

56th board of Studievereniging Machiavelli

2019 - 2020 POLICY PLAN



From left to right:

Julia Keyser – Political Activities Coordinator

Robin Ravensbergen – Social Activities Coordinator

Tim Wagelaar – Education Coordinator

Ihlara Bouwman – Secretary

Piet Seidenberg – Treasurer

Dana Rentenaar – International Coordinator

Linde Reus - Chair

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GENERAL POLICY PLAN

Introduction

We are proud to present the policy plans of the 56th board of Study Association Machiavelli. Before we start, we would like to express our gratitude to the 55th board for their hard and inspiring work last year and for the time and effort they put into our transmission period. They made sure we gained enough knowledge and insights to start our board year with confidence.

We will now first present our general policy plan, in which we will explain our common goals as a board. This policy plan will consist of the following key points: combining classic Machiavelli and new insights, synergy, generating enthusiasm through shared responsibility, board approachability and Machiavelli Room visibility, smart event planning and the cohesion between tracks.

Second, the personal policy plans of every board member will be presented. Here we will go more into detail about our personal and function-specific goals and how we will achieve them.

If you have any questions regarding our policy plans, please send an email to the email addresses listed below.

Combining classic Machiavelli and new insights

Our beautiful association already exists for 55 years and has known a long history of interesting and diverse events, a high level of professionalism and fun traditions. However, we continuously come up with new ideas, face new challenges and our curriculum is constantly developing. Our association must appropriately react to new developments while keeping our successful past in mind in order to remain the respected and professional association that we have been for decades. That is why we will strive to find a balance between on the one hand successful events and traditions and on the other hand new insights and developments that look towards the future of our association.

We will keep organising successful traditional events, such as the Sinterklaasborrel, StuDoVo, Political Science Got Talent, the Open Evening, Publectures and Machiavelli Meets. In addition to this, from October onwards, our weekly borrel will once again take place in Cafe Havelaar. At the Havelaar many fun borrels have taken place and unforgettable memories were created. We will continue to organise a weekly borrel which will take place on Thursdays this year. For more information regarding the borrels, we direct you to the policy plan of our Social Activities Coordinator Robin Ravensbergen.

In addition to this, we will work on new ideas and developments, the most important one being new ways of promoting our events. As the use of Facebook is declining, we will use other ways to inform our members about upcoming events. Instagram will be used more professionally and in a more structured manner. In addition to this, an Education Hotline will be set up. Here, members can send in all their questions and feedback concerning their education. Furthermore, we are working on the possibility to get a Machiavelli Canvas page and we are looking into ways to use WhatsApp Business for the promotion of our events. Our secretary Ihlara Bouwman will elaborate further on the topic of promotion in her policy plan.

Secondly, new Machiavelli events will be introduced, such as a Symposium and a renewed collaboration with the International Documentary Filmfestival Amsterdam. Some events will be revised, we are for example working on the interactivity of our political activities and we will look into the possibility to make the Open Day accessible for the parents of international students. We direct you to our personal plans to learn more about the events that we want to organise this year.

Synergy

Maintaining fruitful relations and cooperating with organisations and external parties will be beneficial for our association in the short and long term. Surely, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Therefore, we will work closely together with other associations, both within the UvA and our Faculty, with other Dutch associations nationally as well as with IAPPS. However, we will not just organise events together. By staying in close contact with these associations, we can share best practices, gain new insights and stimulate innovation and inspiration. The synergetic relationship we have with our befriended-associations is not only embodied in the similarities we share but also in our differences which provide the opportunity to learn a great deal from each other.

Secondly, we consider our relationship with the UvA, the faculty and our department to be very important. We will reinforce this relationship and look into further ways in which Machiavelli can contribute to our study. We will continue our cooperation with the department in order to ensure that the quality of education is as high as possible. In return, the department has often supported Machiavelli, such as with the promotion of our events.

Generating enthusiasm through shared responsibility

Our committees are undoubtedly one of the most important actors within our association. Besides the indispensable way in which they contribute to our events, committees offer a perfect opportunity to get members involved within Machiavelli. That is why we want our committees to be as attractive and fun as possible. We will build upon the changes concerning the committee structures that the 54th board suggested and which the 55th board implemented successfully. These changes gave committee members more responsibility and clear tasks that stimulated hard work and a sense of responsibility within committees. We have a coordinating role in stimulating the functioning of our committees. We will motivate our committees by actively asking them for their input and refreshing ideas, giving them enough responsibilities and by expressing our gratitude for their help.

Furthermore, we want to promote the General Assemblies in our committee more intensively. It is important that active members know what is going on within Machiavelli, but they can also use their democratic power to essentially decide Machiavelli's future.

We will promote the option to join a committee via our promotion channels and at the committee market at the beginning of the year. We will explain to our members that committees are a great way to meet new people, to develop organisational skills and to improve your resume. We also offer members, who don't want to be in a committee for a full year, the chance to take place in ad-hoc committees. In addition to that, we will promote our committees again after the first semester, so members have the option to join a committee throughout the whole year. In our personal policy plans, we will touch upon the structure of our committees individually.

Board approachability and Machiavelli Room visibility

We want our members to feel that they can approach us at any time for questions, help, ideas or just a chat and a cup of coffee. We will take the lead in this ourselves, by approaching and getting to know as many members as we can. This will make members feel included and valued within our association. Furthermore, we would like to give people insights into our work as board members and the work that is being done within committees. We will use our promotion channels to let members know what we are doing, through for example videos of our daily tasks.

Lastly, we want our Machiavelli Room to be accessible to all members. The Machiavelli Room is a perfect way for us for members to meet each other, to hang out with us and it offers them a place to relax, ask questions or just to have a free cup of coffee. As the name 'boardroom' or 'office' might insinuate that it's a place where board members prefer not to be interrupted from their work, we decided to use the name 'Machiavelli Room' instead. We want to inform members on how to reach the Machiavelli Room with a video and we will organise events that will take place in the Machiavelli Room, like last year's successful Tosti Party.

Smart event planning

Machiavelli is known for its wide variety of high-quality events that it organises for all members. As our members are mostly full-time students and our curriculum is filled with many exams and deadlines, careful planning is important for our events to be as successful as possible. Over the past years, it sometimes proved difficult to generate enthusiasm and a high turn-out for all events. We want to address this problem this year by focussing more on the planning of our events. We will strive to organise one event per week, besides our weekly borrel, while maintaining the variety within our events and keeping the quality standard high. We will focus on quality over quantity for a couple of reasons. First of all, focussing on quality over quantity will give the coordinators more time to give their events the attention they deserve. Furthermore, organising fewer events will lead to a larger budget available per event. Putting more thought, hard work and money into an event will increase possibilities and the likelihood of an event being successful. Lastly, working on fewer but bigger events will stimulate the motivation within committees. More responsibilities and ways to work on their creative ideas can be given to them when they work on bigger events.

We will constantly keep an eye on our year-planning to see if the planning of our events is convenient for our members. We will take lectures, tutorials and exams into account while setting dates for our events. We will request the department to pass on paper deadlines as soon as possible, so we can take them into consideration as well.

Cohesion between tracks

Starting this year, the whole Bachelor is internationalised. The internationalisation of our study and association is not a new issue anymore and in the past two years many successful efforts have been made that led to a smooth change. However, there is still a bigger division between the English and bilingual students than we would like.

We understand that students tend to mingle with fellow students from their own language track more easily than with students from another track. We therefore do not wish to force our members to meet other students. We do however want to emphasize that Machiavelli is an association for both language tracks and we want to facilitate opportunities for our members to meet students from another track.

Having to speak a different language other than your native tongue could be an obstacle for students, both Dutch and international, to meet people from the other track. As our whole board speaks Dutch, we are well aware of our responsibility to switch to English whenever there is a non-Dutch speaking person present. Besides this, we will continue to lobby for Dutch courses that can be offered to our international students. Furthermore, we will keep organising events that are interesting for students of both tracks. These will not only have an international theme, as we believe that Dutch topics are relevant for all students studying in Amsterdam. We will also look into options to make the Open Evening attractive for parents of international students, for example via an online tour.

Conclusion

Machiavelli offers its members the chance to meet friends, gain extracurricular knowledge, guard the quality of their education, visit new places, party like never before, have lively debates and enjoy the occasional borrel. We believe our goals and key points mentioned above form a great starting point for another successful year and future years to come. After the first semester, we will evaluate our progress and present our findings in our half-year report. We are excited to work together as hard as we can to make these plans and goals become reality. We are always open to feedback and new ideas concerning our association and our functioning as a board.

On behalf of the 56th Board of Machiavelli,

Linde Reus	Chair
Ihlara Bouwman	Secretary
Piet Seidenberg	Treasurer
Tim Wagelaar	Education Coordinator
Julia Keyser	Political Activities Coordinator
Robin Ravensbergen	Social Activities Coordinator
Dana Rentenaar	International Coordinator

CHAIR – LINDE REUS



Introduction

Before I present my policy plan, I would like to thank my predecessor Thijs Barendrecht for the way he guided me through my transmission period. He made sure I gained all the necessary knowledge and experiences to start my chairmanship. Because of his efforts, and those of the rest of the 55th board, I feel confident and well prepared to start my board year. I am beyond excited to fully commit myself, with my fellow board members, to our beautiful association. In my policy plan, I will first explain my internal goals and responsibilities regarding the board and our members. Second, I will discuss my plans for cooperating with our external parties in a mutually profitable way. Last, I will explain how I will combine my internal and external tasks.

Internal relations

Coordinating the board

One of my top priorities this year will be to create an atmosphere within our board in which everyone feels valued and respected. All board members must feel comfortable when speaking their minds, coming up with new ideas and giving constructive feedback on the work of others. Every individual board member must have the feeling that their six fellow board members always have their back. Mutual support and shared insights will create unity and a feeling of shared responsibilities within our board.

I will pursue this goal by positioning myself as an approachable chair to whom board members can come if they encounter any issues. Whenever one of my board members faces a challenging issue and wishes to receive input, I will always help to find a fitting solution. I will do this by thinking alongside them and by directing the board member to another person who I think can be of more help. In this way I strive to be a connecting factor within our board. To make sure our whole board is aware of the pressing issues board members are dealing with, we will discuss these difficulties during board meetings. Board meetings offer the perfect way to discuss current challenges and to come up with new ideas and solutions as a team. It is essential that everyone can speak their minds, that nobody feels unheard and that decisions are made together. I will therefore lead our board meetings with care.

To support my board members in the best way possible, it is crucial that I am aware of their current activities and daily lives. I will therefore keep in close contact with them, either in person or on the phone. In addition to this, I want to meet with my fellow board members formally at least twice this year to talk about their expectations and experiences as a board member and in their private life.

I will schedule extra meetings whenever I notice that a board member is struggling or when a board member wishes to have more personal meetings. In order to assist my board members in the best possible way, feedback on my performance is essential. That is why I want to evaluate my functioning as a chair during these meetings as well.

Furthermore, I will focus on the social cohesion within our board. As I believe that a befriended group functions better as a supportive team, I will make sure we hang out regularly in an informal and non-Machiavelli related way. By doing this we can easily keep each other updated about our personal lives. This will help us to build trust and create unity within our board.

As the work of the Chair mostly happens behind the scenes of our association, my tasks can therefore be less visible for the rest of the board. However, I do want the board to be aware of my current activities for two reasons. Firstly, the Chair has regular meetings with external parties that strengthen Machiavelli's network and create support for our association in multiple ways, both in the short and long term. These meetings are thus important for the entire board to be updated about. Secondly, whenever I wish to receive support or advice regarding my external relations, the board must be acquainted with my current activities to provide me with feedback and new insights. In order to keep the board up to date, I will send summaries of the meetings I had, as well as their outcomes, on a regular basis via email. Any ambiguities and questions they have can be clarified during board meetings.

Our members

Starting this year, our whole Bachelor will be internationalised. At the same time, Machiavelli has never had as many members as it has right now. As the board it is our goal to pursue the interests of all these members in the broadest sense of the word.

My personal goal is to get to know as many members as possible. As I am not coordinating a committee consisting of members, I will put more effort into meeting members by actively approaching them during our events, in the Machiavelli Room (B1.07) or in the corridors of our university. By organising events that take place in the Machiavelli Room, both the Machiavelli Room and the board will gain a more approachable image. This will stimulate our members to pass by the Machiavelli Room regularly to ask all their questions, have a chat or to simply relax and enjoy a cup of coffee. I also hope to make the function of Chair more transparent, by updating members about my responsibilities and tasks. I plan to do this informally while speaking to members and via our promotional channels such as Instagram Stories and Snapchat.

Not only will meeting many new members be fun, but it will also help me to understand their interests and wishes. This will enable me to act upon those wishes in the best way possible. Providing for all members with such varied interests may be hard, but it also offers the opportunity to receive new insights and feedback from them that will benefit our association. Therefore, I consider feedback received from members as crucial for the well-functioning of our association. After all, Machiavelli is an association created by the members, for the members. Besides receiving feedback informally by meeting members, we will continue with 'The Future of Machiavelli'. Members will get to fill in a survey consisting of questions about the functioning of Machiavelli. After conducting the survey, the results will be discussed and published.

External relations

The university and department staff

Together with the Education Coordinator, Tim Wagelaar, I will maintain the eminent relations that Machiavelli has with the University of Amsterdam. For many years, the UvA and the department proved to be of great importance for Machiavelli. Besides making sure the quality of our education is as high as possible, the department supported our association many times in the past. In return, Machiavelli offers help at Open Days, the Matching and informational events. In this way, enthusiasm for both Political Science and Machiavelli is stimulated. Together with Tim and the rest of the board, I will continue to look for ways in which the department and Machiavelli can provide each other with mutual support.

Study Associations

Furthermore, I will maintain close contact with other study associations, both within the Faculty and the UvA, as with study associations throughout the whole country and even abroad via the International Association for Political Science Students (IAPPS). I refer you to the policy plan of Dana Rentenaar, our International Coordinator, for more information about our cooperation with IAPPS. We share similarities with our befriended associations, but especially our differences make these close relations so valuable. Sharing best practices and discussing current issues will lead to new insights that will be beneficial for all associations.

This year I will be the Chair of the Faculty Association of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, also known as the Fv-FMG. This faculty board consists of all Chairs of the study associations within our faculty. By joining forces, faculty issues can be addressed more easily. As a Chair, I will keep close contact with the faculty staff to make sure study associations are represented in an efficient and professional way. In addition to that I will meet regularly with my fellow Fv-FMG board members to stay up to date about the things going on in their association. By doing so, I can anticipate upon their current activities and thus bring relevant topics to our meetings. Besides these meetings, we will organise two events for which all members from the faculty associations will be invited. The shared book sale contract and our new deal with the Common Room is an example of successful cooperation within the Fv-FMG. Starting this year, all FMG board members will alternate morning bar shifts in the Common Room. In this way, Common Room opening hours are extended so members are offered a place to relax and enjoy a cup of coffee in the morning as well.

Furthermore, I will be on the board of the 'Platform for Political Scientists' (PvP) as Chair. In this body, the four associations for political science students are represented. Together with the treasurer of EOS (Amstelveen) and the chairs of ismus (Nijmegen) and SPIL (Leiden) we will form this board. We are responsible for the organisation of two events, one of them being the Politics in Perspective congress (PiP) which will this year be hosted in Nijmegen. The second event will be hosted in Amsterdam and will give all Political Science students the opportunity to visit another city while learning about local politics and student life. As Chair of the PvP, I will make sure the agenda is set up with care and that fellow PvP board members can give input for this as well. Furthermore, I want to introduce more theme discussions to our meetings. In this way, challenges that member associations face can be discussed to gain new insights and to learn from each other. By doing so, the meetings will be relevant and of importance to all board members. This will avoid them having to travel to Utrecht, where the meetings take place, unnecessarily.

Lastly, I will regularly attend meetings held by The National Consultative Body of Public Administration Associations (LOB). This platform offers associations for public administration students the opportunity to exchange ideas during theme discussions regarding current issues within the associations. Many associations that take place within the LOB are organised quite differently from Machiavelli, which is why we can gain a lot of new ideas and insights from them. To stimulate the cooperation within the LOB, we will attend the LOB-weekend during which boards within the LOB hang out together. In addition to that, I will work together with our Political Activities Coordinator Julia Keyser to put together a team that can participate in the Public Policy Challenge organised by the LOB.

Combining internal and external duties

I have thought carefully about which positions I want to hold within Machiavelli's external relationships. I believe that by taking these positions I can represent Machiavelli in a righteous way, learn from other associations, attend relevant meetings and help to organise successful events while having sufficient time to coordinate Machiavelli internally. Despite taking part in many other boards and organs other than the board of Machiavelli, I've taken the utmost care to make sure my duties at Machiavelli do not suffer from my duties in other organisations.

Conclusion

Together with this board, I will work as hard as I can to serve the interests of our members and the association. This year will undoubtedly bring me a lot of unforgettable memories, I will develop new skills, but I will also face unexpected challenges and obstacles along the way. I feel confident to address these issues with my board members as a team to make sure Machiavelli remains the amazing association it is. If you have any questions about my policy plan, please feel free to send them to chair@svmachivelli.nl

Linde Reus
Chair 2019-2020

SECRETARY – IHLARA BOUWMAN



Introduction

Before presenting my personal policy plan, I would like to state that I feel honoured to be given the trust of taking part in the 56th board of study association Machiavelli as secretary. The year that is ahead of me will contain a lot of opportunities to grow as a person but will also contain a lot of different challenges due to the diversity of tasks a secretary has to execute. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my predecessor Emil Hiddema during the transmission. I would also like to thank the whole 55th board for being approachable and for being open to all my questions. Thanks to the transmission, I am ready to take on the responsibility that comes with this position and I feel comfortable fulfilling it. Because of the diversity of my tasks I divided them into four main categories: promotion, administrative tasks, De Derde Dinsdag and the general assembly. On top of that I aspire to be a secretary that listens, gives sufficient feedback, is structured, comes up with creative ideas and above all supports and assists fellow board members.

Promotion: continuity, new platforms and personal approach

Facebook

Coordinating promotion within the board is a task that requires considerable responsibility and one that must be executed with continuity and structure to achieve the full potential of promoting events. I am therefore looking forward to working together with my fellow board members to achieve successful promotion of our events.

I will continue working with the promotion schedule that my predecessors have set up, because it assists in maintaining a structured promotion that is coordinated but not micromanaged. The current schedule is only for Facebook. Over the past years the reach of Facebook has declined, this is very unfortunate because Facebook is a very professional informative platform for creating and promoting events and assuring attendance. I will continue using Facebook as a big part of our promotion because it has the biggest reach out of all our promotion tools. However, I would like to formalize and intensify the usage of Instagram as a promotion tool.

We have noticed a lot of our new members don't use Facebook frequently or don't even have an account on the platform. In my opinion it is smart to look at other platforms for promotion to ensure our promotion reach, in case Facebook usage and reach will decline even more.

Instagram

I see the future of promotion in Instagram and especially in Instagram Stories, because it is a very interactive and accessible way of reaching our members. Out of all platforms Instagram is a frequently used social media among our (new) members. Therefore, Instagram will be adopted into the promotion schedule, to ensure we achieve the full potential of our promotion. The interactivity of Instagram Stories can also be used to promote events by making polls, quizzes, links, video's, Q&A's and even more.

WhatsApp Business

Another promotion tool that I will experiment with in the upcoming year is WhatsApp Business. The tool has two main features. The first is being able to send out small 'newsletters', the second one is sending out automated answers to questions. In my opinion WhatsApp Business is a tool in line with the personal promotion approach. If members are interested in receiving the newsletter, which will contain an agenda and information about upcoming events, they can subscribe to it. I will experiment with the frequency and usefulness of the WhatsApp newsletter for the first semester and reflect on the outcomes in my half year report.

The automated answers are a feature that I am more reticent about. On the one hand, it fits the personal approach because the automated personalized answers and out of office messages can be a sufficient communication tool. On the other hand, we already have a general info mail which members can send an email to with questions. Adding another channel for communication can be very time consuming and may be unnecessary. I will experiment with this feature as well and reflect on the outcomes in my half year report.

LinkedIn and Twitter

As a study association we can build bridges between students and professionals. LinkedIn and Twitter are good platforms to reach older bachelor students, master students, alumni and professionals. We will invest time and effort in these platforms by promoting and updating our followers mainly on our educational and political events. By being visible and active on LinkedIn and Twitter we aim to attract speakers and external parties for possible collaborations.

Administrative tasks

The administrative tasks of the secretary are very diverse and can be time consuming. By aiming at clear communication internally and externally I hope to complete the administrative tasks with structure.

Internally my tasks consist of making minutes and providing my fellow board members with all the equipment and information they need. Externally I have the responsibility of keeping in close contact with our members, answering their questions and maintaining the website and the member administration. I value being approachable and enthusiastic, because I think this can make members feel comfortable to ask any questions they have. Through enthusiasm and openness, you enable members to join committees and contribute to developing the association as a whole and themselves as an individual.

Members' mail

A part of the administrative branch is sending out the members' mail. As I have mentioned before I want to experiment with sending out a small WhatsApp newsletter. However, this WhatsApp newsletter won't be a replacement for the members' mail, since the members' mail has a bigger reach and is more extensive than just giving a small update. I strive to send the members' mail out monthly.

General Assembly and organising events

General Assembly

For my policy regarding the General Assembly I would like to build on the ideas and policy of my predecessors. It is important that the GA's are well visited because engaged members that ask critical questions about (the implementation of) our policy will lead to an active and open community. These are keywords describing what we, as a board, aim for within our association. It's important for members to voice their opinions, because this will lead to a better reflection of what our policy is and how we implement it. I would like to continue organising General Assemblies on Wednesdays because we can use the incentive of offering members a free drink at the borrel afterwards. In my opinion De Doelenzaal is the perfect venue for an event like this. I strive to have all GA's take place there.

As a board we will promote the General Assembly within our committees to achieve a higher attendance and have a more engaged audience at the GA's. By having the opportunity to reflect on their committee(s) and the execution and implementation of our policy plans, members can improve what they contribute to Machiavelli and can improve the opportunities our association has to offer them by knowing what is going on within the association.

Furthermore, I would like to state that I look forward to working together with the presidium. There are opportunities for development and new ideas if we combine our efforts.

Organising events

By organising the Committed Members Activity and the Constitutieborrel I want to strengthen our internal and external relations. At the Committed Members Activity our members will be thanked for their efforts and contributions to the association. At the Constitutieborrel that takes place October 8 at de Heeren van Aemstel we, as a board, would like to strengthen our connections with other boards and show them how great our association is.

De Derde Dinsdag

I see De Derde Dinsdag as a magazine that functions as a platform for creativity and debate. It can help members develop their skills in journalism, therefore I think it is important to focus on quality and a good variety between formal and informal aspects.

Content

As an international study association, I think it is important to engage international students. Therefore, I would like to introduce a column where an international student can describe the current political, economic and or social situation in their home county. This is part of the idea of involving more debate and topical political issues in the magazine, including interviews and analysis.

Another aspect I would like to experiment with is working with photo reports. In my opinion this can really add to the visual appeal of De Derde Dinsdag. In general, I think it is good to have a high level of continuity within the magazine. By having several set columns the writers can be guided in their creativity to come up with article ideas.

Committee

Within the committee there are a lot of opportunities to develop skills in writing and editing. For the committee structure I would like to build on the ideas of my predecessors. I want to achieve a more structured committee. Therefore, I want to work with different subgroups. There will be two main subgroups, an editing group and a writer's group. The advantage of members combining their efforts there will lead to development and new ideas because they can share their knowledge. A personal goal for me is to develop my editing skills, because that is something I have less experience in. By having a subgroup focused on editing with both experienced and inexperienced members, I hope to gain more skills in editing and prevent it being a stumbling stone for me.

By organising meetings frequently, I am aiming for a committed group of people that are enthusiastic about contributing to the magazine by also reflecting on the process and work of others. However, that does not mean that people who don't have time to be active throughout the whole year can't contribute. These people will belong to a group of ad hoc members. I see the ad hoc group as a good way to come up with refreshing ideas and articles.

Promotion

To make sure the magazine is read by our members I have a two-sided strategy. On the one side I think it is good to have members pick it up at the Machiavelli room to ensure contact with our members by having a talk and drink a cup of coffee together. On the other side I want to put more effort in bringing the magazine to the members. First year students can be hesitant going to the Machiavelli room. I would therefore like to ask tutorial teachers if they want to hand out the magazine and I want to hand out the magazine during lecture breaks. I will also hand them out during Machiavelli events. I would like to experiment with online teasers of the magazine on our social media channels and posting interesting articles on our LinkedIn page. I will reflect on this in my half year report.

Conclusion

To conclude, I would like to mention that I am looking forward to the year that's ahead of me. It will be full of challenges and opportunities. I will work as hard as I can to achieve all the goals I have set for myself. I look forward to working together with my fellow board members, I have a lot of faith in them individually but also as a team. If you have any questions regarding my policy plan, please don't hesitate to contact me via: secretary@svmachivelli.nl

Ihlara Bouwman
Secretary 2019-2020

TREASURER– PIET SEIDENBERG



Introduction

I am honoured to be able to introduce myself as the treasurer of the 56th board of Study Association Machiavelli. It goes without saying that I am looking forward to the coming year and the challenges ahead. It is my responsibility to ensure the financial health and stability of the association. Going into the first year in which our entire Bachelor' s programme will be internationalised, we are still growing in size, meaning it is of the utmost importance that we maintain our status as a professional association. There are opportunities and challenges that come along with this continued internationalisation and I am excited to tackle them in the coming year. Before moving towards laying out my policy plan for the year to come, I would like to thank my predecessor, Maaïke Dudink, for her help and guidance during the transmission period. It is mainly through her expertise that I have learned what I need to know in order to prepare myself for the coming year. I have divided this policy plan into four parts: financial administration and financial health, communication within the board, the External Relations Committee and the accessibility of the position

Financial administration and financial health

Like many of my predecessors have done before me, I plan to have a set time each week in which I solely work on bookkeeping, paying invoices and handling claim forms and otherwise ensuring our books are up to date. This way I can ensure that the bookkeeping work doesn' t accumulate too quickly into an amassment of work.

Machiavelli' s income mainly comes from four sources: members' contribution fees, the book sale in the first and second semester, a subsidy from the College of Social Sciences (CSS) and fundraising through the external relations committee. Several changes will affect these income sources in the coming year or the years to come, which I will lay out here. Fundraising efforts are covered under the 'External Relations Committee' sub header.

Contribution fees

Due to difficulties with the SEPA form on our website, last year we' ve had much less income from contribution fees than expected. While the SEPA form difficulties have now been solved, it can be expected that not all people who have been asked to sign the SEPA form and pay the contribution fee will do so. At the last book emission, we have already attempted to partly mitigate this by checking second-year members' registration status during the book sale and asking them to transfer money and/or re-sign the SEPA authorization if necessary.

We have done the best we can but we must also keep a realistic view of the situation: In my budget I have accounted for a lower expected income from contribution fees to the level of the income from last year's contribution fees. I will also aim to start early with the process of collecting the contribution fees, in order to have adequate time to solve any unexpected problems that arise when doing so.

Book sale

The organisation of the book sale has changed a lot in the last two years. While our partner is still Athenaeum, we have centralised the book sales of seven associations at the faculty (Machiavelli, Pegasus, SEC, Sarphati, Mercurius, Comenius and Kwakiutl) through the formation of a Book Sales Committee (BVC-FMG). Together with the chair of Pegasus and the treasurer of SEC I will form this committee to ensure a smooth and structured communication with Athenaeum. In this 'new' contract, the associations joined in the BVC communicate jointly with Athenaeum to streamline the process to let it work more effectively for everyone. With regards to the book sale of the first semester, communication between the BVC-FMG committee members was generally good and the same goes for the communication with Athenaeum and the other associations. Problems are quickly communicated to the BVC and can be sent centrally to Athenaeum. The experience is that Athenaeum deals quickly and professionally with any issues that arise. I strive to maintain the quality of this working relationship for the second semester book sale and the ones after that.

Income from the book sale is however slowly waning, mostly due to the availability of illegal copies of study books online and initiatives such as UvA Books. Preliminary figures suggest our book sale hasn't suffered greatly from these developments yet, but it is an issue that will manifest itself more clearly in the long-term. It is therefore important to start early to find ways to overcome this challenge to ensure the financial health of the association.

For now, me and my fellow board members will keep emphasizing the advantages of buying study books through Machiavelli to our members: discounts on books, a hassle-free order process, guaranteed pickup in the first week (provided one ordered on time) and a guarantee of receiving the correct editions.

CSS subsidy

Last year, my predecessor Maaïke discovered we can make more efficient use of the subsidy we receive from the College of Social Sciences (CSS) every year. Whereas in the past we mainly made use of our subsidy for educational events or political activities, we can use our CSS subsidy for more of our sunken costs, such as the costs of our website hosting, payment traffic and numerous secretarial costs. This won't mean that the education and political activities coordinators are going to have to work with less budget, it will only partly change the source of the money we use to fund our activities. Going forward, I plan on shifting as much subsidy as possible to our budget for sunken costs. This will mean we will use more of our other yearly income sources (contribution fees, book sale and funds raised through the External Relations Committee) to fund education events and political activities. This switch makes it easier for the treasurer to move funds from one coordinator/committee to another – a flexibility that we do not have with our yearly CSS subsidy grant, as strict rules apply to this. Easier moving of funds from one coordinator/committee to another allows the treasurer to more adequately deal with unexpected losses and large, undesirable income that we cannot spend.

Communication within the board

In order to effectively maintain the association's financial health, it is of the utmost importance to maintain a good communication with the board. This way, I can ensure that budget expectations don't just remain expectations but are adequately met. As not every coordinator is familiar with setting up budgets for events, I'll sit down with them to make the budget plans for the first few of their events. After they have familiarized themselves with it, I'll give them more personal responsibility, but I will of course check their budgets for financial feasibility - meaning the final say on all financial matters will remain with me. I will also sit down with them one-on-one on a regular basis to ensure both they and I remain up to date on financial matters and to possibly make adjustments in the case of unexpected income or losses. In this manner I aim to keep not just myself but also the other board members updated and involved in financial matters and I hope to avoid 'working on islands'.

External Relations Committee

One of the youngest committees within Machiavelli is the External Relations Committee, formerly known in Dutch as the *Acquisitiecommissie*. In the last few years, my predecessors have made several changes to the committee, such as instating an executive committee (with a chair, treasurer and secretary) within the committee, and the creation of an official brochure for interested external parties.

To further improve upon the work of my predecessors, I plan to make several adjustments to the current committee, mostly dealing with its structure. In regards to the members of the committee: I am happy to be able to continue working with three former members who were in the committee last year. I aim to make use of their expertise by instating a 'buddy system', in which a new inexperienced member of the committee is linked to a 'buddy' who is a more experienced, second- or third-year member of the committee. This way I hope to create an environment which gives committee members more tools to do their work and through that, more responsibility. I will also assign each member a 'sector' which they specialize in, so that each committee member can gain expertise in a specific field in order to work more efficiently. Furthermore, where it is relevant, I plan on 'lending' my committee members to the other committees. For example, our Education Coordinator, Tim, and I have already agreed on picking one person from the External Relations Committee who will also join the Career Committee. By 'lending' a committee member to another committee, communication can be faster and more efficient, both between me and the committee member in question and between the committee in which they are 'embedded'. Furthermore, because fundraising and recruiting sponsors is an effort that requires consistent work and fast responses, I aim to have (short) meetings every week with my committee. At least in the beginning of the year, I will also organise several fundraising sessions with my committee members, in which me and my committee members will call a number of companies together. If these prove successful I will continue with these sessions throughout the year.

I also aim to work on a transmission document for the committee, so that the committee does not have to reinvent the wheel every year and to set up a base that my successor, when the time comes, can eventually build on.

Accessibility of the position

The last few years, it has unfortunately not been able for our international members to apply for the position of treasurer, due to the fact that our bookkeeping system, Davilex, only offers a Dutch version. This year, I will aim to explore the options for our association to switch to an English or dual language bookkeeping system, and also look for options to archive the bookkeeping of my predecessors and I in Davilex if we were to decide to switch systems.

Conclusion

I am very much looking forward to fulfill the position of treasurer this year and am also excited to tackle the challenges this year. Together with my other board members I aim to not only provide a financially stable year, but of course also an exciting one for all our members! If you have any questions about this policy plan, please don't hesitate to contact me at treasurer@svmachiavelli.nl.

Piet Seidenberg
Treasurer 2019-2020

EDUCATION COORDINATOR – TIM WAGELAAR



Introduction

With great pride and pleasure, I present myself as the next Education Coordinator of Study Association Machiavelli. Realising that Machiavelli was originally founded for this purpose, fulfilling this role is a great honour and responsibility. Because of that, I am extremely motivated to work as hard as I can to make this a successful year. Before I continue with my policy plan, I would like to thank my predecessor, Tiziana Schopper, for her great and inspiring work during her board year. Next to that, she provided a great transmission that was not only very warm and pleasant, but also extremely informative and useful. Because of that, I think I can safely say that I am as prepared as I could be.

My policy plan is based around five core points: quality of education, committees, accessibility & visibility, older year students and events. Finally, I will devote a few words to my function of vice-chair.

Quality of Education

Overall, I consider our programme to be of high quality. Nevertheless, monitoring the quality of our education will be my main priority this year. This is because I believe that it is essential that the interests of the students are always clearly expressed within the department. Our programme is constantly changing, which makes having someone who constantly evaluates these changes with the students and staff extra relevant. To be able to do this, I will keep the ties with the staff as strong and close as possible. In this way, the role of the Education Coordinator can be the connecting factor between the students and the department. This also means I will be consistently and reliably available whenever a staff member needs something from me or the students. Besides that, I will strengthen the ties with the Programme Committee and the Faculty Student Council. By working closely together with these important organs a lot can be achieved. In order to provide clear and complete feedback for the department, I will reintroduce the feedback-file. In this file, I will note all the feedback I receive from the students about our education. In this way, I will have a clear overview of everything that is going on regarding our education. Furthermore, it will help me to work in a more structured way, which is a personal point I want to improve throughout the year.

Exam Training

Another important aspect regarding the education is enabling students to get extra help when they experience difficulties certain course. Last year, TentamenTrainingen provided excellent trainings and has proven to be a great partner. That is why I am happy to say that our contract has been extended and I am looking forward to continuing this collaboration and improve it as much as possible.

Accessibility and Visibility

Something that is closely connected to the quality of education and something that will be one of my priorities during the year, is the accessibility and visibility of the Education Coordinator. Connecting intensively with the students is essential because it is the only way to receive sufficient feedback on the program. This feedback is of course vital for monitoring the quality of our education. Furthermore, I believe these two aspects reinforce each other; when an Education Coordinator is visible, students will know how to reach him. On the other hand, being accessible also allows students to know what the Education Coordinator is up to and what he can be of use for.

Accessibility

Firstly, I would like to take a moment to point out that everyone should always feel free to contact me with their feedback, questions or suggestions. This is something I will keep emphasizing and communicating throughout the entire year. To increase this accessibility, I will also set up an 'Education Hotline'. This is a phone number to which students can text their education-related feedback, questions or suggestions via WhatsApp. During the lecture talks at the beginning of the year, students will be asked to put this phone number in their phone. In this way, students will have an easily accessible way of communicating their feedback.

Visibility

The visibility of the function will be increased by clearly communicating to the students what steps have been taken because of the feedback that has been given by them. I will do this by updating them frequently via the different WhatsApp and Facebook groups. Moreover, I will reintroduce the education section in De Derde Dinsdag, in which updates on educational matters can be communicated. Moreover, I will start all my committee meetings with an update on what has been done with the feedback that has been given during previous meetings. Besides this, I will also be as visible and approachable as possible within the department. In this way, the staff will know what the Education Coordinator is doing and in what ways they can benefit from the existence of this position. This can be for example the case when they want to hear the students opinions on certain matters. Furthermore, I hope this will enable me to invite more teachers to various Machiavelli events like Pub Lectures, Pub Quizzes or StuDoVo.

Committees

Coordinating the different education-related committees is something I am looking forward to this year. In this section, I will explain which committees I will form, what the goals of these committees are and how I will recruit the members.

First Years' Council

The First Years' Council functions as a constant panel which provides information on everything that is related to the first year. All first year courses are given in a plenary fashion and therefore concern a high number of students. This makes such a panel extra relevant. After each meeting, I will plan a meeting with the first-year coordinator to discuss the given feedback. To recruit students, I will visit all first years tutorial groups at the beginning of the year. I strive to recruit two students from each tutorial group, taking into account that there will be probably some dropouts from the committee and not everyone will always be available for the meetings. During the Committee Market, I will also ask interested students whether they would like to monitor the quality of our education, organise events or both. This will give me a clear overview of who is motivated to do what. Besides that, I will hold a lecture talk at the beginning of the year together with the chair and a student member of the Programme Committee.

Education Committee

The Education Committee will keep an eye on the general quality of the education. This will be done by making sure that the committee reflects all years and tracks, excluding the first years, since there is already a First Years' Council. Additionally, I will invite a member of the Faculty Student Council and a student member of the Programme Committee to join the committee. In this way, the feedback of our members is immediately communicated to these other important organs. This committee will be promoted during the lecture talks and by the regular promotion channels Machiavelli uses.

Career Committee

Over the past years, there used to be a special committee which only organised the big career event. This year I will broaden the tasks and responsibilities of this committee by not only using it as a Career Event Committee, but also using it for other different career-related aspects like inhouse days. The extension of the committee also means that it will now be formed at the beginning of the year. In this way, I hope to make the committee more attractive and the members more committed since they have more responsibilities and possibilities. Besides that, this change makes it easier to recruit older year students who are already focussing on their career after their studies. Because of this, I will mainly focus on older year students when promoting this committee. This can for example be done during the first inhouse day or the master kick-off borrel.

Ad Hoc Committee

For the organization of events that are not career-related, I will form smaller Ad Hoc Committees. All members of Machiavelli can join these committees, but I will mainly promote it under students from the Education Committee and First Years' Council.

Older Year Students

In the past, many efforts have been made to get more older year students involved in Machiavelli. However, this has proven to be quite difficult and therefore I am realistic in my expectations. Nevertheless, I still believe that the career side of Machiavelli can be very attractive for these students. That is why the organization of more inhouse days will be one of my main priorities. Therefore I am happy to announce that the first inhouse day at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is already confirmed. I am also looking into the possibility of working with the UvA Career Center for potential collaboration. At the moment we are looking into the possibility of organising a big company market or creating a special Political Science job board at the Machiavelli website.

Furthermore, I will promote the Career Committee as an excellent opportunity for creating a professional network and as relevant experience on a resume. Additionally, I will organize an Education Dialogue, especially about the Master' s programme.

Events

With regards to the events, I will continue with the amazing traditional education events Machiavelli has offered in the past: Publectures, Education Dialogues and an Open Evening. An event I would like to add is a Symposium. This is something other study associations already organise and something that would suit Machiavelli perfectly, considering its distinguished educational history. A Symposium would also be a perfect opportunity to connect the staff and students, since it is interesting for both. Moreover, I am currently looking into the possibilities regarding the restructuring of the big Career Event.

Vice Chair

As a board, we decided that I will fulfil the function of vice chair. Of course, I feel honoured and motivated to fulfil this function in the best possible way. As a vice chair, I will replace Linde when she is not able to attend meetings or lead our weekly board meetings. Besides that, we will attend meetings with external partners together in order to make sure that Machiavelli is represented as best as possible. Furthermore, board members who experience difficulties in their relation with the chair can always approach me. In this way, I hope to assist the entire board in many ways.

Conclusion

On the one hand, I will make sure that the fantastic educational history and reputation of Machiavelli will continue. I will do this by keeping the contact with the department as great as it already is, continuing with the wonderful events that already exist and making sure that the position keeps its good reputation under the members. On the other hand, I am also looking forward to introduce fresh ideas and plans like setting up the Education Hotline, adding a Symposium and restructuring the big career event.

In conclusion, I am sure that this year is going to be a fantastic and challenging adventure. Finally, I would also like to emphasise how much confidence I have in my fellow board members and the way we will operate as a team. If you have any questions about my policy plan, please contact me at education@svmachiavelli.nl.

Tim Wagelaar

Education Coordinator 2019-2020

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR – JULIA KEYSER



Introduction

I am pleased to introduce myself — with great honour and filled with enthusiasm — as the Political Activities Coordinator of the 56th Board of Study Association Machiavelli. I started studying Political Science last year and Machiavelli made me feel right at home, both in Amsterdam as well as within the association. Looking back at the amazing year that passed, I realised how much influence the association can have on your study experience. I am looking forward to continuing the open and active atmosphere in the association. Our field of study is getting bigger and bigger and thanks to the internationalisation we are welcoming people from all around the world. All these students have one thing in common: we are all politically engaged people. This common interest is the starting point of my policy plan.

As the Political Activities Coordinator I am ready to coordinate political events where our members have the opportunity to enrich themselves by engaging with today's most pressing issues. Before I dive into my policy plan, I would like to thank my predecessor, Saskia van Dalen, for the enormous effort and help to get me fully prepared for this new experience. Also, I would like to thank Saskia's predecessor Nina Salomons for her approachability and the valuable tips she gave me. That being said I structured my policy plan as follows: First, I will elaborate on my goals and their implementation regarding the events. Afterwards, I will go into detail about the different types of events. Last but not least, I will discuss my goals and their implementation regarding the committee and the committee structure.

Attractive, interactive and events

Machiavelli's political activities are of indispensable value because they bring us the opportunity to add topics to the curriculum that play an important role in the constantly changing world we live in. My first goal is to show our members that political activities can be both interesting and fun at the same time. Notwithstanding the great value of the political activities, some students might experience some kind of a threshold to join one of the events. To attract as many people as possible I will always make sure that the topics are associated with the current affairs and with the curriculum. Topics that specifically interest the political science students result in a bigger turn-out and more interactive events.

The interactivity of these events will be my second goal for the coming year. Not only passively providing information about interesting topics, but also actively discuss the topic during a lively debate will cause more engagement of the audience. When students are becoming a real part of the event, they will be able to process the information and give their interpretation of a certain topic. Sometimes students hesitate to take part in a debate or just need more time to make up their mind. I want to remove this hesitation.

Therefore, I will post statements that will be discussed during the event on our social media channels. In this way, students have time to think and talk a bit about the topic that will be discussed prior to the event. It will also be a good way to innovatively promote an event.

My third policy goal is to attract a more diverse group of students. I will look for opportunities to work together with the other coordinators. Besides the internal collaboration, I will also look for opportunities to work together with external parties. We will work together with the *Platform voor Politicologen* to organise the annual PiP Congress. This event allows our members to meet other political science students in the Netherlands and discuss a politically relevant topic.

My last policy goal regarding the events is to vary between large formal events and smaller (more) informal events to both focus on the big themes and talk about the daily news. There will be eight larger formal events next year, which means that there will be an event every five or six weeks. Although it is practically not possible to organise an event about every hot topic in the daily news, there will be smaller informal events where we discuss the interesting topics that we cannot discuss in a larger formal event.

A variety of political activities

I will now briefly discuss the six different types of events for the upcoming year.

I will use these different formats to structure the year ahead and maintain consistency. Nevertheless, my committee members will still have the freedom to explore their creativity and come up with innovative ideas within the framework that I have set.

The first kind of event is called *Docurama*, in which students get the opportunity to watch a documentary and discuss the topic with an expert. I am currently working with the International Documentary Festival of Amsterdam (IDFA), to establish a collaboration between the festival and the association.

The next event is the yearly *Field Trip* to The Hague, the political heart of the Netherlands. I want to combine Dutch and international politics by visiting the Dutch parliament and an international institution.

Another well-visited event is *Machiavelli Meets* where we invite a professional who can tell us more about a certain work field and can give us an insight into their area of expertise. My goal is to invite a prominent speaker that will increase the turn-out of the event.

The fourth kind of event is *Machiavelli Discusses*. This event allows us to inform ourselves regarding interesting topics and will include a closing panel discussion. I will structure the debate by using statements that were posted on social media channels.

The fifth type of event is *Machiavelli debates* which gives our members the possibility to develop their debating skills. I would like to extend the event by organising debates with a professional debate leader and I will try to work together with political youth organisations. To organise an interactive and professional debate I want to establish a group of students that love debating and want to improve their debating skills. They come together in advance of the debate and get ready for a lively discussion. I will look for the opportunities to organise a debate training. This is not meant to exclude other students to join the debate, but I would like to strive for an interactive and professional debate.

Last but not least I want to extend the editions of *Politics&Pilsner*. The concept was founded by my predecessor Saskia. The idea is to talk about some hot topics in the news that normally just pass us by during our busy lives. Coming together in an informal setting and talking about politics will be a good way to improve the cohesion within the committee and will also improve our debating skills. I want to structure the editions by preparing statements that will be discussed during the event.

Political Activities Committee

The events could not exist without a motivated Political Activities Committee (PAC) so this will be a main focus of mine this year. I aim for a committee where the members have the opportunity to develop themselves with regard to organisational and cooperative skills and get in touch with people whom they would not have met otherwise. To implement this goal, I want to share our mutual expectations at the beginning of the year. I would like to know what the members expect of the PAC and me as a coordinator and I also want to share my expectations of what it means to be a member of the PAC committee. My second goal regarding the committee is to increase cohesion within the committee. I will try to create an atmosphere where the PAC also can be a group of friends that are responsible for the amazing political activities of our association. Therefore, I will strive to plan general meetings monthly to make sure that everybody stays in contact with each other. I will also plan at least two committee trips so we can get to know each other better.

Committee structure

Besides this learning environment and the aspect of cohesion, I aspire to reach a high level of commitment from the committee members. I will give the committee a lot of responsibility and autonomy. I strive for the ideal situation: a committee that has the freedom to brainstorm on new ideas, to develop and execute a plan and be responsible for promotion. As the coordinator, I will oversee the organisational process and give support where needed. One way to increase the responsibility and autonomy of the committee is to change the committee structure. In the past, most of the time there was a general committee from which smaller sub-committees were formed that were responsible for the specific events. The advantage of this structure is that everyone who joins the general committee is free to join any sub-committee they want. However, the difficulty with this structure is that the members who are not involved in a sub-committee are not stimulated to also get involved in the process. Another difficulty is that the coordinator still had to do a lot of work instead of only coordinating the organisational process.

I developed a new structure with the aim of stimulating motivation, dedication and giving the committee the responsibility that they deserve. There will be a general committee that consists of all the members of the PAC. They will have two main tasks. Firstly, they will attend the monthly general meetings where we brainstorm about new ideas, discuss the progress of events and evaluate the past activities. Secondly, they get the opportunity to help with the promotion of the upcoming events. Because they were already active during the brainstorm sessions, they will also be present at the political activities that their fellow committee members organised. The general committee will function as the legislative body of the PAC.

Then there will be the executive body that is constituted out of three smaller committees based on the three main types of events: Machiavelli Meets Committee, Machiavelli Discusses Committee and the Pub&Public Debates Committee (they will organise Machiavelli Debates and the editions of Politic&Pilsner). These committees will take care of the implementation of the plan that is discussed in the general committee. Depending on the event each committee member will be given a clear task. Every type of event has two editions; the first round of applications will take place at the beginning of the year and the second round of applications will be held at the start of the second semester.

Organising an event requires dedication and motivation to work hard. I will ask the members who want to join the committee to write a small motivational letter. As shown above, this restructuring of the committees will stimulate the General Committee to be involved in a specific event despite them not being active in an event committee. Also, by involving the General Committee even more in the process of the event, I aim for a more committed General Committee that feels responsible for the ins and outs of the political activities. Finally, the more structured way of organising the committees leads to more responsibility which causes more engagement and leads to a higher quality event.

Conclusion

I would like to conclude my policy plan by emphasising that I will work with full dedication to achieve the goals that I have set. I am looking forward to bringing politically engaged people together and actively discuss challenging topics. As political science students, we are all interested in the changing world around us. Our political activities will provide a response to this demand. This could not be possible without the organisation of a committee that feels strongly committed. I strongly believe that this is going to be an unforgettable year for the PAC and the entire association. If you have any questions about my policy plan, please feel free to contact me at pac@svmachiavelli.nl.

Julia Keyser

Political Activities Coordinator 2019-2020

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR – ROBIN RAVENSBERGEN



Introduction

Before I start, I would like to thank my predecessor Tommy Blomvliet. Tommy has shown me how to be a social and professional Social Activities Coordinator (SAC). Not only did he make me excited to apply for this position, he also made sure that I had a smooth and useful transition. Tommy is someone with a drive for the position of SAC and he gave me valuable tips on how to improve this beautiful position. When one thinks about political science students, one does not immediately think of parties, talent contests and sport matches. But we as Machiavellians know all too well how to have fun. In previous years our parties went on until the early mornings, we competed against our lecturers in sports, we tested our weirdest knowledge with pub quizzes and we danced to live music. The social activities have become a major part of our student life and of our association.

Our association is a place where students can meet new people and the social activities play a large role in this. Social activities offer a platform where students can meet others, talk to each other and build friendships. Within Machiavelli, students not only have the chance to connect to people from their own year and track, but from all years and tracks. It is important that not only first-year students, but students from within all stages of the programme feel welcome at the social events. My policy plan is structured as follows: first I will talk about the committee structure, as this is the backbone of SAC. Second, I will discuss social cohesion as it pertains to internationalization. Third, I will talk about the future of the weekly *borrel*, and last, I will elaborate upon the different types of events that the SAC has to offer.

The committee

First of all, I want to continue building on the current committee structure. The 54th board gave structural advice on how to improve the committee structure of the SAC. The new structure is something Tommy has implemented last year and it looks as follows: one large Social Activities Committee, which took care of all the *borrels*, weekends and pub quizzes. Out of this large committee, three smaller ones are formed: the Party, Cultural and Sports Committee. All these committees have an executive committee (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer), Head of Location and Head of Promotion and general members. As a former member of the general Social Activities Committee and as former chair of the Cultural Committee, I see many positive things about this structure. This structure has given committee members more responsibilities and tasks, lessening the workload of the Social Activities Coordinator but also allowing for more input from the committee members.. Especially the smaller committees were successful in this regard and as a result fun events with considerable committee input were created.

In this year I would like to improve the committee structure with advice given to me by Tommy. This advice was formed by input given by the Social Activities Committee members. The first aspect I want to change is the Party Committee. A party committee turned out to be less effective than expected, because almost all our parties were organised in cooperation with other associations. This is why I will replace the party committee with another smaller committee: the Borrel Committee (the BoCo). Machiavelli has a considerable amount of borrels in a year where the help and input of a committee can be much more effective than is currently the case with the Party Committee. Theme *borrels* but also pub quizzes will now be the responsibility of the BoCo.

Also, this year I will restructure the general Social Activities Committee. Last year's structure was a large committee through which the cultural, party, and sports committee were formed at the beginning of the year, with several ad hoc committees being formed later in the year. Applications for these ad hoc committees turned out to be lesser in number than expected and this made the general committee feel like it was not being used to its full potential. This year, I will form the general committee with only members from the three subcommittees, instead of having a large group of committee members through which several subcommittees are formed. With this change I hope to use the General Committee more as a feedback organ than as an organ from which ad-hoc committees are formed. This brings me to my final point on committee structure: The ad hoc committees. These committees will be looking after the parties and weekends. People can apply for these committees, without having to be a member of the General Committee. In this way, joining the SAC can be possible even for those who don't want to participate in a committee for a full year.

Social cohesion and internationalisation

The most important and greatest challenge for the Social Activities Coordinator is to create the best social cohesion among students within the association. As mentioned before, this is not only mingling between first-year students and older students, or between internationals and Dutch students, but between all Machiavelli members. It is impossible to force members into mingling at social events nor is it possible to get everyone to be friends. However, it is possible to create events that are appealing to everyone and to create an atmosphere where people socialize easily. I believe that previous boards have been successful in creating these events and I, as Social Activities Coordinator, together with my fellow board members, will do my best to continue to create those appealing events.

Internationalisation has been an enrichment to our association in the sense that it has allowed our members to meet fellow students from all over the world, but in previous years this has also led to a decrease in the number of active older members. This of course can be seen as a problematic trend. This year will be the third year of internationalisation and speaking English has now become a norm, both within the study of Political Science and within Machiavelli. We have shown to our members that we can make fun and appealing events for both tracks, and a lot of our members have friends in both tracks. Of course, there is always room for improvement and this remains a continuous effort. Possible challenges with connecting Dutch students and international students will remain something that we must be aware of.

As Social Activities Coordinator I would like to contribute to the internationalisation by making sure English remains the norm at our activities. I will do this by reminding people that non-Dutch speakers feel left out when Dutch is spoken around them. Also, I am going to do my best to create committees with both Dutch and International students. One more thing that internationals have given me as feedback is the song-playlist at the borrel. It is important that more 'international' music is played at borrels and parties, so that both Dutch and international students have an equal chance to show their lip-sync and dancing skills.

The Borrel

The weekly *borrel* of Machiavelli, where we get together to chat and have drinks at a café, is an important part of our social life. The first *borrels* of the year will be in De Heeren van Aemstel, a well-known place where we feel most welcome. After the first weeks the *borrel* location will change. We will be going to Café Havelaar. Next to the location, the day and the starting time of the *borrel* will change. We are going to the Havelaar because this is a place well-known by Machiavelli, where we have had great *borrels*. The throwback-*borrel* last year has also showed us that new students like the Havelaar.

For me, the perfect *borrel* starts with people socialising with some drinks and background music. A *borrel* is the perfect way to talk about politics, relationships or any other topic. After a couple of drinks there is room for partying. The volume can be turned up and partying music can be played. The Havelaar offers us a place where we can realise this. The contact with the Havelaar is good, and I am very positive about the location.

As mentioned before we will also be hosting our *borrel* on another day. The weekly *borrels* are going to be on Thursday. Thursday used to be Machiavelli's traditional *borrel* day and by moving the day to Thursday, I want to lower the barrier to come to the *borrel*: this day is closer to the weekend and people have less work to do after a *borrel* night.

The last thing that changes is the start time of the *borrel*. The new start time will be 20:30. This is because a lot of students have dinner just before the *borrel* and we discovered that students find 20:00 too early to come and will arrive much later. If we start at 20:30 there is still enough time to *borrel* before the partying. We hope that by moving the time to 20:30 more people will show up earlier at the *borrel*, because this start time is more appealing.

Cultural Events

Regarding the cultural events, I will not be making major changes. Events like Political Science Got Talent and Machiavelli Dines are fun and different from other events. Political Science Got Talent is a unique event where people from our association have the opportunity to perform in a talent contest. Also, the Comedy Night is a fun event where our students can enjoy comedy while having a drink. In previous years, these classic Machiavelli events have been very successful and therefore they are worth maintaining in the years to come. At the beginning of the year, I will also organise "Machiavelli Meets Mokum" again. This event gives new (and old) students the possibility to (re-)discover the beautiful city of Amsterdam. It will be a bike tour through the city centre with stops at some nice bars, classic Amsterdam buildings and some beautiful cultural gems.

Sports Events

Sports events are always appealing to a large group of members. I am (sadly) not a fanatical athlete, that is why I, when it comes to sport events, want to give my committee a lot of freedom. The sports committee is free to create new events, only StuDoVo will be a guaranteed event. Very important for sports events is timing. I will make sure that sports events are not at the end of the week and after a day of partying. We will have to think about indoor sports events for colder days and outdoors for warmer days. Also having a competition with a team has turned out to be very appealing.

Conclusion

Concluding, I am very much looking forward to fulfilling the position of Social Activities Coordinator this coming year. My predecessors have already laid down a base for a committee structure which I aim to further improve upon. Regarding events, in line with classic Machiavelli, I will strive to make several classic events return, but I will also strive to create new events together with my committee and board. I am very excited for the coming year, I am honoured to have this position within a board of amazing people and I look forward to welcoming you all at this year's SAC events. Please feel free to ask any questions regarding my policy plan through email: sac@svmachiavelli.nl

Robin Ravensbergen

Social Activities Coordinator 2019-2020

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR – DANA RENTENAAR



Introduction

It is with great pride and pleasure that I present myself as Machiavelli' s International Coordinator for the upcoming year. I hope to continue Machiavelli' s amazing tradition of trips while simultaneously refreshing them with innovative insights. Before I begin, I would like to thank my predecessor, Eelke Vlieger. Not only has he guided me through the initially daunting transmission process, but he has passed on much wisdom to me that I will most definitely be using to make this year yet another success. It is safe to say that I feel as prepared as I could be for the challenging and exciting year ahead, thanks to Eelke and the rest of the 55th board.

My policy plan will revolve around five core pillars. I will begin by highlighting the importance of the international committees as well as outlining how I intend to go about forming them and keeping them active. Next, I will dedicate attention to the impact I hope these committees and the trips themselves can have on social cohesion amongst Machiavelli' s members. Then, I will move on to the importance of evaluations, the relationship I aim to foster with the International Association for Political Science Students (IAPPS), and, finally, the planning for the year ahead.

Committees

Despite the role an International Coordinator takes on, Machiavelli' s trips would truly cease to exist without the international committees. In regard to these committees, I would like to pursue continuity. Each trip will require its own committee in order for it to get the attention it deserves. These will typically be made up of three to five members, depending on the length of the trip. I will generate motivation to join the committees through the use of Machiavelli' s promotion channels, making sure to begin promotion several weeks before a committee is effectively needed. Not only will this ensure awareness for the ability to partake in the committees, but it will also generate excitement for the trips themselves and their locations. The selection process will remain similar to last year, with anonymised motivation letters required by each applicant.

However, members will not only apply for general positions within the committees, but they will also have the opportunity to apply for other positions to make partaking in a committee more attractive. These positions include the Treasurer, for example, where they will help make a budget and discuss financial decisions. Another possible position members can apply for is Head of Promotion, where they will create posters and various social media posts to promote a trip.

In addition to these roles, members can apply for Trip Coordinator for the parallel trip that I am not able to attend. Eelke successfully implemented the position of a Trip Coordinator last year, allowing each of the parallel trips to get the attention they deserve, and I want to build on his efforts. This position meant that the Trip Coordinator essentially takes on my coordinating role, by building a committee, planning meetings and eventually chairing them. However, as the International Coordinator, I will still ultimately have responsibility for the trips. Nevertheless, I hope opening up the application process in this way will allow members to feel a heightened sense of responsibility and autonomy within the committees and keep motivation high. This makes the experience of being in an international committee a more relevant and educational one for members, as well as more attractive for those looking to enrich their resumes.

Cohesion

Cohesion is a thread that runs through all our policy plans, considering the fully internationalised bachelor we will have next year. The Machiavelli trips play an essential role in bonding members together from all tracks and ages because you spend a significant amount of time together, exploring new places and learning new things. Despite the wide range of languages Machiavelli members speak, the common one amongst us is English. For this reason, I will generally be speaking English during the trips in order for everyone to understand me and for no one to feel left out. This will be especially important for when instructions are given to the participants. I will also be passing this on to my committee members, who will be encouraged to speak English whenever situations arise in which non-Dutch speakers are present - both during meetings and the trips themselves. The informational evenings planned for a trip provide ample opportunity to increase cohesion between members before they embark on a trip together, where they will get to know each other even better.

Machiavelli caters to students with a variety of interests, as illustrated by the wide range of events organised. Catering to such varied interests is crucial to a study association as large as ours. However, I believe such interests can be creatively blended with collaboration between myself and the other coordinators. This collaboration can manifest itself during the informational evenings by way of interesting speakers related to the trip location or by planning the informational evenings at convenient times so that they may take place right before a borrel or other type of activity. A synergetic relationship takes place here as both the informational evening and the event it may proceed will benefit in attendance and attention. In this way, cohesion can be increased because members interested in Machiavelli's other activities will be exposed to the idea of joining the trips in a more direct and convenient way for them.

Evaluations

I firmly believe that, without learning from the past, we cannot improve the future. I will continue to apply this to my role as International Coordinator, this year. In order to be able to learn from the past, I will be carrying out evaluations after every trip. This will not only be to the participants, but also to the committee members who made the trip possible. It is essential to collect feedback from both in order to get a complete evaluation of the trip itself as well as the process behind. In order to gain oversight over the evaluations, I will be using Google Surveys to carry out and collect the feedback. This platform also allows for surveys to be anonymised, which will promote more honest feedback.

Once collected, I will sort through the responses to reflect on and evaluate what went well, what could be improved and how. In this way, we can ensure consistent improvement and progress by allowing everyone to freely voice their opinions. I will formulate the conclusions from the evaluation process into my half-year plan and into the transmission document for my successor to learn from next year.

IAPSS

IAPSS aims to connect all political science students in the world together under one association. However, in the past, the structure of the association has been too large and intangible for productive collaboration to take place between Machiavelli and IAPSS. I see the potential for this relationship to improve with the recent restructuring that IAPSS has undergone. The new European regional structure Machiavelli would fall under has the potential to give political science students the ability to better connect with IAPSS, as a smaller more perceptible branch of the large association. I will be keeping in contact with IAPSS Europe representatives, in order to keep the bonds warm between our two associations and continue our membership. Through the initial contact I have had with IAPSS, it is clear that attending either the Academic Convention or the World Congress will not be possible due to conflicting agendas, such as our exam week. Nevertheless, the potential in IAPSS' s new structure is promising for Machiavelli which is why I will be keeping in contact with IAPSS Europe representatives. I will reflect on what this newly restructured association can mean for Machiavelli in my half-year report.

Trip Planning

Finally, it is important to mention the types of trips I will be coordinating the coming year. The first trip will take place from the 30th of October to the 3rd of November. Next, I will be coordinating two trips to Brussels, as my predecessors have recommended, in order to provide as many people as possible with the opportunity to travel with Machiavelli. These two trips are also highly relevant for political science students yet also very accessible due to their short duration. Thirdly, I will continue the concept of the parallel trips, with a twist (to be revealed later). These trips will also be at two different price points. The slightly higher (but still very reasonable) price point is due to the aforementioned twist and the lower price point is to ensure accessibility for as many Machiavelli members as possible. The length of the parallel trips is also something I will be experimenting with this year. Next, Machiavelli will travel to a politically relevant and interesting location for political scientists, as usual, for our Big Trip. Finally, the 'King of the Road' road trip will take place towards the end of the year

Conclusion

My aim with this planning is to discover hidden gems together. Travelling to various locations in and outside of Europe, learning about the local politics and exploring the culture and nightlife, all while getting to know your fellow members. I will undoubtedly face challenges this year but I will realise these goals to the best of my abilities. Please feel free to ask any questions about my policy plan by sending an email to international@svmachivelli.nl

Dana Rentenaar

International Coordinator 2019 - 2020