

Half-year report Fv-FMG

2022-2023



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

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Introduction

We are excited to present to all the members this year's half-year report of the 10th board of Fv-FMG. In the past half year, we have seen a lot happening on the faculty level when coming back to campus fully and enjoying exciting times for the Fv-FMG. All the board members have worked closely together to achieve common goals and bring together the faculty through shared events and friends across the hallway (+VSPA). This has shown a stronger bond and keeps growing together. This report will connect all the actions from the past half year and what we have yet to achieve together. We will take you through the goals we put forward in the beginning and access the structure and changes we encountered. These points include the unity of Fv-FMG (Inflation, Internationalization and Inclusivity), Professionalism (SAC), Sustainability, Budget plan, Acquisition, Events (Activity, Party, BoCo and BWTB), Collaborations (BVC, FSR and CR) and then our conclusion. Fv-FMG strives to always be open to bright ideas and wants to further the faculty together with the members to solve issues and provide solutions.

Unity: Stronger together

Inflation

Due to the wars abroad, we have encountered a domino effect of events that also has affected the studies within the Fv-FMG. We have taken it as a goal to combat this problem by joining forces towards a shared solution of lowering prices for events at the university plus trying to get more subsidies for the associations due to this issue. Inflation has affected all the associations on their events, the prices for bars, clubs, and venues for other activities which means that students find it difficult to pay the prices for the events leading to a lower turnout. Talking to both the dean Agneta and the executive board of UvA this is also a problem they see and listen to our struggles, however, a fiercer approach is needed to see results and solutions from the university.

Internationalization

The academic year of 2022/2023 is the second lustrum, being the tenth year of the Fv-FMG. Over these past years, the association has experienced a significant increase in internationalization and is currently in the most internationalized state it has ever been, with the current board consisting of five international students and three Dutch students. To ensure absolute transparency and accessibility for all members, we use English as our lingua franca. Moreover, we also find it crucial to establish a safe environment that fosters the sharing of traditions, values, and norms between the members of the different study associations of the faculty. For this purpose, the Fv-FMG arranges two annual inter-associational events, namely the FMG Activity and the FMG Party, and strongly encourages its study associations to plan smaller-scaled collaborative events among themselves.

Inclusivity

At the beginning of this year, we wanted to make free sanitary products available for our members in the FMG boardroom hallway, so that they will never have to ask us in our boardroom if they need sanitary products. After some research, we eventually ended up with the Central Student Council (CSR) of the UvA. They were already working on a pilot to get the UvA to make sanitary products available to students free of charge. The pilot looks like this; The CSR has bought sanitary products with part of their budget, which have been distributed to the study associations. The CSR has also ensured that the sanitary products in the vending machines sold at the UvA only cost 15 cents. In short, with the help of the CSR, free sanitary products are available in the boardrooms of FMG and in the toilets of the FMG. How long this will remain the case is another question, the aim of the CSR is for the UvA to take over from them, but the UvA has not yet agreed to this.

We hope that the UvA will take over from them, and if not, we are going to think of other solutions to make it happen.

Professionalism

Study Active Certificate

This year the Study Active Certificate will yet again be distributed to the dedicated students of the Fv-FMG member associations. In addition to distributing the certificates for this year, we have the goal to also give last year's certificates to the candidates who signed up. This means that we will be distributing around what is expected to be 200 certificates signed by the chair of the members association, the chair of Fv-FMG, and the dean. These certificates will be funded by the department and given on a date on which we will consult with the associations and members. There is also an idea to hold somewhat a ceremony, but this might have to be pushed to next year since this year has both a delay and must make up for last year. It has been great to see the progress and to ensure that this certificate will be made in time. We are all excited to bring it to life and see how the members of the study associations are happy to see it coming as a token of appreciation for their hard work in our committees for the study associations throughout their studies.

Public Relations

The Fv-FMG has different channels that we use to promote our events. We use Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn. Besides social media, we also have a website. In the past half year, we have promoted the FMG Party through Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and the website. The Party committee makes the posts themselves and they have access to the Instagram page. The FMG Activity has not been promoted yet. The Activity committee is still working on the promotion posts, and they have access to Instagram as well.

In the past half year, Carlijn has updated the social media and the website to the Fv-FMG boards liking. Carlijn integrated my personal vision and added a previous board page.

Currently, Carlijn is taking some time from the Fv-FMG board, Mathilde is going to take over the website and the Party and Activity Committee can do their promotion themselves when needed.

Sustainability

Sustainability has been one of the topics of interest of the Fv-Fmg for a while now. Sustainability among students and improving it within the university is very important as it concerns our future. For the first half year, we have made sure to use cutlery and cups from the common room to reduce waste created by the FMG. Furthermore, multiple FMG associations have collaborated with UVA's green office and we are looking into further opportunities with them. Sustainability was not the priority of the FMG during the first half of the year. We are hoping to focus more on the topic in the upcoming months.

Financials

Budget Plan & Bank

Last year we spent 179 euros on bank costs. This year, this amount will be higher: we expect to spend around 400 euros on bank costs. Triodos, the bank, will be more expensive this year. There are already 129 euros spent on the bank this year.

We have not received or spent anything on the FMG party and the FMG activity yet. The ticket sale for the FMG party just launched, but we have not received any income from that yet. The FMG activity is due to circumstances a bit delayed, so we have not spent anything on that as well.

There was a lot of miscommunications between the Kamer van Koophandel and this year's treasurer. Invoices they sent ended up in another association's mailbox or in the spam box. That is why an invoice for September got lost in the mail and was never received by the treasurer of the Fv-FMG. This resulted in a fine on top of the original invoice, so we had to spend 173 euros on that.

We changed the contribution this year from 100 euros per association per year to 50 euros. Over the last year, we concluded that there was always a lot of money left over from the contribution. So, we already received eight times 50 euros.

The goal of this year's treasurer, Marijn Schortinghuis, is to be completely transparent to the faculty and to help the other treasurers to put together a solid plan for their activities. Marijn can ask for support from my Audit Committee who have good experience with being a treasurer: Max Fleer, Wini Wildervanck, and Jasper Jonkers.

Acquisition

Last year's acquisition coordinator started working on emphasizing the importance of finding sponsors - the main goal of this year is to improve what has been done during previous years. The plan for this year was divided into three steps. Firstly, create an acquisition plan and English prospectus for sponsors. Secondly, make a new email for acquisition and start working on a manual and company list for the coming years. Finally, reach out to companies and try to make deals with them

So far, we have created a plan for acquisitions and made an English version of the prospectus. The acquisition coordinator has also made an email account (fmg.acquisition@gmail.com) and started the search for companies. She has reached out to a few companies already, however, no deals have been done yet. Furthermore, in the upcoming months, collaborations with study associations will be investigated. The Acquisition coordinator has reached out to a few members of the FMG to discuss potential companies and investigated sponsors of the UvA events such as Intreeweek.

For the rest of the year, the plan is to find and reach out to even more companies. Furthermore, the plan is to create a manual and draft emails for the upcoming acquisition coordinators. So far, no deals have been sealed, but we are hopeful and will try our best to reach the acquisition goal for the year.

Events

FMG Activity

The FMG Activity is an interdisciplinary academic event which is in the process of being organised by a committee that is coordinated by the chair of SEC, Kerem Aktoluğ, and

is composed of eight additional members: Bruna Costa (VSPA), Maja Gołębiowska (SEC), Maria Dijkstra (Comenius), Nicole Winters (Sarphati), Nova van der Hoek (Pegasus), Proma Basu (Mercurius), Ruby Shumaker (Kwakiutl/CASA), and Sebastian Alvino (Common Room). In comparison to the beginning of the academic year, Sebastian Alvino has joined whilst Valentin Grancharov has left the committee after stepping down from the board of Machiavelli.

Previously, this academic year's FMG Activity was planned to take place on the 1st of March 2023 in one of the UvA campuses and in the format of a television talk-show, where the speakers from each field of study within the faculty would have been interviewed by a moderator as well as the audience on their discipline's approach to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on human behaviour. However, the FMG Activity Committee was not able to obtain confirmed speakers for all the Fv-FMG disciplines in time and were faced with unexpected costs regarding the venue. As a result, the committee decided to shift the date and change the theme of the event. The new FMG Activity is planned to take place on the 15th of May 2023 and in the format of Ted Talks, where speakers from each field of study will deliver short presentations on their research concerning the appeal of sex, with a focus on sex workers. At this moment in time, there are three confirmed speakers - Marie-Louise Janssen for Sociology; Rachel Spronk for Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology; Saskia Wieringa for Communication Science - as well as one other speaker who has expressed interest, namely Izabela Bartyzel for Psychology. In comparison to the previous plan, the FMG Activity Committee has reduced the number and the prices of tickets that will be made available with the hopes of selling out the event. Furthermore, the committee also still plans to incorporate colloquium credits to achieve this objective.

Moreover, it is highly important to underline that the planning process of this academic year's FMG Activity thus far has by no means been a smooth sail: the committee has experienced internal conflict on multiple occasions. The main reasons which the FMG Activity Committee finds responsible for these incidents are a lack of transparent and direct communication within the committee; a lack of mutual understanding for the involved study associations' different ways of working; a lack of clear expectation setting for each function of the committee; and the unequal rates of participation as well as effort demonstrated by the members of the committee. From this moment onwards, it is crucial for the FMG Activity Committee to meet,

communicate, and exercise transparency more frequently so that the mistakes of this academic year's first attempt at organising an inter-associational academic event can be averted.

FMG Party

This year, the FMG Party will be held on the 19th of April at Lovelee. There will be 800 tickets available and ticket distribution was set at the start according to the size of the association as well as the demand for tickets. The distribution of tickets can be seen as followed:

Sarphati: 110

Machiavelli: 100

Mercurius: 100

VSPA: 100

Pegasus: 90

Comenius: 80

SEC: 60

CASA: 50

Non-members: 55

Board-members: 45

DJs: 10

The ticket sale started on the 3rd of March and has been going well with over 450 tickets sold. It was decided that each week, the Party Committee will re-evaluate the ticket sales and distribute any leftover tickets accordingly. The reason for the constant evaluation is to give associations a chance to promote the party, consider each association's culture in the way they sell social event tickets, as well as ensuring all tickets are sold before the event. In the case that not all tickets are sold a few days before the event, the committee will put together all the remaining tickets into a pool in which anyone can purchase the leftover tickets. Door sales will also be available on the night if needed.

To celebrate 50 years of Hip-Hop, the committee decided on the theme of 'Bad and Boujee'. The DJs selected are from different associations and will take either 1-hour or 2-hour shifts on

either the main stage or the second stage. As this year is the Lustrum year of the Fv-FMG, to make the party even more special, the committee has decided to make use of the photobooth at Lovelee in which participants can take unlimited photos and we can design the logo printed on the photos.

Borrel Committee

The BoCo is a committee that organizes borrels for all the boards of the Fv-FMG. This year the BoCO already organized one borrel. We organized a scavenger hunt to the location of the borrel, bar Bukowski. All the boards were mixed up into teams since our goal is to keep the relationships between the boards good and tight. All teams had to find various locations by doing tasks before they were sent to the borrel location.

The BoCo is busy right now busy with planning another borrel (or more) in the rest of the year, so this will be continued.

Bored with the Boards

So far, we have held 2 Bored with the Boards in the Common Room. The first event was held by VSPA and SEC, and to celebrate the start of this new event, VSPA used its free event in the Common Room, thus there were no costs for renting the room. The second event was held by Comenius and Mercurius. We have 2 more Bored with the Boards left that have been scheduled, in which Machiavelli will collaborate with Pegasus and CASA with the Common Room. Sarphati has decided to not participate in these events this year due to their busy schedules. The event is going well with attendance from members from all participating associations. Each association will share the costs of the Common Room which results in €3,85 per association per event. The hosts of the event will also cover the costs of the snacks as well as come up with games to play. We find that these events are very cosy and a nice way for the boards to bond outside of work hours, as well as meeting new members from other associations.

Collaborations

BVC

The second book sale of the year went relatively smoothly. There were several issues, mostly related to delivery mistakes on Smartbooks' side. Regardless, the sale went well, and some associations were able to increase their numbers. The second-hand book sale went very well, but there is still room for improvement regarding promotion and general organisation throughout the year.

We have received the new contract proposal, we have evaluated it with each association's BVC representative, and came to an agreement with Smartbooks. There are no major changes from the previous contract. We will retain a 5% income from new and second-hand books, and the discount will remain 8% on Dutch books and 13% on English books.

Looking forward, the BVC will work on a more extensive transmission document, as the summer book sale last year was problematic for many associations. This year's BVC is going to be responsible for planning it, to make it easier for the next FMG.

On the logistical side of things, we talked about how to make the whole process smoother. First off, we wanted to receive confirmation of purchase when people buy the books, so that we can stay updated even throughout the year, and have an idea of how the home sale is going. The issue here is a privacy one, since they would have to share personal info on the buyer with the association. The agreement we reached is to have one person per board (so the person responsible for the book sale) sign a non-disclosure agreement of sorts in which we take responsibility and agree to not share this information with anyone. Smartbooks will draw up the form and send it once it's done. The second logistical issue was not being able to check whether teachers had filled in the form we sent with the book titles for the next sale. It is not possible for us to access this information, so here's a couple of ways to go about it, ranked in order of what would benefit us more:

1. In the spirit of working closer with our departments, to surpass the issue entirely we could talk to our programme directors (or whomever is responsible for the organisation of the course catalogue) and ask them to make a list of what books are going to be used. In this way, the faculty itself will be able to send out a list of books required at the start

of summer, adding information about our associations and the link to buy the books already, making it look so much more official than an Instagram promotion and being able to reach many more students and much earlier in the summer. In case they are not willing to help this much.

2. We ask our departments / education desk / study advisors to send out the email with the form to collect book titles themselves, giving it a more official feel. Hopefully, this would make the teachers more active towards it. Then we ask to send a very general reminder to everyone to fill the form.
3. We keep doing it like we did this year and hope they fill in the form, if they don't Smartbooks is going to take the info from the course catalogue.

Faculty Student Council (FSR)

Up till now there has always been a representative of the FSR present at the board meetings, as intended in our policy plan. This works great for both parties as the FSR gets updated about our work and we get updated about what keeps the FSR busy. This way we can come up with solutions together and we can support each other's ideas.

Common Room

The cooperation between FMG and Common Room has been very fruitful since the start of the year. Aside from being a popular hang-out spot for members of all associations, many boards have hosted open and private events with the help of CR staff. After a bit of a rough start, all associations settled in their bar shifts, and with some exceptions from time to time, everything seems to be working out. The CR chair is also always present at FMG meetings and has been providing help and support regarding the Activity. Overall CR is a very valuable space for the FMG and all its members, so we are glad that the CR board is very open, helpful and collaborative, and we hope this relationship continues in the years to come.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the tenth board of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences thinks the year up till now has been very interesting and that we learned a lot. The cooperation has been instructive so far and have the feeling that boards are bonding with each other across all

associations in this massive faculty. Furthermore, we are always looking forward to learning and bonding more with each other in the next month's/years. Last, we are all excited for the activity and party that are coming which will bring us together for fun and learning. We want to thank the activity committee and the party committee in advance as we look forward to the upcoming half of the year and getting to know each other even closer.