

Half year report Fv-FMG

2023-2024



Pegasus | Sarphati | Machiavelli | Kwakiutl/CASA | Comenius | Mercurius | SEC | VSPA |

Bloom

Annette van der Kruijf | Marie de Koning | Wouter Meijer | Olema Omole | Bob de Bruijn |

Nora Steichen | Karolina Baszkiewicz | Saulė Jakučionytė | Jelle Blankendaal

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1. Introduction

The first half year as the 11th board of the Faculty Association of Social and Behavioural Sciences (Fv-FMG) has gone by. Time went flying by as we worked towards our goals this half year. We had some struggles and at the same time a lot of fun. This year we took the time to bond amongst boards and are glad to say our hallway has become a place of friendly meetings. We are glad to present this half year report and update our members of our progress thus far. The Fv-FMG board has worked hard to obtain the goals we set as previously written in our policy plan. That's why this report will focus on the pointers we previously addressed. First we will individually go over our tasks within the board, whereafter we address and reflect on the policy plan pointers. We want to be open about what we have and have not yet obtained and strive to reflect critically on our own doing.

2. General information

On December 16th 2010, the Student Association of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences was founded. This was due to the housing situation in which students of the UvA had difficulties in finding accommodation during their years of studying. In the academic year of 2013/2014 the Fv-FMG became an association of its own. The association consists of Cultural Anthropology Study Association (CASA), Comenius, Machiavelli, Mercurius, Pegasus, Sarphati, Sociologisch EpiCentrum (SEC), Vereniging van Studenten in de Psychologie te Amsterdam (VSPA) and Study Association Bloom. In the present time, all associations have found a space of their own, however, we still believe that the Fv-FMG has not lost its function and is still of great value. The Fv-FMG takes an active part in connecting both the boards of the student associations and their members. We come together at the events, such as the party, which is a consistent success. We also come together in the Common Room, where students of all studies collide. This year, we want to keep the focus on bringing students together, whilst making the Fv-FMG a more professional association.

Next to the nine associations, the Common Room board and Faculty Student Council (FSR-FMG) are of great importance within the faculty, thus they have a part in the Fv-FMG Board. They do not have voting rights, but are present during our board meetings. The Common Room chair keeps us updated on issues regarding their space that we all use. The FSR represents all students of the faculty and the chair informs us of current issues and topics of discussion among students. They are crucial in their assistance of helping us understand the goals and interests of the students at the UvA.

Other bodies of vital importance of the Fv-FMG are the General Members Meeting (GMM), the Presidium and the Audit Committee. The GMM is the highest decision making body of the association. It is the place where members ask questions regarding the association. This includes the budget and policy plans and motions. They also have the authority to vote on such matters. There are two GMM organized per year, one in October and one halfway through the year. During the first GMM the old board presents its realizations and year report, after which they will be discharged. Next to that, the new board will be voted in after presenting their budget and policy plan. The goal of the second GMM is to update our members about the progress with a half-year report.

In the academic year of 2017-2018 two other internal bodies were set in place, namely the Presidium and the Audit Committee. The Presidium consists of a chair and secretary, and

prepares and leads the GMM in collaboration with the chair and secretary. The Audit Committee, consisting of the previous treasurers, keeps an eye on the bank accounts, assists the Treasurer, and checks the budget plans.

3. Individual Tasks

3.1 Chair - Annette van der Kruijf

To be this year's chair of the Fv-FMG has been a great honour. It's amazing to see that everyone is willing to help each other. Some of my major tasks involve keeping track of tasks, making our agenda, hosting the meetings, keeping in contact with faculty staff and making sure board members stay motivated to do their tasks.

Im very proud of what the board has done thus far and especially how they have worked together. I want to say that this has correlation with my efforts at the beginning of the year to be strict with the board members to attend meetings. A task I have taken to heart this first half year is the bonding within our board. To add to this I have always made it a point to share personal struggles on top of struggles board members have in their individual boards. It is my opinion that having a good personal relationship helps to have people work together harmoniously. I think we have achieved a good working environment, but not everyone attends our meetings. This is due to bad timing or the board member simply being too busy. I have discussed this with them and we came to certain agreements about their attendance.

My other major focus was to have a good bond with faculty staff. Thus I have regular meetings with the faculty manager. She and I are working towards having a better understanding of both parties. Her opinion is that the board rooms need to be cleaner and cant have posters on the walls. After deliberation however we were able to come to a consensus, where we can keep our decorations but need to pay attention to cleaning. My stance was that the UvA needs the associations to have students connect with the UvA, their studies and fellows. For this reason we need to make them feel at home, which we can achieve with cosy board rooms. On top of this I am discussing some changes like having more stickers in the B and C side of our building to point members to the board rooms. This way it will be easier for new members and first years to find us.

Keeping up with board members' tasks is a struggle at times and the reason I ask for updates every meeting. But still it can be hard to keep an overview, so I resort to texting board members for updates. Something else I find myself struggling with is dividing my task from

Pegasus, where I'm also chair, and the Fv-FMG. The boards combined are quite a lot of work, which forces me to plan well and keep a tight tab on my agenda. On top of this I have been struggling with my health. This has been prohibiting me from coming to events, which I regret. I'm currently finding my way in dispersing more of my tasks like the SAC. SAC are documents that all active members receive when obtaining 15 points (three committees or a board year). It is my task to make sure these are made and distributed. I'm very lucky to have a member of my Pegasus board that is willing to help me with the administrative work the SAC points costs.

3.2 Secretary & Coordinator Borrel Committee - Marie de Koning

As secretary of the Fv-FMG board, I have been making the minutes in all board meetings. This has been going very well. In general I can keep up with everything that is said in board meetings, and when I feel like I can't, I feel comfortable enough to ask my fellow board members to repeat what they said. I also check the email inbox regularly.

Next to being secretary, I also have been coordinating the Borrel Committee (BoCo). This has also been going very well. We have had regular meetings with the committee and organised two events so far, which will be talked about in chapter 8. Next to the occasional borrels, we also have reintroduced the annual football tournament, Scientia Calix. We are still working hard on the preparations, but it looks like it will be a great success.

At the first meeting, a committee chair was appointed, who has been chairing the meetings and coordinating the committee from that point onwards.

3.3 Treasurer & Vice Chair - Wouter Meijer

The realisations of the half-year and party will be presented at the GMM but I am very happy to state that, thanks to the hard work of the committee and the advice from the Audit Committee, a potential large loss on the party was turned into a slight profit. I am in close contact with Audit and dealing with the ING. All member associations paid their contribution on time and the budget is still looking very healthy but I will expand more on this during the GA. As Vice-Chair I chaired a meeting when Annette was sick, but the meeting had very low attendance anyways due to other chairs unfortunately being sick as well; it was still a good meeting regardless.

Unfortunately, due to bad communication on the side of the ING and mismanagement from their part, there is still no bank card and we have not been able to buy feminine hygiene products. I will look into this as soon as possible.

3.4 Coordinator Book Sale - Olema Omole

The booksale was successfully coordinated with valuable assistance from Teun, the treasurer of Machiavelli. Each Association managed the half-year booksale, allowing students to sell their used books and purchase new ones. We maintained good communication with Smart Books, although there are areas where improvements could be made.

Increasingly, students are opting to buy books online or use PDFs due cut costs. While partnering with Smart Books is beneficial, it's important to note that booksale revenues are relatively low and may continue to decline.

Smart Books has been responsive in addressing website malfunctions and order issues, which has been helpful.

We utilise two group chats: one comprising a representative from each board involved in the booksale, and another that includes these representatives along with our main contact from Smart Books. Last year, the booksale structure was updated to include a representative from each board, which has streamlined internal communication and made the process of book drop-offs and pickups smoother.

For the upcoming year:

- The booksale coordinator should obtain detailed information on the operation and logistics of the sale, including key contacts and responsibilities prior to the start of the position
- Due to a hectic schedule and multiple responsibilities, there were instances where I may not have directly contacted the appropriate person for queries. I heavily relied on Teun's understanding of the operations, although I would have preferred to be more informed throughout the year. If I were to do the year again, I would have searched for more information and organized myself accordingly earlier on. Overall, the booksale was successfully completed, and there is room for clearer communication for the next coordinator.

For the upcoming board, it's important to utilize the resources provided by Smartbooks for tracking booksales effectively. While Smartbooks has supplied us with trackers for each association, I had challenges accessing mine, which may have been due to a combination of my organizational shortcomings and the system's complexity. To improve the process for the next coordinator, they should have a clear understanding of how to access and use these trackers. Additionally, the responsible person from each board should be knowledgeable about the trackers. Moving forward, the coordinator should actively track booksale numbers and evaluate the ongoing necessity of maintaining Smartbooks as a partner.

3.5 Coordinator Acquisition - Bob de Bruijn

Acquisition for the Fv-FMG has been lacking so far this year, this is due to low potential in terms of promotion of companies and a limited pool of companies or partners due to the larger reach of every association part of the Fv-FMG. The potential partners we have had contact with have so far only offered us deals that would require a lot of effort and are not in line with the compensation we receive with said promotion. For example, one company demanded us to share all their stories during a month-long promotion period, for 5% of the returns of FMG students that signed up to their program. This offered us no guarantee for acquisition and most of the committee shared the sentiment that this deal was somewhat predatory and would not be worth the effort. For the rest of the year, it is my intention to try to reach out to as many potential partners as possible. I've set up a small committee to discuss acquisition with other associations, but the organisation of this committee has shown to be difficult and to a certain extent, somewhat unnecessary. The committee meetings have been replaced with personal contact with those that do acquisition for their respective associations.

For the rest I've started to help out in the BoCo from January onwards, and have tried to help out wherever possible. At the start of the year, I was a big advocate for the Scientia Calix football tournament, this was also motivation for me to join the BoCo. I am very happy with Jelle's coordination of the Scientia Calix. Finally, on February 6th, together with Saule and Karolina, we organised the second bored with the boards of the year. We sat in the common room and drew pictures for each other in a game where we had to rotate our papers every few minutes. This was organised very easily and I see it as a fun way to do something with the boards that doesn't have drinking as its main premise.

3.6 Coordinator Public Relations - Nora Steichen

As the public relations coordinator, I can say that promotion and the management of the website have been running smoothly until now.

The year started off with a lot of ideas from my side to make the Fv-FMG more visible to our students on Instagram. However, this idea didn't work out as planned, as I was very busy with prioritising my own board, which came with many tasks that I had to juggle.

I updated the Instagram page, LinkedIn page and the website with our board picture, contact details, official documents, and role descriptions. As Bloom joined the Fv-FMG this year, I added them to the website as well.

Facebook however, I didn't use this year as our main audience is on Instagram and LinkedIn and Facebook didn't seem to reach the audience like Instagram and LinkedIn.

Regarding our reach on LinkedIn, we have a total of 123 followers, which is 51 more followers compared to last year. On Instagram we reached a total of 3.350 accounts between January and April and gained 49 more followers in a period of 90 days (January - April).

The Fv-FMG party promotion started in December 2023, and the party committee sent me regular promotion to post almost every week from February on. On this note, I would also like to thank the party committee for putting a lot of work in the promotion and regularly sending me the posts and the captions. Thanks to them, the Fv-FMG Instagram feed got a new and fresh look. Furthermore, I'm also happy to announce that two of our reels about the party have been the most popular within the last 2 years, with a maximum of 2.388 plays. Regarding the ticket sale, every association had their own link for their members, which were also accessible through the Fv-FMG website. The promotion for the activity hasn't started yet, but will be out in the next few weeks. I'm planning on promoting the activity both on LinkedIn and Instagram.

3.7 Coordinator Fv-FMG Activity - Karolina Baszkiewicz

Since the beginning of the year I have been coordinating the FMG Activity Committee. It was not an easy task for a few reasons:

1. The size of the committee made scheduling almost impossible. It also caused attendance problems that made coordinating different positions in the committee challenging and the process time consuming.
2. The large amount of time we had (7 months) impacted the group's motivation due to lack of time pressure.
3. One of the members dropped out,
4. One new member joined after the first GMM,
5. Some members of the committee had some periods of inactivity.

I believe some of those problems were specific to our year (unexpected loss and gains of members), as well as a reaction to the problems encountered last year that were not necessary this year (extended time did not give us more options, but watered down the whole process instead). Overall I think we are managing well at the moment. Committee started feeling the pressure of the event coming which made the work smoother. Our meetings are longer now, but more productive and friendlier. Regarding my position as the coordinator I can say that I actively communicated with everyone, we have not had any conflicts and I think we overall like one another. I have also been communicating with the Fv-FMG board about our progress and presented its suggestions to the committee . Unfortunately I had to do a lot of tasks unrelated to my position, which is not as it should have been. I will try to prepare my predecessor for what the precise tasks of the Activity coordinator should be, because the division between the chair and coordinator was not clear enough to me nor the committee. Lastly, I will briefly address the Bored with the Boards that SEC has organized in February with VSPA and Comenius. The idea that we had for the event was really simple and enjoyable (as mentioned by Bob), but unfortunately a lot of board members did not attend due to work overload. Maybe we should have these events closer to the FMG events, so that not only do we excite each other for them, share information in case of misunderstandings, but also deliberately do not have too many events at the same time.

3.8 Coordinator Fv-FMG Party - Saulė Jakučionytė

At the moment of writing the Fv-FMG Party has already taken place on the 10th of April. It was a pleasure to work with a team that the party committee was. I am glad about how the party happened and how we got to that point. Something that I appreciated a lot about our work was the courage to change how we worked in the process. Most of the committee

members ended up having different roles than the ones assigned to them in the beginning. Immediate reflection helped us to react better to changes in the process and thus work more efficiently. What I am also glad about is that we worked on the event consistently almost every week. For this, I am grateful to the chair of the committee, who kept pushing and motivating everyone around from the moment we started until everyone said goodbye after the party.

I would say a possible point of improvement is assembling people into the meetings. There are 10 people in the committee's group chat however, only around 5 would show up in the meetings. It did not slow the process down as much due to a few reasons. That is, people who would show up were responsible and reliable - they would do their action points and provide great insight into whatever situation we would be in at the moment. Besides, we remained flexible so the tasks were reassigned to someone else if the initial person was not showing up. However, for next year's party coordinator, I will suggest being more demanding of all the committee members to show up so that others do not need to do more than they were assigned in the beginning.

Besides the party I also organised one Bored with the Boards event together with Bob and Karolina. We did not want to create overly alcohol centred activity. Instead everyone played a game that had to do with painting and adding to each other's work. It was a really pleasant and connecting activity. Overall, I would evaluate my experience within the FMG as positive..I am proud and content with what we have achieved with the Party committee as well as with Bored with the Boards event.

3.9 Coordinator Scientia Calix - Jelle Blankendaal

Before I explain my role on the Fv-FMG board for the last half-year, I want to express my gratitude for the warm and enthusiastic welcome I, my board and Bloom has received from the whole faculty. Integrating has been way less of a struggle than I expected it to be, especially since we are not in the corridor.

Joining only at the first General Assembly was not ideal, and a new role had to be created. Since the BoCo had already talked about organising a football tournament, the Scientia Calix, that hadn't happened in years, it was decided that I would coordinate this. As Marie has stated

as well, we are currently doing the final preparations for it and it looks like it is going to be an amazing event, where friendships can be made and (loving) rivalries can be born. I started joining the meetings from January onwards, after talking with the chair of the BoCo to get up to speed about what the idea was, and the enthusiasm of the committee made it overall a pretty smooth process. A visit to the football club that it is going to be hosted at helped to understand the opportunities, and this resulted in a plan to basically run the football club ourselves for 5 hours. All schedules for this have already been made, so the most important thing that still needs to happen is the recruitment of the teams, which is each association's own responsibility.

Pointers

4. Unity

A goal we set this year is to create more familiarity amongst members about what the Fv-FMG does. The two pointers to address this topic are: contribution and promotion. It has been a clear goal to have everyone carry their weight within the board. We will reflect on this in a bit, but would already like to mention that thus far we are proud to have obtained this. On top of this online promotion was a big part of our policy plan. We want to reach more of our members using Instagram to motivate them to come to our events. So far the only event was the Fv-FMG Party, which was mostly promoted on Instagram.

4.1 Contribution

Just like all previous years, all member associations have paid their contribution to the financial aid of the Faculty Association. All member associations have contributed to a healthy working and social environment across the Faculty and its associations, to the benefit of the members thereof.

As Chairs of our respective associations, we have represented our individual associations in the Fv-FMG. Over the remainder of the coming year we will keep contributing to the Fv-FMG to the best of our abilities. The success of the Fv-FMG is deeply rooted in the collaborative efforts of its member associations, each of which is represented by dedicated and visionary leaders serving as chairs. This means we will focus on good communication, which takes place in our Whatsapp group and in our corridor. We will all contribute to a safe environment within the Fv-FMG and to the best of our ability ensure that this year will have great events and activities for both boards and normal members of our association.

4.2 Promotion

The Fv-FMG has been visible on Instagram and LinkedIn this year. Some issues came up with the login into the Facebook page, and in general it didn't seem as the most visible platform for our audience, which is why the Fv-FMG has not been promoted on there.

Overall, the promotion on Instagram and LinkedIn reached a lot of people, which is described in more detail in the [Coordinator Public Relations section](#).

The website has been updated with a current picture of the board, contact details, role descriptions and links leading to the different associations for the ticket sale of the Fv-FMG party. Moreover, Bloom has been added to the website as well.

Our goal to be more consistent with posting promotions about the party has been met, as we have been posting every week from February until March to inform students about the Fv-FMG party. On the other hand, the promotion of the activity hasn't started yet, but will begin in a few weeks.

Our mission to bring the Fv-FMG closer to students, for instance by posting stories on Instagram, has not been met. Due to a heavy workload, we will revisit a plan to correct this during this last half year. An idea is for example to assign every board member a week to post stories.

5. Professionalism

A goal we set, according to the advice of our previous board, is to increase the professionalism within the Fv-FMG board. A big part of this is the communication to our members, which is mostly through email. This is why we have focused on reading and responding to these emails as fast as possible. What we have noticed however is that in busy times, this is easy to forget. Something we plan to do for the next half year is to have a postal round every meeting. During this round the secretary will address the emails to whom we need to respond. This way we are all forced to consider them and respond. Another point was mindfulness, where we intend to increase social safety and inclusion. To which we think we have made good steps to improve. Furthermore we wrote in the policy plan to have more contact with master students. This point sadly has not been picked up, which will be addressed further down.

5.1 Mindfulness

This clause set the tone for the board, and we believe it was effectively implemented throughout the year.

Both the chair and vice-chair of the association conducted themselves with grace and caution. Annette, in particular, prioritised social safety and facilitated this in various FMG activities, encouraging us to do the same within our respective boards. We also plan to incorporate some of the actions we took to improve social safety during events in our transmission document. For example having posters of the safety person at each Fv-FMG event. Wouter excelled in maintaining a comprehensive administrative overview, using this to share vital information with us. We view this as a form of mindfulness, as he helped us stay prepared, attentive, and vigilant about potential oversights.

This year, several associations collaborated, bringing together various student bodies. There were minimal incidents, and none were related to inappropriate behaviour by board members. All chairs maintained an active and caring role in their positions. They regularly checked on their students and each other, reflecting on their roles during board meetings. Mindfulness has been present throughout this board year, and I am eager to see how the next board continues this approach.

Tips for the upcoming half year:

- Provide an overview of event themes to ensure appropriateness.
- Implement peer review, where actions are assessed for their value collectively.
- Check in more frequently with the chairs regarding how they address issues within their own associations. As chairs represent FMG, smaller-scale issues unknown to FMG can impact the perception and application of the mindfulness clause

5.2 Sanitary products

As mentioned in our policy plan we want to provide sanitary products for anyone who needs them. Since we had major issues with our bank, we have not been able to purchase any sanitary products.

This is disappointing since we were thriving to keep this pointer from our previous board. We are glad that these issues have since been resolved and are now able to buy sanitary products for the last half year. Since we have a large budget (500 euros) for these products, we plan on buying a large batch which we will keep in one of the association's storage rooms. Then

whenever an association is low on sanitary products they can restock. This way we will all have enough for at least another year. Meaning that next year we expect to be able to lower these costs in the budget.

6. Masters

Unfortunately not much progress was made when it comes to collaboration with the master's committee (Mascot). After months of emailing we have still not managed to meet. Mascot is a group of volunteers put together by the study advisors to organise social life for Master students in the FMG. However, from my perception it does not seem carefully organised, and ends up as slightly exploitative of the members. Having also talked to the past members of Mascot I believe we should inform them better about our capabilities. The knowledge that we possess about promotion, the university and particular departments would make their struggles easier, at least that is my impression from the interactions that I have had with Mascot so far. This year after some members dropped out there is one person left alone with the entire task, so said the last email). From there I also got the impression that Mascot is actually not aware of who we are or what we do. In order to not overwhelm that person, I will try to explain via email what our functions are and how we can get involved. As far as we understand, lack of contact between current and former Mascot members is still an issue and would be fairly easy for us to help them with, which I plan to make more explicit. We should further discuss within the Fv-FMG what sort of collaboration would be interested in and present Mascot with a concrete plan. After quite some investigation and emailing with Mascot and the study advisors, I still do not understand why it is fully separate from the Fv-FMG, which assures me that there is still some knowledge collection to be done. I believe the next step is to ask the study advisors.

7. Budget plan

Money is moneying. The budget is still looking good, the loss from over €3.000,- got reduced to a profit of a little over €80,-. The budget for the rest of the year thus does not have to be altered. I will go into more depth about the budget in the half-year realisation during the General Members Meeting.

I would suggest upping the contribution to associations back to €100,-, to cover inflation and rising costs thrust upon the Fv-FMG. This would also allow future Fv-FMG boards more financial security if they wish to continue events such as the Scientia Calix and their ability to provide feminine hygiene products. It has become a trend that a profit is made on the FMG Party, and we are quite happy that there was no substantial loss on the FMG Party.

Just for the case that there was a substantial loss on the FMG Party, a half-year re-budget was drawn up, but this was luckily not required. The budget as drawn up at the beginning of the year can go ahead and will be used for the remainder of the year. It saddens me deeply that I was not able to fulfill part of the budget plan. Mainly feminine hygiene products not being bought. Once the ING sends us the bank card, I will immediately act upon this. Whilst we were still facing a loss I made a rebudget of the Fv-FMG which luckily was not needed. But, it was nice that the contingencies were there, just as a backup. Rather to have them and not need them than need them and not have them.

8. Events

8.1 FMG Activity

After a long time of trying to encounter problems with unavailable, unresponsive or unaffordable locations (prices have risen, past locations were unavailable, as well as a lot of venues were unsuitable), as well as catering we finally have a clear idea of the event. This year's Activity under the topic "High on Amsterdam", self explanatory but catchy, will take the form of a small conference, similar to the one last year. We invited speakers to talk about drugs, in the context of the city where our university is, Amsterdam. It is a topic we encounter daily but rarely in our curricula, which we therefore identified as a good theme for the conference. It also aligns with the idea of breaking taboos that we liked in the last year's event. It will take place in the late afternoon on the 15th of May at De Brug at the Roeterseiland Campus, because the initial date did not work for one of the associations. The location was our only affordable option that was free on that date, and that was more distinctive than a regular lecture hall, which allows to make the event seem more unique. We received a grant from the Amsterdam University Fund which will be used to cover the extra costs of the location, like equipment and cleaning. We have 4 speakers fully confirmed at the moment, a few unsure. We are aiming for 5-7 speakers, as that format worked well last year.

Our estimations suggest we expect around 160 (a number similar to those from previous years), but even 200 seems realistic.

8.2 FMG Party

This year's FMG party has already happened on 10th of April. The theme of the party this year was 70s Disco fever, which was reflected both in the dress code but also in the decorations that were bought. The location of the party was Club Inn, which is where the party happened last year as well. The promotion for the party was posted consistently with the "save the date" posts being published back in December. We took last year's feedback about the communication about the party into account and this year it was well received.

The party happened on 10th of April with 577 attendees that bought the tickets, with additional 20 people that got their tickets through the door sales. When planning the party we expected to sell 800 tickets according to the example of the previous year. However, we did not succeed in that. As it is explained in the update about the financial situation we were able not to have a loss on the party due to cancelling some of the plans we had such as having photographers, spending less on the security guards (since we did not need as many with less people attending), and getting less decorations. For the coordinator of the next year's FMG party committee I would suggest critically evaluating the capacity of the party and aim for a smaller goal such as selling 600 or 700 tickets. It would bring less stress to the treasurer of the Fv-FMG and the committee. Having a more attainable goal would also end up feeling more satisfactory and bring a smaller risk of a loss.

The event itself went really well. It was incredibly easy to communicate with the venue, they were understanding and collaborative. All the DJs performed well and the place did not feel empty even with less people than anticipated. All the associations had sober and responsible people assigned as well as board members that were responsible for the social safety, which were posted on each association's instagram stories, so that members would know easily who to contact in case of the emergency. In addition to that a poster with all of the social safety people was made and put in the toilets. There were some situations where social safety help was required, however, they were dealt with smoothly.

To conclude, the party went really well and it brought a lot of satisfaction. However, for the next year we would suggest critically evaluating the number of expected participants and remaining flexible in the process of the organisation.

8.3 Borrel Committee

This year the Borrel Committee has been functioning very well. At meetings there's good attendance overall and action points are mostly clear for everyone. Within the committee, a chair, a secretary and a promotion member have been appointed.

The Borrel Committee (BoCo) has organised two events so far this year. The first event was a pub crawl past all the associations' homeground pubs. We went to Café Brakke, Leentje, Biblos and De Gieter. The event had great attendance and was a good way for all associations to get to know each other and each other's borrel locations better. We have gotten positive feedback, so this type of event will be recommended to the next board.

The second event was a karaoke night, located in Café Leentje. This event had a great attendance as well and it was a lot of fun singing with each other (on and off-key). The downside of this event was that it wasn't a closed event, meaning there were other people there outside of our own boards. Some of our members mentioned preferring it to be a closed event to be able to feel like one unit. Thus we will take this into account for further events.

The next BoCo event will be the football tournament Scientia Calix. The last event will take place in June and will be announced by that time. The idea to organise a football match came from some of our members and is a closed event. Associations will play against each other, of course ensuring a proper amount of social safety making it a friendly match. There will also be people who have their first aid attending this event, ensuring more safety.

9. Collaborations

9.1 BVC and Contract

As mentioned in the policy plan, we have a running contract with Smarthbooks. In Olema's personal reflection it is stated that the communication with Smartbooks has been going fine. The second book sale brought up more than last year, which was as expected.

The major problems we are facing is that the books listed on Smarthbooks are more expensive compared to other sellers and students are choosing to use online PDF's. This is an issue since the book sale makes up a big part of some associations' income and members are discovering these price differences. The price difference is not the only part taker in the lower amount of books sold, it also has to do with less active members and less student enrolling. The latter we can't do much about, but we can address the price difference with Smartbooks. We are happy to say that Smarthbook themselves have reached out to schedule appointments to reflect with the associations. As if now there is not yet an outcome.

Sadly we cant provide any clear numbers, as Olema explains in her personal reflection (see pages 7 to 8).

9.2 Faculty Student Council (FSR)

As written in our policy plan:

Similar to other members within the Fv-FMG, the Faculty Student Council (FSR) plays a pivotal role in enhancing the overall educational experience of students within our faculty. The FSR serves as a vital link connecting higher education institutions within the faculty to the FMG. This crucial function is made possible through the unwavering support of Fv-FMG members.

In essence, the FSR fulfils an audit function concerning the operations of the Fv-FMG. In return, participants from the Fv-FMG convey their comments and concerns regarding faculty-related matters to the FSR. With students' best interests at heart, the FSR actively seeks answers and solutions to these issues. To facilitate this process, a dedicated FSR

representative attends Fv-FMG meetings, ensuring seamless communication and collaboration.

Sadly this year we have not been able to reach the FSR. This is the task of our chair, who has done multiple attempts to contact them, which have all failed. They don't respond to emails and when entering their room the right people are not there. This is unfortunate since we have always kept a close relationship. The next step is to try again, to make sure that in this last half year we can at least discuss each other's progress and thus be up to date.

9.3 Common Room

The Common Room has remained a vital organ of the Fv-FMG. Not only has this year's board integrated within the Fv-FMG amazingly, they have also done an amazing job running this social hub. The Common Room serves as a study spot, bar as well as a location for events. The chair of the Common Room, Julia, has done a great job of attending the Fv-FMG meetings and serves as a bridge between both boards.

Our associations have all organised events at the Common Room, which have gone great. A struggle we have been running into is keeping up with the bar schedule. This schedule is there so board members of the connected associations take up bar shifts to help out the Common Room board. At the beginning of the year, we all scheduled ourselves in shifts and, mostly, showed up for them. These recent months however have been more difficult. We regret this and would like to see it change, but sadly this might not be realistic. Considering that most boards within the Fv-FMG have dealt with board members having to quit, there is less time to disperse amongst our board members. Meaning that most board members don't have the time to run a bar shift. We are happy that the Common Room board is understanding of this, but it has led to the Common Room bar sometimes being unattended. The latter has also led to more filth building up, due to people not doing their dishes. This has been addressed during the Fv-FMG meetings and is something we are pointing out to each other. It has no resolution yet, but we think a cleaning schedule might work. We want to respect the Common Room since it's a space we all use and appreciate.

10. Conclusion

To conclude, this first half year has been challenging and has taught us many lessons. Some of our pointers have not been successful yet, where others need work. This next half year we will keep communicating openly and work towards the upkeep of our close ties. Some points that will have priority for this next half year are: utilising Instagram more, making the activity a successful event, keeping up with social safety, discussing price differences with Smarthbooks, working towards a clean Common Room and including the FSR.