

Dear members of Study association Machiavelli,

With this letter, I want to show my interest in a position on the selection committee for the board of SV Machiavelli 2019/2020. My name is Chiel van de Camp, 20 years old, and a 3th-year student of the bachelor Human Geography and Urban Planning (SGPL). I'm currently working on my thesis project, but in addition, I have some spare time which I would like to use to help choose your next board! In this letter, I will explain why I think I'm a good fit for the position, thanks to my year as a member of the old board of SV Sarphati.

One year ago I was the vice-chairman of study association Sarphati, linked to my study SGPL. During my year on the board, I functioned as the main point of contact of internal communications, coordinated multiple committees and I helped out when the chairwoman wasn't able to attend to a meeting or a public talk. At the start of the year, The board members and I had to handle over 10 applications for chairs of the committees. During the year, I had several reflection moments with my chairs to discuss how the committee was functioning and how leading a committee felt for them. This gave me an insight into how people function in a group and what makes a good leader, but also what does not.

At the end of the year when a new board is chosen, we also had 7 applications. At our association, the old board has to choose a new one. So having to sit at the other end of the table during an application wouldn't be the first time for me. I think this will be a valuable experience because I already once have gone through that process. I held several conversations, read the applications and at the end helped to organize a cooperation day. During this day we watched the applicants, how they positioned themselves, whether they were able to function as one of the positions, how they worked together but also were able to reflect upon themselves. Thanks to those experiences I learned to critically reflect upon candidates for boards of study associations. Last but not least, because I also once had to apply for my board I think I will be able to see through the nerves of the applicants. I know what they are going through and I hope that my own experience with this can help the applicants to get to ease. Being nervous is normal and fully understandable and should in my opinion have as little as possible effect and influence on the application.

For me, a board not only has to be a group with people who are capable of handling a position but should also function as a whole. This, for me, sometimes means that not the most capable person gets the position. When a board can't function as a team, the end of the year won't be reached. So possessing the ability to work together is at least as important as being able to handle the position. This fact will be one of the main points I will look for, when choosing a new board for Machiavelli. After all, a year on the board should also allow people to develop themselves and people must be allowed to grow into a position! Of course, there should be knowledge and signs that people can grow into a position.

Further explanation and questions upon my letter I would like to answer on the ALV.
With kind regards,

Chiel van de Camp

Amsterdam, 21th of February 2019