor'. Something you can be proud when you look at it. One of my most important goals concerning De Derde Dinsdag entails restructuring the committee. The last couple of years this has been done already in a certain way by my predecessors. What I want to achieve in my year is a more structured committee. I want to achieve this by installing a Chief Editor. I will still be overseeing the committee, but I will be focusing more on design. Also I want to divide the committee into editorial groups which are overseen by me and this appointed Chief Editor. This Chief editor is someone who is experienced with De Derde Dinsdag, and knows the ways of the magazine. As mentioned above this year is a lustrum year. As many of you probably already know a lustrum year consists of an almanac, this almanac is guided by Piet of the lustrum committee. Piet and I will work closely on this almanac. Together with Piet I will help him find committee members for the almanac committee in the De Derde Dinsdag committee. This will help him find good writers more easily

### **General Assembly**

For the GA I want to make sure its importance is understood by all the members. As a secretary you are considered a jack of all trades, since a secretary possesses diverse tasks. For instance a secretary handles and is responsible for promotion. These tasks could be combined fairly easy. For instance I would like to involve new ways of promotion for the GA. For the coming GA's I want to explore the option of making an animated information video explaining the importance of the GA. The other option, which is rather obvious, is to inform members of the importance of the GA, through face-to-face communication (especially the international students, since they might not be familiar with an event like the GA). The goal I want to set for myself for the information video is to make it myself. Last but not least I would like to explore the option to host the GA in different locations, to make it easier for students to join the GA. The first GA will also be held later than usual so all members can join the General Assembly after their lectures. Hopefully this experiment will result in more people joining the GA. If this small change has a positive outcome I will implement this with the other GA's.

### **Administrative**

This last task is probably one of the most labour intensive. The administrative tasks consist of organizing the CoBo, make minutes and maintaining the members database. This year one of the more important tasks was creating a new website. Unfortunately our contract with our webhost has been ended this. Which meant my predecessor had to find a new webhost. With great success Antonie has found Congressus as a new webhost. This website has a good design in my opinion, and possesses more options. One of my goals with this

website is to use website to its full potential. This new website has a lot of new features, which makes the website more interactive than the old one. I would like to use these features to make the website a place where people will go first when checking an event. In this case the website can be a good alternative as a promotion platform next to Facebook. I am aware of the fact that there have been some complaints about “spamming members with Machiavelli posts”, so using and redirecting to the website is helpful in solving these complaints. One of the other things that have to be organized is the Constitution borrel (CoBo). The CoBo has already been arranged and will take place the 4th of October at the Heeren van Aemstel. At this CoBo I would strive to show how great of an association we are, and establish even greater connection to our beloved sister and brother associations

### **Personal goals:**

Deriving from these categories I want to set myself up with three tasks. These three tasks are derived from a personal standpoint. And the end of the year I will look back at these goals and see how I have succeeded in achieving these goals.

#### *What do I want to achieve?*

With all these categories combined I want to achieve an atmosphere of structured professionalism. Firstly, I want to improve my designing skills with promotion (for instance the information video for the GA). Also, I want to achieve to be a good and helpful board member. Because of my position I will be working very closely with all my board members. I hope I can achieve my own goals and help my fellow board members achieve their goals. In the end you don't run a board by yourself.

#### *What can I build on from my predecessors?*

My predecessors have achieved a lot of their goals past couple of years. I hope that I can improve this line of improvement on each of the tasks that belong to being a great Secretary. Professionalism is of great importance for me, and throughout the years this aspect has been improvement. A professional association focusses in my opinion on showing the best towards our members, meaning good design and clear communication. My goal is to continue this trend.

#### *How do I want to achieve this?*

I want to achieve all of this by being open, visible and effective. This can of course only be achieved by hard work and dedication. The problem most secretary face is that they are not visible enough. Therefore I want to position myself as an open as possible so that everybody has a better understanding of what my position entails.

## **Conclusion**

To conclude I hope to achieve all the goals I have set for myself. I am really looking forward to next year. Especially the lustrum touch to our year will make it even more special. Thirdly I hope that everybody will enjoy the editions of the De Derde Dinsdag and that all my committee members are just as enthusiastic as I am about this beautiful member magazine. Lastly I hope to see everybody at our weekly borrel!

Emil Hiddema  
Secretary

## Treasurer – Maaike Dudink



### Introduction

I am very happy to be able to introduce myself as the treasurer of the 55th board of Machiavelli. I am very excited for the year to come and am looking forward to all the challenges a board year can bring. Machiavelli is growing in size and thus it is important to maintain the professional character of the association and make sure that we remain the

open and inclusive association that we are known for by our members. The continued internationalization brings many opportunities and challenges that I am very happy to be able to tackle over the year to come.

I want to thank my predecessor, Jonas Jeunink, for his help during the transmission process and giving me the best start possible to this challenging year to come. He has taught me what I need to know to fulfil the function of treasurer and, his work as treasurer the past year has left the position in great state for me to continue the work this year.

### Financial Health and Administration

One of my most important tasks as treasurer is to make sure Machiavelli remains financially healthy and all administration is kept track of. To ensure this is the case I plan to have a standard moment, every week, to complete the bookkeeping and make sure all invoices and declarations have been paid. This way I will be able to keep track of the administration and make sure all needed documentation is available.

When talking about the finances of the association something that is important to mention is the increasing income of the association. The money coming into Machiavelli has increased over the past year due to the growing number of students through the internationalization and will continue in the year to come. This is because the growing number of members leads to higher income from contribution and book sales and increased subsidy from the CSS. This gives us more room to develop as an association and enrich the student experience through everything we have to offer. Using this money wisely is an important part of my function and I will do so together with the rest of the board. This will be through creating events that are loved by Machiavellians and investing in new events that will help enrich the study experience.

An aspect that is relevant to administration that I want to consider the coming year is the possibility of an international treasurer. With the internationalization of the association, there is a chance this will occur in the next few years. To start preparing for this early I would like to look into the possibilities of translating

the bookkeeping system, Davilex. This is not saying that it will necessarily be done this year but I believe it is important to consider the possibility early and plan for the possibility.

### **Communication**

A very important factor in being able to maintain a financial overview of the association is communication with the coordinators. I need to be able to communicate with the coordinators about their events and work closely to ensure the budget expectations are met. I have worked with the coordinators on their plans for the year and will continue to do so, especially at the beginning of the year. For the first few events, I will work with the coordinators to set up their budgets. This way they will understand what is needed in a budget plan and all the aspects they need to consider when setting up events. After one or two events I will let coordinators set up their own budget, after which I will check it and make sure it is feasible. When it comes to the realizations of their events I will sit down with them to fill this in after the event has taken place. This way they are aware of what they are spending and if they are using their budget in the way we had initially intended.

To inform the coordinators of their budget process I will sit down with them one on one on a regular basis to update them on their personal budget. We will discuss how recent events have gone and plans for upcoming events, we will also see if we have some money left or need to save on upcoming events. This way I hope that the coordinators will understand how the budget is being used throughout the year.

### **Acquisition**

The acquisition committee has made great improvements the past year, I wish to continue this growth throughout the year to come. An issue within the acquisition committee is the dedication of new members. Acquisition can be difficult to get the hang of and people don't always feel connected to it. I will be changing the committee structure to one that includes a daily board. The reason I have chosen to set up a daily board is because of the experiences and advice of my predecessor. His experience is that the first few months as treasurer are very hectic and as much as I would like to hit the ground running with acquisitions this does not seem a viable possibility. Having a daily board will take some of the workload off me and will hopefully allow for more productivity within the committee in the first few months. I will of course still be involved and function as the coordinator between the board and the committee, and in the committee itself.

The acquisition target of last year was met, and we have already started this year with a starting income of 1450,- due to the hard work of the committee last year. I have set the acquisition target for this year to 3000,-. This is a target set in collaboration with Jonas, this amount was set based on last years acquisition and the amount we are already starting the year with.

## **Book Emission**

There have been a lot of changes in the way the book emission will take place and this will be a process I will have to go through for the first time this year. The changes that are occurring is the centralization of the book sales with our partner Athenaeum. A joint contract with 5 other association of the faculty, Pegasus, SEC, Mercurius, Comenius, and Kwakiutl, together we form the BVC-FMG (Book Sales Committee – Faculty of behavioural and social sciences). Through the centralization, there will be a lot more cooperation between the association and we will need to figure out how this works best for us. I am a part of the group that will function as a contact person between Athenaeum and the BVC-FMG. We will meet to make sure the book emissions run smoothly and that there is clear communication between Athenaeum and the associations. The new contract means all association work together on processes that used to be separated, such as delivering the book lists to Athenaeum, contact about any changes that need to be made about book lists and returning books to the bookstore. The collaboration with the other people responsible for the contact with Athenaeum, the chair of Pegasus and the treasurer of SEC, is going very well. We work well together and the contact so far has been very good amongst ourselves and with our contact person at Athenaeum. The other associations have been a little harder to contact as they had been less far in the transmission process and were not always aware of everything that had to be done as their predecessors were still handling certain aspects for them. This contact has been improving, however, we need to make sure to meet after the book emissions to evaluate how we can improve the overall collaboration for the second semester book sale.

## **Lustrum**

It is a very exciting year for the association as we are celebrating our 11th Lustrum. With the Lustrum, there will need to be clear communication between the board and the Lustrum committee. I have already worked with the treasurer of the Lustrum committee to make sure their budget can be planned to be incorporated into the overall year budget en to plan how the division of costs will be in events that are organized together. Clear communication is very important as all expenses go through the Machiavelli account so the Lustrum treasurer will have to rely on me to make payments for them. I will have to work closely with the Lustrum treasurer, but of course the committee will develop the ideas they want to put in place to make it a successful Lustrum. I have already planned a moment every week to meet with the Lustrum treasurer that we can keep each other updated, look at progress and complete. We will also any financial tasks that need to be taken care of during these meetings such and pay declarations and do bookkeeping. After a month we will evaluate whether this amount of meeting is necessary or if we should meet less frequently.

## **Conclusion**

Overall I am very excited to perform the function of treasurer this upcoming year and am looking forward to facing the challenges ahead of me. Together with the rest of the board I believe that we will be able to provide a very exciting year for all our me.

Maike Dudink  
Treasurer

## Education coordinator – Tiziana Schopper



### Introduction

Machiavelli as an association holds a very special place in my heart and it is with great pride that I present my policy plan for my function as education coordinator to all its members. Before actually talking policy, I want to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Daan Stoop, for the wonderful work he has done as education coordinator of 2017/2018, and of course for guiding me through the transmission process in making sure I will be as well prepared as I could possibly be. I want to thank him for the exciting things I got to experience thanks to him, the events that he has organized that I was lucky enough to be a part of. His work has inspired me to become the next education coordinator and I hope to follow in his footsteps and I will work hard to be able to fill them.

I have decided to structure my policy plan in the different aspects the job entails. I will present my ideas for each aspect and elaborate on them. I will conclude with my personal goals.

### The Committees

There are currently three committees headed by the education coordinator: the first year's council; the education committee and the masterclasses committee. I have individual plans for each of these committees. I want to keep the first year's council up and I want to try to include at least one member of each tutorial group in order to have a good overview of the different groups and a better understanding of the relevant topics. It is especially important to me to have both Dutch and International Students in this committee to get a better awareness of the similarities and differences of both tracks. This can be quite challenging at times because the tutorial groups change often, but I hope to keep an overview by visiting the different tutorial groups when they change and recruit new members. Furthermore I would like to restructure the education committee, which monitors the education of the older years of political science students and organises events. Instead of only having members sign up for the education committee in general, I would like them to sign up for the specific part of the education committee they are interested in, whether that's monitoring education, organising events, or both. This will help me in approaching the right students for the different projects of the education committee and hence will

increase student participation. My plans for the masterclasses committee will be presented later in the policy plan, under the header “Older years and Master students”.

### **The Quality of Education**

Quality of Education is a bit of a difficult topic to define. For me, this part of my policy plan has two main aspects. Firstly, I want to create an "education message field" on the Machiavelli website where people can write me a message, to have one big channel where all the messages are collected. This is supposed to give me and the other students a better overview and create a more personal communication with the students. Secondly, with the help of the education committee I would like to create a small report on many courses of the first and second year to increase awareness of what went well and what didn't, in order to assist the department in improving our education. This also means keeping up a very thorough communication with the department concerning the different courses. I hope that these reports can help increase the amount of feedback received from students by providing a platform for discussion and reflecting together. It is important to keep in mind that this year's second year is almost completely new and keeping a good eye on it is crucial. Of course, the third year and the Master students will not be forgotten. I aim to always be approachable for all students and aid them whenever it's needed.

### **Internationalization**

Since 2017, the study of political science has internationalized and hence the study has grown significantly. The internationalization has posed different challenges concerning education. This part of my policy plan has three main aspects, through which I want to improve the internationalization and the integration of the international students. It is of the utmost importance to me to monitor this year's first year in regard to last year and hence do everything I can to help improve the first year for the coming years. It is also very important to keep the students properly informed of the standards of Dutch universities and which expectations to have. Of course I also want to help students work as successful as possible. This could be combined with my efforts to increase the cooperation between the Dutch and the English track. A possibility to help them mix more would be by creating voluntary study groups for the different courses to bring both tracks together and help the students study more successfully. Furthermore, I would like to explore the possibility of finding a partner for Machiavelli to offer Dutch Classes at a discounted rate for international students. This is meant to help international students integrate and feel more at home in a Dutch university. Lastly, I want to make sure that the Dutch students do not feel excluded. The Internationalization has shifted the attention strongly towards the international students, which could leave Dutch students

feeling left out. It is very important to me to mitigate the negative effects the internationalisation had for Dutch students. It is of the utmost importance to make sure they know that they can always approach me, whether that's in English or in Dutch. I am also working on my own language skills because I would like them to be able to speak to me in their mother tongue if they feel more comfortable with it.

### **Examtrainings**

Daan has found a great new partner for our exam trainings: tentamentrainingen.nl. With the new partner for exam-trainings, I am very much looking forward to offering trainings for every first and second year course. The exam trainings will be focused on the first year and the second year, because most of those courses are mandatory and also the most challenging for students. Throughout this year the cooperation with tentamentraining will be explored in order to see if they are the best partner for Machiavelli. Furthermore, the possibility to extend this cooperation to course summaries is being discussed. Here it is of the utmost importance that the quality of these summaries gets thoroughly assessed to assure that Machiavelli only offers the best for its members.

### **Older years and master students**

It has always been a bit challenging to involve the older year- and master students in the educational aspects of Machiavelli. I strive to offer them more possibilities to be involved and also engage themselves. I have several ideas on how to approach this. I would like to increase the opportunities for the older years and the Master students to network. In order to give them those opportunities, I want to involve alumni in upcoming networking events. Furthermore, I am seeking to involve different partners, such as the alumni association and other study associations, for older students to create interesting events. I am also hoping to do a lustrum-alumni-event in cooperation with the lustrum committee. I also will rename and possibly restructure the Masterclasses and/or the Masterclasses committee. I want to restructure it in a way that increases its independence and gives the committee more room to explore their own ideas. By renaming it I want to make sure that people know that this is an inclusive event that everyone is invited to attend.

### **Events**

There have been many successful education events. I am looking forward to keeping up high quality public lectures and informative education dialogues. I am hoping to have a minimum of one bachelor education dialogue and one master's education dialogue. I also hope to offer a few in-house days, seeing as they were a great success in the last year. Furthermore, the tradition of the

open evening will be kept up, but some changes will be made to make it more inclusive, so that international students can invite their friends and family to come to Amsterdam and learn about their student life as well.

I am very much looking forward to overseeing and guiding the organization of various career events, including the Masterclasses. I am hoping to be able to add more career events to the spectrum, possibly in cooperation with the alumni.

### **Personal goals**

Being education coordinator and also the first ever international board member of Machiavelli brings a lot of opportunities but also a lot of responsibilities with it. I aim to be open for everyone and I would like to engage with as many students as possible in education related activities. This means staying up to date with the different courses and communicating intensively with the students. Another important aspect is that I want students to know that language does not have to be a barrier and that they can always approach me, regardless if it's in Dutch or in English. I am also working hard on improving my own language skills to make communication with the members easier. Furthermore, I aim to set a good example for all following international board members and so encourage international students to get involved in Machiavelli. Reducing the barriers that keep international students from applying to be on the board of Machiavelli is crucial for our association. Lastly, I strive to monitor and help keep up the good quality of the education while also improving what can be improved.

Tiziana Schopper  
Education Coordinator

## Political Activities Coordinator – Saskia van Dalen



### Introduction

It is with due pride I can state here that in the 55<sup>th</sup> board I will fill the position of Political Activities Coordinator (PAC). I'm delighted for the chance to be enhancing on the student life of our members and intellectually challenging them by offering a broad array of political events. Before I will explicate my policy plan

concerning the upcoming year, I would like to thank my predecessor, Nina Salomons, for her efforts in telling me all I should know and inspiring me. With the great transmission she provided me, I feel confident for what is coming. As I've been involved with the committee for longer, I would also like to thank Nina's predecessors, especially Sacha and Eva -because all three of them made me aspire the role of PAC from the start- and all entire previous boards I had the pleasure of knowing as well. I would like to thank them all for the efforts they put in and for providing the 55<sup>th</sup> board with a steady base to build our board year upon but also a foundation to celebrate the 11<sup>th</sup> lustrum of our beloved study association. This being said I have decided to subdivide my policy plan trifold: goals, committee and events.

### Goals

First of all I will explain my personal (coordinator) goals within this board year and secondly I will elaborate on my take on the position of vicechair. It is my personal goal to have a tight schedule and stick to it. I will use this to my advantage in planning the most prestigious and interesting events. I believe maintaining a structured process is crucial when functioning in a group, which is why I strive to maintain structure as an individual. Another personal goal is to assist our presidium if and when necessary, given my connection as the former chair. Next year I will be approachable at all times for all members with ideas as I believe increased input can change the creative process for the better. In practice I will be approachable in both Dutch and English in the boardroom, via email, on events and borrels and additionally I will initiate an idea box for input concerning the political activities. Carrying out these goals I aim to reach out not only to our active but all members so they can make themselves heard. All the more so said approachability will be guarded because of committee structure changes which will be discussed in the next paragraph. Pursuing this goal by taking these measures I aim to help keep the association inclusive: meaning that all members feel welcomed to participate and (if they are interested) are doing so. This way we can keep the cohesion between Dutch and international students and between the different year layers. The aim to have high inclusivity is also found in my coordinator goal to offer the most broad array of events, with which I attempt to highlight multiple views on the political

spectrum. Like that the events appeal to an even bigger audience and will provoke thought and discussion.

### **Vicechair**

I feel very honoured that I was granted the opportunity to represent the association as vicechair, because this association has captured my heart and I am determined to continue adhering to the path that has been set. As a vicechair it is my goal to maintain frequent communication on a professional and personal level within the board. It is of the utmost importance to express expectations and keep each other sharp within the board and even more crucial to look after one another. My fellow board members can come to me with their problems related to their board year and to their personal life. They can reach out on their own but I will also actively ask them for updates to stay informed. In practice being a vice-chair means I will assist Thijs whenever he needs me to; whether it is partaking in a meeting outside of Amsterdam or hosting a board meeting.

### **Committee**

Onto my goals as a coordinator: as a long-time member of the PAC committee I am familiar with the challenges the committee faces. The committee meetings have not always seen active participation and the turn-out at events can be improved. The 54<sup>th</sup> board provided us with their take on committee restructuring. Based here on the committee will be formed as follows: I will coordinate all events and subcommittees. Coordinating in this sense means that I will assist the subcommittees, oversee their activities and I will be a safety net if things do not go as planned. For every event there will be a 1 subcommittee. Every subcommittee will be constituted from the 'big' committee and from their midst a person will be named 'auxiliary'. The auxiliary's prime task will be assisting me by keeping me updated. This position is also an opportunity to have more autonomy for the committee members. Members that want to join the committee will be asked to write a short motivational letter. Current members of the committee are welcome and even preferred to stay. This restructure also entails the 'content vent', an idea box in which I invite everyone and anyone (PAC or not) to brainstorm along with us to create new and exciting events and themes. For this outlet a I email address will be put in place. By providing this outlet I hope not only to reach less active members, but also to accommodate a safe space for the creative process. The submissions will be discussed in the committee, therefore I urge to emphasize the role of the 'content vent' which is meant as an addition to the committee and a reach out to include even more people. In order to reach as many members as possible I will mention the three different ways -joining the committee meetings, joining the committee meetings and participating and providing input via the 'content vent'- to participate in the PAC committee throughout the year.

### **Events**

In this part I will discuss the events for the upcoming year. To reach as many members as possible the emphasis will be put on international and/or internationally recognizable themes this year. Though the emphasis will be put

on international themes, there is always room for interesting Dutch topics. The aspiration is to organize a political event once a month, this way I hope to present enough choices to visit a political activity without overburdening the agenda.

### *Debates*

By making the debate portion at the end of each event larger, I aim to make the political activities not solely about listening but also including an actual active participation segment. In order to learn from the activities there must be room to think over the information that has been passed on. Political Activities are created and viewed as an addition to the curriculum of our members and practising to verbalise thought processes and opinions fits into that category. Besides the discussion which every event will host, "Machiavelli debates" will be returning this year. As mentioned in my list of personal goals I strive to present a broad overview of all politics has to offer and Machiavelli debates can provide a platform for that.

### *Docurama*

Organizing Docurama -an event built around watching a documentary and discussing the topic with experts- at least once will offer members a chance to partake in a completely different format of activity. By offering different formats I hope to cater to as many members as possible, because everyone has their own preference when it comes to event types.

### *Field trip*

Although a lot of events will be focussing on international themes, the annual field trip to De Tweede Kamer can give a fun insight in Dutch politics. Seen as we all share this country, it is nice to offer a Dutch themed event too and a field trip seems perfect for this. By offering at least one event about Dutch politics, the Dutch character of the association will be awarded.

### *Machiavelli Meets*

Machiavelli Meets is the event which tells us more about the life of a professional, shows possible career paths and presents the opportunity to ask questions. For this event the subcommittee is already formed and eagerly occupied with organizing. This subcommittee consists of both PAC members and members of the Lustrum Committee, which means it will be a combined event. This offers a nice opportunity to co-operate with two different groups, which can provoke fresh ideas, and this is grounds for an even larger than usual event with prominent guests (both speakers and alumni).

### *Theme Nights*

As the prologue of this paragraph already stated, the emphasis this year will be put on theme nights, and in particular international themes. As said before the Dutch topics will not be forgotten, but I believe they will reach their full potential in other formats. By focussing on a theme it will be easier to motivate committee members (who chose the theme), find speakers as they are able to talk about

their field of expertise and mobilize more members since the themes will be recognisable for everyone. Some potential ideas for theme nights are, including, but not limited to, Brexit, FIFA and Platform Economy.

### *Conclusion*

I look forward to presenting all members Machiavelli a broad array of formats and topics, so all can find political activities to their liking. The committee restructure will also provide members with opportunities to contribute to the association in varying degrees. I'm excited to be facing this board year alongside my fellow board members and making it an unforgettable lustrum year, politically and otherwise. Working with my committee I will try my best to maintain the high-quality political activities our members have grown accustomed to.

Saskia van Dalen  
Political Activities Coordinator

## Social activities coordinator – Tommy Blomvliet



### Introduction

My name is Tommy Blomvliet and it is a huge honor to be the Social Activities Coordinator of the 55<sup>th</sup> Board of Study Association Machiavelli. I am very looking forward to make coming year another great year for Machiavelli with a lot of fun events.

Looking at our beautiful association, I think no one will

disagree when I state that we Machiavellians are par excellence social animals. Of course, Machiavelli is first and foremost an association founded to look after the education and help members with their studies, but Machiavelli has shown in the past to be a great way to make students feel home. Not only is our association a good way to meet new people and friends as a first-year, but also to meet people from other years, other nationalities and other cultures. Therefore my main policy goal is not only continue the, so far successful, internationalization, but also to encourage the mingling between students from different years and cultures. My policy plan is structured as follows: First, as already stated, I want the social cohesion between every year and every nationality to be as big as possible. Second, I want to change the committee structure of the Social Activities Committee. The 11<sup>th</sup> Lustrum of Machiavelli will play a big role during this year and is therefore mentioned in my policy plan. Finally, my plans for the activities will be explained.

Before I continue, I would like to thank my predecessor, Lise Lathouwers. She did an amazing job last year and it won't be easy to live up to her standards. Also, the transmission went very smoothly as she was very clear and structured. Besides that, she was always very accessible for every question I had and for that I really want to thank her. She introduced some very good events, that will definitely return and gave really good advice on structuring the committee.

### Social Cohesion

My first policy goal and also the biggest challenge of this year for me, is the social cohesion within Machiavelli. I would consider this goal succeeded when there is a lot of mingling and contact between students from all years and all nationalities. The reason why this is a big challenge is because we can't force people to mingle or to become friends, all we can do is give them opportunities to meet and have contact. I think there are two main subjects that need to be addressed. The first one being what happened last year and the second one being what the board can do this year. Last year there was a clear decline of active elder members. Of course, elder members are always less active due to work, internships or other study-related things but last year also second-years weren't that active. According to the survey made for The Future of Machiavelli

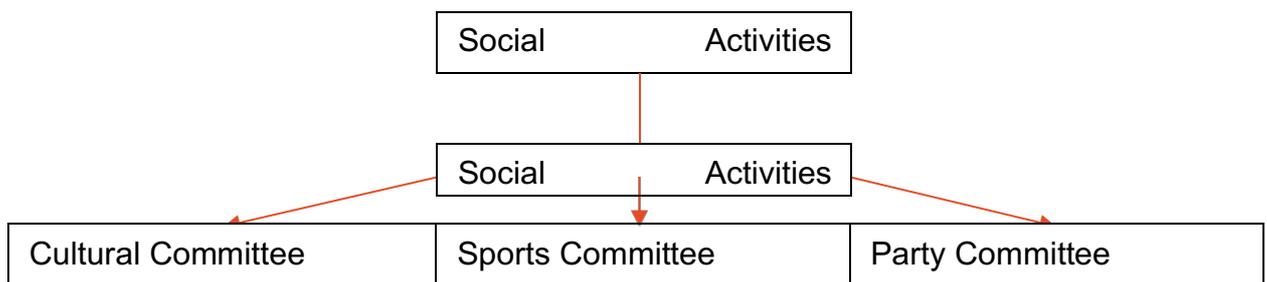
,the main reason for this was the internationalization. Of course changing things has its effects, but it is a pity. I think the 54<sup>th</sup> board did a good job on bonding with the first years students, both international and Dutch and we will definitely continue this. The second years students are already used to the internationalization and we hope that the third and fourth years students are also more at ease with the international students after one year, because Machiavelli is definitely still their association as well.

We as a board and I as the Social Activities Coordinator want and can create the best activities for the members to meet each other and mingle. In order to attract as many people to our events, I want to organize some broad activities that are interesting for everyone and some activities that differ to attract different groups. The way I want to accomplish this is ask more input from the members of the Social Activities Committee, which will also be explained in the next paragraph. Then, the activities will be more attractive for members, as they are more organized by the members, although I will have the final word on everything. Also, I think the Lustrum will help with the social cohesion, as there will be some Lustrum social activities where I expect a lot of members to attend, but more about that will be explained in the paragraph about the Lustrum itself and the activities.

### **Committee Structure**

As said, one of the things that will be changed this year is the committee structure of the Social Activities Committee, further referred to as SAC. The 54<sup>th</sup> laid a very good basis for us and gave us some really good advice about restructuring the committees. This change will be established for two reasons. The first reason is that there was never a written structure within the SAC. In the beginning of the year, members signed up to join the SAC and during the general meetings the sub-committees for the different events were formed. The positive side of this committee structure is that everyone is free to join every sub-committee they want. The negative side here is that the members of the sub-committee never had a clear task in the organization and that the coordinator did most of the work behind the scenes, such as promotion, finding a location and correspond with external contacts. The members of the sub-committee helped with things like doing groceries, plan games and help during the activities. In my opinion, we don't use the full potential of active members who are willing to organize events for Machiavelli. The second reason for changing the SAC structure is the fact that Machiavelli is also a place where members can develop them self. As stated in my first argument, I think the members of the SAC have way more potential and are more than capable to also help with promotional work and finding locations for events. Therefore, I am convinced that it is a good idea to give members more independence and important tasks in the organization of an activity. Of course, as the coordinator, I will always be the one to make the final decision and everything will be checked by me before anything happens, but my role will be more coordinating instead of organizing. The new committee structure will be explained now (and is visualized in the figure below). There will be a general SAC, with all the

members. This committee will take care of the weekends, the *borrels* and the pub quizzes. The sub-committees for these events will be formed during the first general SAC meeting. Then there will be three other, smaller committees: Party committee, Cultural Committee and Sports committee. These committees will all have a daily board (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer), Head of Location and Head of Promotion and (depending on the amount of applications) general members. For every committee there will be an e-mail address, which they can use to contact locations for example. The committee will have more responsibility and in order to maintain our professional appearance, all members will have to apply for the committee and function they admire. I also made a general transmission document for every committee and one specific for every position, including templates for e-mails, code of conduct, what I expect from the committees, in short: everything they need to know to be a professional committee member. Last but not least, I find the social cohesion within the committee very important. Especially since the members can't just drop out when they are the treasurer of a committee for instance. Enough meetings with as much members as possible and have some drinks afterwards, fun and enough committee activities and one-on-one evaluations in an informal setting, are the three ways how I want to achieve a good social cohesion.



## The Lustrum

Of course, the 11<sup>th</sup> Lustrum of Machiavelli cannot be left out of this policy plan. This will play a big role during the year. A Lustrum often brings a lot of fun activities that we will organize together with the Lustrum committee. However, my goal concerning the Lustrum is that the Lustrum activities should not make the regular SAC activities less attractive. It is logical that if the agenda is too full, people choose visiting a Lustrum event over a regular one and it is my task to prevent this from happening. That is why I want the social Lustrum activities to be an efficient cooperation of SAC and the Lustrum Committee. I have already spoken to the Lustrum committee and they agree that it is a good idea to combine an event, instead of having two separate ones. The second point concerning the Lustrum is that I strive to have a good and healthy relationship with the Lustrum committee throughout the year. I want to keep close contact with the Lustrum committee and have knowledge of all their ideas and plans concerning the social events. Not to micromanage, but the board always has the final responsibility.

As stated in the paragraph about social cohesion, I think the Lustrum will also help in the social cohesion. Not only current members will be invited to the Lustrum events, also Alumni and people from the Political Science department and I'm convinced this will lead to a great social atmosphere. Next to the Lustrum events, I would also like to invite Alumni and the Political Science department for regular events, Political Science got Talent for example.

### The events

Last, but certainly not least: the events. I will start with the regular events and then go on with the other events per committee. The regular events are the *borrels*, the pub quizzes and the weekends. Unfortunately, our beloved Havelaar is no longer our *borrel* location. There was some trouble with the municipality and due to a lack of good and clear communication, we've decided to move on and look for another location for our weekly *borrel*. The 54<sup>th</sup> Board laid a good basis for us to decide the new location. The first seven weeks (including the Intreeweek) we will have our *borrel* at De Heeren van Aemstel. After that, we will move to Woody's, which is across De Heeren van Aemstel and next to the old Cinema. The reason why we switch location after seven *borrels* is because of the fact that De Heeren van Aemstel will be too big for us later in the year and Woody's is a perfect solution. Woody's is a very nice place with a lot of options. Study Association Aureus has their *borrel* there now for a couple of years, but that is only once in seven weeks. The goal is to plan other SAC events on the nights that Aureus has their *borrel* at Woody's, for instance the parties and the pub quizzes. Both locations are open till 03:00 and the *borrel* will start at 20:00, as usual. Last year, the *borrel* became more and more a place to go out instead of a real *borrel*. This resulted in a lot of the members showing up late. I personally like the fact that there is a real *borrel* from 20:00-00:00, where people have a drink and the opportunity for a good talk or to play a game. I want to encourage the members to come earlier. Due to a promotion deal with De Heeren van Aemstel, we will have a happy hour from 20:00-21:00 the last 5 *borrels* there and also Woody's proposed a drink-related promotion, which hopefully helps to solve this problem. Coming year, there will be two pub quizzes, two *shotjesborrels*, two *holidayborrels* (Sinterklaas and Easter) and *specialborrels*, of which the themes are yet to be decided by the Social Activities Committee. Of course, we will also explore the countryside of The Netherlands twice this year. The First Weekend will again be an only first-years weekend. Just like last year there will be 100 participants and the preparations are in full swing. The Second Weekend will be around February and will be open to all-years students. The committee will have a much bigger influence on the Second Weekend, since a lot of things have to be arranged for the First Weekend, before the year even starts.

Secondly, the Parties Committee. There will be four parties coming year, of which 3 will be (partly) organized by the committee. The First Party, The Prom, The Ending Festival and the FMG-party. The last one will not be organized by the committee, because it is an FMG-activity. The Prom will be partly organized by the committee, since this is often a collaboration between three Study Associations. I would like to focus on four things in the organization of the parties: the promotion, the ticket prices, the location and the music. For the

promotion, I'd like to continue the good work from last year and let the committee come with creative ideas and check the possibility to make after-movies. Of course, the ticket prices should be attractive for every member to make it accessible for everyone. Location and music are the key for a good party. I want the locations to be central and accessible and the music as diverse as possible, with different DJs. Of course, these are tasks for the Party Committee. As third, the Cultural Activities. There are some events that will come back, but I also kept some free space, so that the committee can fill that in. The events that will come back are: Machiavelli meets Mokum, where new students will get a tour through Amsterdam. Last year the weather did not cooperate, but I do want to organize this event again since it is a nice way for new students to get to know the city. Political Science got Talent is the second cultural activity. I would like to make this a Lustrum event, by inviting also Alumni and teachers. The Live Music Night is the third cultural event. This new event was already very well visited last year and I think it has a lot of potential to grow. Last but not least, Machiavelli Dines is the fourth established cultural event. Last year was not visited very well, because it was in the week before the holiday and a lot of international students already went home. That is why I want to organize this event this year after the Holidays as a "Welcome Home" edition. Also, I would like to host this event at as many locations as possible. There will be more cultural events, but I really want the committee to come up with ideas. The fourth and last committee is the Sports Committee. StuDoVo and Machialympics are the two events that will certainly make their comeback. For both events I would like to have teachers among the participants. Next to that I would like to introduce an alternative on Scienta Calix (a football tournament between Study Associations), with multiple sports. Same as for the Cultural Committee, there will be more sportive events, but I want the committee to come up with these events.

## Conclusion

Concluding, there will be some changes coming year for the Social Activities. The committee structure will be changed, which results in more independency and responsibility for the committee. The social cohesion is something to monitor and is a thing that I value a lot. As stated, of course I want every event to be a success, but a good social cohesion between both students from different years and different nationalities will make my board year personally a success. The Lustrum will play a big role this year, but I am convinced that it will be a positive incentive, as long as the cooperation between the Board and the Lustrum Committee is good and working. Some events will return and some events will be new and I am convinced and confident that coming year will bring a lot of great social activities and cooperation with the committees. Most of all, I am really looking forward to see the members enjoy themselves and the events as much as I have done last year, resulting in an amazing atmosphere, social cohesion and real *gezelligheid* and make it an unforgettable (Lustrum)year.

Tommy Blomvliet  
Social Activities Coordinator

## International coordinator – Eelke Vlieger



### Introduction

I'm very honoured to take place in the 55th board of study association Machiavelli as the 14th International Coordinator. I want to thank my predecessor Maureen Schepel who has guided me through the transmission period with untameable enthusiasm combined

with a real sense of professional guidance. Her enthusiasm has made me even more excited for this amazing function and because of her I am confident that I will be able to fulfil it as good as she has the previous year.

The Machiavelli trips offer another dimension to the life of Political Science students. They not only offer political and cultural activities but also a fun social aspect in which our students get to know each other better as a group. Considering the fact that our association is still growing and internationalising my three main points for the trips will be continuity, creativity and cohesion. Continuity because Maureen already implemented some good changes considering the growth and internationalisation of our association. Creativity because I have some ideas which I think will be good for the association. And finally cohesion because I think the trips are an excellent way to increase the overall cohesion within the association.

### Continuity

In recent years it has become Machiavelli tradition to organise two small trips, a Brussels trip, one big trip and the King of the Road trip. Last year Maureen implemented some changes to try and retain a similar level of accessibility for the Brussel and second small trip. Because the association was gaining more members she organised two Brussel trips and set up parallel trips as the second small trips. Overall these changes were a success because they made sure more members could join the trips. That is why I decided to keep these changes. I decided to not to expand the first small trip and the big trip because I think it will be hard to fill up two small trips at the start of the year and organising a second big trip will add a lot of work to a schedule which is already packed. Expanding these trips might be something to explore in the future but I don't deem it necessary right now.

### Creativity

Although I think continuity is necessary that doesn't mean I don't want to implement changes. First and foremost this year is a lustrum year and I want to organise a lustrum themed trip. I want to organise this trip during the two parallel

trips. I want both of these trips to be lustrum themed. I already have a good idea for one of the trips. My only problem is that this might cost a bit more money than a regular small trip because it will have a few extra's and I won't be able to use money from the lustrum budget. Nevertheless I still want to organise this trip because I think that it really is a great theme for a trip, it won't be that expensive and I think the extra money will be worth it. Because I'm afraid one of the lustrum trips will be more expensive than usual and I'd like to keep the accessibility of the trips as high as possible I'd prefer to organise a cheaper trip as a second parallel trip. By doing this students who might not be able to afford another lustrum trip could still go on a lustrum themed trip. For this trip I will appoint a Trip Coordinator to organise and lead it.

### **Trip Coordinator**

A problem a lot of International Coordinators had was that members of international committees felt like they weren't able to really contribute to the planning of the trip. I noticed this myself whilst planning the first trip. I want to offer committee members the opportunity to express themselves and feel like they're included in the decision-making process. To achieve this I want to experiment with Trip Coordinators for at least one parallel lustrum trip and probably an IAPSS trip. These Trip Coordinators will be able to form their own committee and will be able to determine the entire program of the trip themselves. I will select these Trip Coordinators via motivational letters in which they'll have to set out a detailed plan for the trip they want to organise. They will still have to pass everything by me because I will still hold all the responsibility. I will be the one to book the flights, hostels and will be held responsible if anything goes wrong. By doing this I can still make sure I know what is going on and retain control over the trips whilst granting those committee members a lot of authority.

I decided to experiment with this because it means members will have more autonomy and feel more included in the planning of the trips. I also decided to experiment with this idea because I really want to send a delegation of Machiavelli to the IAPSS World Congress but I'm not sure if I will be able to go myself. Machiavelli hasn't been able to go for quite some years because the World Congress usually intervenes with our big trip. If I am not able to go this would be a perfect way to still be present at IAPSS.

### **Cohesion**

Last year there were a few trips where the turnout of the international students was quite low. As our organisation is internationalising further I want to make sure the composition of the trips reflects the composition of our association as much as possible. I feel like the turnout of the international students was a bit lower than expected last year because they usually have less money at the start of the year and might not feel comfortable enough yet within Machiavelli to go on a trip with us. I can't do anything about the money-issue but I can help them see that the trips are a really fun experience for everyone, whether you're an international or not. I want to do this by organising informational evenings about the destination before students are able to register for the trips. By doing

this I hope I can show the (new) internationals that going on a Machiavelli trip really is worth their time and money. I think I can improve the cohesion within the association by doing this because you make a lot of new friends whilst travelling with a group.

### **Conclusion**

To conclude I just want to say I am incredibly excited to start my board year. I look forward to work together with my fellow board members of the 55th board. I will strive to make members feel included, be creative and uphold the standards my predecessors have set for me. It is going to be a challenge but I am ready to take on this challenge and make this year not only an unforgettable year for current members but also an exciting lustrum year for all members, old and new.

Eelke Vlieger  
International Coordinator