**History Student Association Excalibur**

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**Semi-annual report of the 40th board of GSV Excalibur**

**2023-2024**

**Table of Contents**

[*Foreword 5*](#_heading=h.30j0zll)

[*General 6*](#_heading=h.1fob9te)

[General Member Assemblies 6](#_heading=h.3znysh7)

[General Annual Assembly 6](#_heading=h.6tf595h6x80q)

[Alumni 6](#_heading=h.2et92p0)

[GSV-room 7](#_heading=h.ph8bd4a1i2wk)

[Sustainability 7](#_heading=h.tyjcwt)

[Inclusivity 8](#_heading=h.3dy6vkm)

[Internationalization 8](#_heading=h.1t3h5sf)

[Member-choice activity 9](#_heading=h.4d34og8)

[Membership Cards 9](#_heading=h.2s8eyo1)

[Privacy 10](#_heading=h.17dp8vu)

[Council of Advice 10](#_heading=h.3rdcrjn)

[Representativity 11](#_heading=h.26in1rg)

[Schedule 11](#_heading=h.682n94ibyqgx)

[Wellbeing 11](#_heading=h.lnxbz9)

[*Accounting 13*](#_heading=h.35nkun2)

[Starting budgets 13](#_heading=h.1ksv4uv)

[Payments 13](#_heading=h.44sinio)

[Committee-treasurer meeting 14](#_heading=h.yx1lp3i07dsk)

[Conscribo 14](#_heading=h.2jxsxqh)

[Audit Committee 15](#_heading=h.z337ya)

[Rabobank 15](#_heading=h.3j2qqm3)

[*Committees 16*](#_heading=h.1y810tw)

[Acquisition Committee 16](#_heading=h.4i7ojhp)

[Activities Committee 16](#_heading=h.2xcytpi)

[Archive Committee 17](#_heading=h.1ci93xb)

[Career Committee 17](#_heading=h.3whwml4)

[Concert Committee 18](#_heading=h.2bn6wsx)

[Congress Committee 20](#_heading=h.pkahrylhb2d)

[Teacher-Bites-Dog Committee 20](#_heading=h.qsh70q)

[Freshman Committee 20](#_heading=h.3as4poj)

[Party and Drinks Committee 21](#_heading=h.1pxezwc)

[Charity Committee 23](#_heading=h.6ggyvkb7shly)

[Historical Institutional Journal 24](#_heading=h.49x2ik5)

[Internationalization Committee 25](#_heading=h.2p2csry)

[Introduction Committee 26](#_heading=h.hxd5ggkpkuxi)

[Lustrum Committee 26](#_heading=h.147n2zr)

[Education and Lecture Committee 28](#_heading=h.3o7alnk)

[Podcast Committee 29](#_heading=h.23ckvvd)

[Travel Committee 29](#_heading=h.ihv636)

[Social Media Committee 30](#_heading=h.32hioqz)

[Sports Committee 31](#_heading=h.1hmsyys)

[*Externe contacten 32*](#_heading=h.41mghml)

[Faculty of Arts 32](#_heading=h.2grqrue)

[Umbrella Association LETO 32](#_heading=h.vx1227)

[Study Programme 32](#_heading=h.3fwokq0)

[Samenwerkingsoverleg Faculteitsverenigingen 33](#_heading=h.1v1yuxt)

[Students of History Netherlands 33](#_heading=h.4f1mdlm)

[*Interne contacten 35*](#_heading=h.2u6wntf)

[Drinks 35](#_heading=h.19c6y18)

[Committee Officers 35](#_heading=h.3tbugp1)

[Committee Chair Meetings 36](#_heading=h.28h4qwu)

[Member hours 36](#_heading=h.nmf14n)

[*Promotie 37*](#_heading=h.37m2jsg)

[Lecture Talks 37](#_heading=h.1mrcu09)

[Facebook group 37](#_heading=h.46r0co2)

[Instagram 37](#_heading=h.2lwamvv)

[LinkedIn 37](#_heading=h.111kx3o)

[Newsletter 38](#_heading=h.3l18frh)

[TikTok 38](#_heading=h.206ipza)

[Website 38](#_heading=h.4k668n3)

[Whatsapp 39](#_heading=h.2zbgiuw)

# Foreword

Dear members,

Herewith the 40th board of GSV Excalibur presents its semi-annual report for the association year 2023-2024. With a satisfied feeling, the board looks back on a half year in which many members managed to find their way to activities and in which preparations were made for the celebration of the eighth lustrum. In addition to all the preparations for the lustrum week, we also started drafting a code of conduct, updated the site and the Acquisition Committee brought us warm through the winter days.

 In the semi-annual report we not only look at the past, but certainly already at what lies ahead for the association. When we have all recovered from the festive February month, we will again put our best foot forward at several festivals, undertake some trips, but also continue to delve into history through the G-Café and Congress.

 In short, a lot has happened in the last few months, but there is also a lot ahead of us. Therefore, we cordially invite you to read through this semi-annual report with a critical eye and especially to provide feedback at the upcoming Semi-annual General Member Assembly. In this way, together we will make this year ironclad never to be forgotten.

Kind regards,

The 40th board of GSV Excalibur,

*Matz van der Berg, Chair*

*Stijn Ingenpass, Secretary*

*Giovanni Zajec, Treasurer*

*Vera Bosch, General Boardmember Internal Affairs*

*Eva Klep, General Boardmember External Affairs*

*Eva Grooten, General Boardmember Media*

# General

## General Member Assemblies

Over the past months, prior to the Semi-annual General Member Assembly (SAGMA), two General Assembly Assemblies (GMAs) have taken place: the Policy-GMA and the General Annual Assembly. The verbal PR and messages in the PR groups paid off and provided a nice mix of year layers present at the GMAs. The board does hope to enthuse more first-year students to also attend GMAs and make their voices heard by personally reaching out to them to attend GMAs. In addition, the board is also going to do its best in the next semester to get more international students to attend GMAs. The board is going to work on this by making more verbal PR directed to first-year and international students.

### General Annual Assembly

At the General Annual Assembly (GAA) on October 19, 2023, the board gave an explanation of vote on their position of the candidacy of one of the candidates. Because of the GMA’s reactions to the board's position, the board realized that they should have approached wanting to make this explanation of vote differently and thought more thoughtfully about what the consequences of this explanation of vote could have been. For the course of events at this GAA, the board has also apologized to the candidate in question. By its attitude during the GAA and the formal tone of the statement, the board created an uncomfortable situation that suggests exclusivity, whereas the board actually values the cooperation between the GAA, Council of Advice and the board. All in all, the board should have thought more carefully about how they would express their objections and certainly should not have brought this as a board.

Within two weeks of the GAA, on Nov. 1, a conversation took place between the board and the candidate to personally discuss the situation with the person. During this conversation, all awkwardness was removed from the air and everyone indicated that they were looking forward to the future and wanted to make it a good collaboration.

## Alumni

The Career Committee is already busy organizing the alumni day; for its progress, see the ‘Career Committee’ heading.

 In addition, the board has checked the GSV alumni file for expired contact forms and had them renewed where possible. In addition, toward the end of the association year, when it is clear who all wants to unsubscribe from the association, the board plans to send these people a contact form and hopefully have them fill it out. Furthermore, the board will try to provide as many alumni as possible with a contact form after the awarding of bachelor's and master's degrees in May and June 2024 and have them fill it in.

## GSV-room

As promised, a reading nook has been created in the room over the past six months, although unfortunately it has not been used that much. Also, some stuff has been removed from the room so that it looks more tidy. Furthermore, a new closet has been installed since the previous one needed replacing.

## Sustainability

The 40th Board has spent the past six months looking at ways to make the association more sustainable. To reduce paper waste, many things have been digitized, such as all registrations for activities and new member registrations after the introduction. Registrations for the association's trips have still been done physically to ensure registration in order (first come, first served). A smaller print of the HInT has also been introduced, from 300 to 150 copies per edition. See the heading "HInT" for further information.

When acquiring new products, partnerships with climate-neutral companies have been considered, for example with the merchandise. For example, the Lustrum thermos of the winter line is made of carbon-neutral material and the Lustrum bags are also made sustainably. Also, only fair-trade coffee and tea were purchased for member hours or from companies that support the Rainforest Alliance. In addition, the board wanted to start using more reusable items for activities. Over the past six months, the board has done this several times, as well as borrowed items from other associations, for example at the First Year Pubquiz. For this reuse, the inventory list of our association has been used, which has also been updated by giving each committee a link to add new-bought items to the inventory themselves. However, this is still in its infancy. The board will work in the coming six months to further update the old inventory. The association's physical archives will also be worked on in the coming six months to digitize them in order to make the association more sustainable. Only the minutes of the BMs and GMAs will still be printed for the physical archive.

When it comes to the association's travels, the board has looked at the possibilities of making it more sustainable by traveling via bus and/or train. Due to inflation and long travel times for the "green" travel options, the Travel Committee and Board have chosen to fly with the Grand Trip anyway, but all on-site travel will be by bus and train. Unfortunately, the airline we are flying with does not give an option to offset carbon emissions or carbon footprint. More information about the trips will follow under the Travel Committee heading.

## Inclusivity

The board values a sense of inclusiveness. Making all members feel safe, involved and welcome at the student association is a priority for the board. Over the past six months, the board noticed that different members participated in the get-togethers and activities, creating a diverse membership structure where multiple year groups came together. By engaging with the members in attendance, the board found out how they were doing and was able to respond accordingly at subsequent get-togethers and activities.

 Also, over the past six months, the board has already put a lot of effort into providing a non-alcoholic option at every get-together and activity, which has gone over well among the members so far. However, the board did note that involving social themes in get-togethers and activities is not yet at the level the board had hoped. For example, the Education and Lectures Committee has organized the *Stemmen & Strijden* activity on the history of the Dutch elections, but so far it has stopped there. In the coming semester, the board will therefore continue to try to encourage committees to do more with important social themes in their get-togethers and activities. However, committees are not required to do anything with social themes, only encouraged to give them the freedom to come up with their own themes as well. The board will continue to look into implementing social themes at the Early Modern Movie Night or at board get-togethers.

## Internationalization

Although the proportion of Comparative European History (CEH) students is less than that of bacher History students, the board is pleased to see international students from different year levels attending activities. This is something the board would like to maintain and promote with further internationalization. College talks are also given to first- and second-year CEH students every month to motivate them to join activities. At the beginning of the college year, the entire board was present to introduce themselves to the new CEH students so that even those who could not attend the introduction week feel involved in the association.

 The board tries to offer every activity in English and so far this has always succeeded, except in a single case where speakers during the pub lecture, for example, preferred to speak in Dutch. However, efforts are being made to offer lectures in English and, for example, the main language of the congress this academic year will be English. In addition, all text on the website has also been provided with a correct and up-to-date English translation so that now all information on the website is equally accessible to both Dutch and international students. The same goes for the posters hung in the room. For example, an English poster of the "Are you okay?" campaign has been hung in the room so that everyone can access this information. The board hopes to make international students feel involved in this way and will look into further ways to do so in the coming semester.

## Member-choice activity

During the past six months, PR was again made for the Member Choice Activity that will take place during Lustrum Week. Members could give their preferences, although these had to meet a few conditions. For example, the choice of a cantus was excluded since it would already be held during Lustrum Week. It was also mentioned that activities contrary to the law and/or the university's code of conduct would not be organized. After the members shared their ideas, a poll was posted with the most suggested activities. From this the members could finally choose which activity it would be. At the time of writing the semester report, the activity has yet to take place so a reflection on how this activity went will follow in the annual report. The activity chosen was a beer tasting, which will take place in *Brouwerij de Hemel*. Furthermore, due to a busy schedule, the board chose not to have a second member-choice activity take place in the second semester.

## Membership Cards

A lot of membership cards were handed out to new members again this year. These were given a new blue sticker to keep the card up to date. PR was done by the board to collect the membership cards and about their benefits. These were sent out in the PR groups and put on the Instagram Story. In addition, members were able to pick up a sticker from Bar2 and café de Bieb for on their membership card. Upon showing the card, members receive discounts on both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks at these and many more pubs. The board has continued to work on the online membership card. This is now animated so that it is clear to partners that no screenshot is used when showing the card. The board is going to circulate this system to partners over the next six months. No promotion has yet gone out to members about the online membership card, as work has first been done to get both the card and the website itself fully up-to-date. However, PR of this will appear in the second half of the year.

## Privacy

Over the past six months, the 40th board has done its best to protect members' privacy and comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Nowadays, the photos on the website are not on the website itself, but on a Google Drive to lighten the website. In addition, the photos from the new camera contained too many pixels to be downloaded onto the website. The Google Drive therefore offered a solution to both problems. The folders from this Drive are visible on the website and thus the photos can be viewed on the website. The board has ensured that the Google Drive account where these photos are stored is secured with two-step verification. In addition, as before, it is only possible to see the photos from this Drive by members logged in through the portal. Folders cannot be forwarded with a link because the Drive is connected to the website via a plug-in. A plug-in is a piece of software that adds additional functionality to the website. The Drive can thus be viewed within the website itself so that members are not redirected to an external page. This keeps the photos secure and thus the privacy of the members. At the beginning of the college year, however, some folders were visible outside the portal. This was an error in the settings of the folders in question by the General Boardmember Media and was quickly corrected after this was pointed out. However, this error was made when the photos were still stored on the website itself and cannot happen again now that the photos are on the Google Drive. Finally, photos older than three years were removed from the website and placed on the association's hard drive.

## Council of Advice

In recent months there have been a number of contacts between the 40th board and the Council of Advice (CoA) on the practical side of contact and on substantive issues. The CoA did receive a decision list only a few times in the past six months, and not every two weeks. This is because there weren’t matters of which the CoA needed to be informed every two weeks.

Prior to the SAGMA, two meetings took place between the 40th board and the CoA. The first time arrangements were made for contact between the two groups and matters such as confidential contact persons (ccps), a possible code of conduct and the website were discussed. The second meeting discussed the semi-annual report and the CoA's feedback on it. The board highly values these physical meetings because issues can be discussed more clearly this way than online.

 In addition, three people from the CoA have been appointed as ccp, one of whom was already ccp and two of whom are new. PR has been made for ccps in the PR groups and on Instagram, in addition there is a poster in the GSV-room with their photos, names and email address to increase their awareness within the association. The ccps are also attending ccp-trainings offered by Student Life and International Mobility (SLIM). These trainings prepare ccps for the situations they are likely to encounter and how to deal with these.

## Representativity

The board has worn its board suits during formal affairs of the university, at constitution drinks as well as during the GAA. During regular activities of the association, the board almost always wore its board polo shirts to create recognition among the members, with some exceptions of theme parties and sports activities where the board then wore either theme clothes or the black sports polo shirts. During room and member hours, the board members in charge have largely worn the board polo shirts. This coming semester, the board will also try to adhere to these forms of representation as much as possible.

## Schedule

Because of the Lustrum year, the schedule is extra full this college year. Because of this, it was not always possible to have all committees organize the desired number of activities. For this reason, the General Board member Internal Relations, in consultation with the rest of the board, chose to have some committees organize an activity together in the second semester.

## Wellbeing

Over the past months, the board has been working on the well-being of its members by attending several training sessions on well-being and social safety. One of the trainings was organized by SLIM and was given by Sexmatters Foundation. This training included the importance of a code of conduct. The other training was organized by the university's confidential advisors and it discussed how to deal with issues such as accusations of inappropriate behavior. In addition, the board dealt with the welfare of the members by investigating what the "are you okay?" campaign has to offer in terms of tools. This has revealed all that the board and committees can do to make everyone feel safe at activities.

All these combined insights have led the board to work on creating its own code of conduct. To have a handle on the drafting of the code of conduct, other members of the SGN were also contacted, as some of them already have their own code of conduct. The Radboud University (RU) code of conduct was also used to get inspiration for what should be included in a code of conduct.

In recent months no PR has been made for the gezondeboel.nl website, as stated in the policy plan. Nor will there be any more of this PR. The board has decided to do this in order to be able to devote more time and energy to drawing up the code of conduct. In this way, the board thinks it can better contribute to promoting the well-being and social safety of its members than by doing PR for this site.

There was also a time during a members' hour after exams when members could drop by to talk to the Education Committee (OLC) about what they would like to see different within the courses they took. However, hardly any use was made of this and it has therefore so far remained just this one moment. In consultation with the OLC it will be examined whether there will be another moment.

Furthermore, during the university's welfare week, the association participated in the Arts and Crafts activity. This involved GSV members, as well as students from outside the association, coming together to craft paper shoes and houses. The board received many positive comments about the association's participation in this activity.

Finally, the board also offered Welfare courses after the second exam period. For this, the board was in contact with a coach from Nijmegen who provides courses on mental fitness and resilience for students. This made use of the welfare subsidies from SLIM. The board had scheduled two appointments with the coach so that members who had lectures at one time could still attend the other. In addition, one of the courses would be offered in English. Unfortunately, because there were no applications for this, the board did not allow these courses to go forward. The board is currently looking into whether the welfare course can take place at another time in the next six months.

# Accounting

## Starting budgets

So far, all committees have had enough of the basic budget set by the Treasurer. As already discussed in the policy plan, most committees have received a lower base budget. Again, this has not caused any problems so far, although it is expected that the HInT committee will exceed their basic budget (see heading 'Historical Institutional Journal'). The board will therefore provide additional budgeting from item 8130 of the annual budget to still meet the HInT budget. From the committee treasurers, the Treasurer has received generally positive feedback on their basic budget. For the Party and Drinks Committee, there was an error in the calculation of the base budget. As a result, they do not have access to €1,400.00 but to €1,600.00. In a personal conversation with the committee treasurer of the Party and Drinks Committee, the Treasurer apologised for this confusion.

 At the beginning of the year, clear deadlines were set by the Treasurer for the committee treasurers to deliver their budgets and income statements on time. This proved difficult to meet in some cases, as was the case many times in previous years. The committees are aware of the deadlines and have indicated that they will comply with them in the coming six months.

Even the non-commission-related budget items, with the exception of saleable merchandise (3012), have so far had enough of the basic budget.

## Payments

In the first half of the year, (almost) all the association's transactions were conducted in a cashless manner. Registrations for activities and invoicing and collection are entirely automatic via Conscribo (see heading 'Conscribo'). This method of payment makes it more difficult for participating members to end up in the accounts receivable file. Because non-intentional chargebacks have been contacted directly, no debtors have arisen from activities or merchandise sales. Also, as was the case in previous years, membership fees were collected by direct debit. With this, 781 members were collected. Unlike the direct debits from activities and merchandise, 60 members did return the amount here. The Treasurer has a second round of collections outstanding to collect the remaining sixty members again. These members have been notified of the second round of collections via e-mail, but will be listed in the accounts receivable file for the time being. The Treasurer intends to actively work on the debtors' file over the next six months and expresses the hope that as many payments as possible will still be made. With this, all outstanding debtors will be waived and recovered from the association until the year 2020-2021. Where appropriate, the board, in consultation with the CoA, will decide to deregister non-paying members.

 As of October 2023, the board said goodbye to the Mollie payment system and switched to the Conscribo billing system with the approval of the ALV and the Finance Committee. This has met with a positive response. Through this invoicing system, debtors are automatically noted and also disappear again automatically when payment has taken place. Participating members receive an announcement e-mail with the exact collection date for collections higher than 20 euros. So far, the system has only been used for activities of less than 100 participants. The board therefore intends to extend this try-out until October 2024 and will come up with a final recommendation at the GAA.

## Committee-treasurer meeting

The Committee Treasurer meeting has so far taken place once in September 2023. In this meeting, the Treasurer showed the committee treasurers how to create budgets and income statements, discussed deadlines and dealt with any pitfalls. In the process, a common folder was created with examples of budgets and income statements uploaded. A file was also created in which the joint agreements between the Treasurer and committee treasurers are noted. Another Committee-Treasurer meeting will be held next semester to look back on the association year so far and see what can be learned from each other. The Treasurer intends to schedule the meeting after the election of the new candidate board, so that the candidate treasurer can also join this meeting and take the feedback from the committee treasurers into account in the 2024-2025 annual budget.

 Besides the consultations, there were two individual contact moments between the Treasurer and the committee treasurers. In the first session, they looked at the prepared budget and in the second session they looked back at the past six months and looked ahead to the rest of the association year. These moments of contact made the cooperation between Treasurer and committee treasurers more accessible. In the individual sessions, the committee treasurers said they appreciated the guidance from the board.

## Conscribo

Last six months, the Conscribo accounting programme was used by the Treasurer to manage the association's income and expenditure. The Secretary and the General Board Media member also used Conscribo's pages accessible to them to access the membership database and mailing list. In doing so, the Secretary archived all members who had unsubscribed before 1 October 2023. Three correctly-unsubscribed members were overlooked in the process. However, their dues were refunded and they were deregistered. Last but not least, since this association year, the registration of new members has also been done via a Conscribo-managed plug-in on the website. The Secretary feels this saves time and the online registrations also save a lot of paperwork.

## Audit Committee

Contact between the Audit Committee and the Treasurer has been progressing over the past six months. Both met once in January 2024 to conduct a cash audit. No significant matters occurred during this. Besides the cash audit, the Cash Committee also assisted the board in the financial handling of the Small Trip (see heading 'Travel Committee'). Since payment for activities and merchandise now goes through Conscribo's accounting system, the Finance Committee also has insight into who has or has not paid. These records therefore no longer need to be kept on registration lists from now on.

## Rabobank

The Treasurer has found this year's contact with Rabobank to be very pleasant. Until the end of October 2023, the Treasurer had to make payments using the 39th Board Treasurer's bank card, but just before the Small Trip, the new bank card and credit card were sent and could be put into use. There have also been no problems in making payments with Rabobank. The Treasurer does not expect this to happen either.

# Committees

## Acquisition Committee

The Acquisition Committee (AcquiCo) has spent the past six months focusing primarily on devising and developing a winter line as merchandise, featuring both the original GSV logo and also the lustrum logo. The sale of the merchandise has been done via a Google Forms form, but will be done with the summer line via a form on the website, as with signing up for activities, as described in the policy plan. Payment for merchandise has been made through invoices and direct debits. The winter line was well liked by members and there were many orders. As a result, the summer line will require additional room in the budget in the line item of saleable merchandise. This line item will continue to break even, but there is more room through a budget increase to buy up the summer line and sell it back to members.

In addition, new stickers and gifts for members have been ordered for during the Lustrum Week. The committee will be looking at releasing a summer line in the near future and already coming up with great ideas for giveaway merchandise for during the introduction.

In addition to merchandise, the committee researched new deals, contacts and other collaborations. In September, the association entered into a collaboration with the *Molenstraat*, which is for now very advantageous. With the Molenstraat deal, the association gets very cheap drinks, more spaces to organize activities and €75 in sponsorship per organized activity. Also, members with a sticker on their membership card get cheap drinks at Bar2 and The Bieb every day of the week. The cooperation with the Molenstraat will be used frequently during the next six months during activities and parties.

The next six months the committee will continue to look for new collaborations and sponsors. The old contracts have also been renewed and adjusted where possible by adding more non-alcoholic deals.

## Activities Committee

The Activities Committee (AcCo) has again organized familiar activities over the past six months, such as the famous Gotcha! and the Trivial Competition. Gotcha! was a resounding success the first week; the second week went more slowly and there was no longer a good view of who was still in the game and who was not. The committee reflected on this and will make sure this is better streamlined next year. The Trivial Competition was a fun and busy activity. Brewery Florijn had reserved enough space for the association and a fine drink deal, making it a successful evening. However, the committee did notice that some of the games were dated, which sometimes caused some fuss about certain terms/concepts. The committee is going to take this into next year and consider purchasing newer games.

The AcCo started somewhat early this year to make arrangements for the annual Members' Weekend which will take place again in May. Currently, the location of the weekend has not yet been determined due to the amount of venues already rented out. Therefore, the committee is looking for locations a little further away than the usual 1.5 hours by public transportation. The committee is hopeful that a location will be known at the time of the Semi-Annual GMA. In the coming period the committee will start working on the weekend planning and PR messages for the members' weekend, so that as soon as the location has been determined, the weekend can be announced. The committee is also looking forward to organizing upcoming activities.

## Archive Committee

The Archives Committee has spent the past six months collecting the agendas and minutes of all GSV committees. This has maintained the new working method introduced last year. The committee has met twice in the past six months to discuss and reflect on the working method. It emerged that in some committees contact with the committee secretary is difficult, resulting in files not being forwarded. For those committees where this occurs, the Chairman or the person responsible for the board will be contacted. Then that person can address the committee secretary.

 A hard drive has been purchased from the committee's base budget. This hard drive is intended to eventually hold all the files of the committees. For now, the files are only on the committees' own Google Drive and the Archives Committee's Google Drive. However, this will be transferred to the hard drive already owned by the GSV and to the additional hard drive purchased during the second semester. The board responsible will take responsibility for this.

## Career Committee

The Career Committee contributed to the Nijmegen Geschiedenisfestival (NGF) last October 2023 through two activities. The first activity was a very successful Letterlocking workshop for 11- and 12-year-old elementary school students. The committee had chosen this target group because of the hands-on nature of the workshop. The House of the History of Nijmegen was also enthusiastic about it because it brought a young target group to the NGF. In the evening, in cooperation with Infocentrum WO2, the committee organized a lecture on the Second World War in Nijmegen and a party afterwards. The turnout at the evening activity was unfortunately a lot lower than hoped for. Meanwhile, the committee is also already working on their contribution to the October 2024 edition.

 The Career Committee will ensure that there will be another alumni day this year. In committee meetings it was decided to use a survey of alumni to survey what they expect from an alumni day. Based on these answers, the committee will organize the day.

The Career Market this year will not be organized by the Career Committee, but by Career Service. However, the committee does help in contacting agencies that may be of interest to the later careers of current history students. The President has recently had several meetings with Career Service, LETO and other Literature societies about coordinating which companies to invite.

The committee is also hard at work on another Political Trip. In recent months, thought has been given to the format of this day and initial contacts have been made with agencies that the association could host. Unlike last year's two-day trip, this year's trip will last only one day. The day will take place in May 2024 and will be announced once final arrangements have been made with the host agencies.

Finally, the alumni videos. Alumni videos have already been uploaded on the GSV's Instagram in recent months. These videos have also been positively received. Due to the required effort in the other activities, the committee has not yet gotten further into contacting alumni, the board representative is going to make sure that the committee as a whole puts more time into this in the coming months.

## Concert Committee

The Concert Committee (CoCo) started again this year with a large number of new members. The large number of applications at the committee fair allowed long-sitting members to make way for fresh energy. As the first activity, a Music Quiz was organised, as in past years. Despite the quiz being plagued by sound problems, which were fortunately solved after half an hour, the committee could speak of a very successful activity with high turnout and positive feedback.

 The first festival on the calendar this association year was Festyland. However, due to the lack of enthusiasm, the committee decided to cancel the festival. Next association year, it will have to be considered whether Festyland should be on the agenda again, given the low interest. At the time of writing this half-year report, registrations for Paaspop have opened. A meeting with the committee and Paaspop's volunteer organisation took place at the end of 2023 and agreements were made about the next edition. Although the number of registrations was slightly disappointing compared to last year, the board and committee hope that this year's festival will again be unforgettable.

Besides the standard festivals, the CoCo has also been busy planning the Members' Choice Festival. Through a form on the website, members could submit festivals they would like to go to with other members this association year and then vote on the submitted festivals. Two festivals were eventually chosen: Rock Werchter and Best Kept Secret. The CoCo will work hard over the next six months to organise one of the two festivals. The committee is also already approaching Down the Rabbit Hole. As there were problems last year with the number of festival tickets allocated for the association, the committee is currently exploring whether volunteer tickets can be obtained in another way without affecting the association's volunteer contribution.

Yet the committee has also encountered a number of obstacles over the past six months. Major renewals in the composition of the committee have meant that there is less motivation and know-how than in other years. The board representative realised too late that the committee needed extra guidance to approach festivals on time. In this regard, the board recognises that the board representative should have opened the dialogue with the committee at an earlier stage about what the committee members would need, to emphasise that the festivals are essential for the association's income and he should have offered them more explicit support. When it became clear that the organisation of Paaspop needed extra attention and there might be a chance that the association would not travel to Pinkpop this year, the board representative, in consultation with the rest of the board, decided to share the committee chairmanship with the already existing committee chair. In this way, the board hopes to manage the committee better and more adequately. In addition, the General Boardmember Internal Relations joined the committee to support the board representative and committee members. In retrospect, the board representative realised that this rather drastic change for the committee should have been better communicated to the entire committee, instead of only sharing this change in a committee meeting. The board representative acknowledges that in doing so, he has suggested the idea of being above the committee, when this was by no means the intention. Nevertheless, with this renewed composition, the board expresses confidence that this year too, through cooperation and communication, unforgettable festivals will be organised for the members.

## Congress Committee

This year's committee again consists of a mix of GSV and Ex Tempore members. The cooperation between the groups is going well and together they are working enthusiastically to organize the Congress which will take place on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. The speakers, including the chairman of the day, have all but been arranged. In inviting the speakers, extra attention has been paid to the diversity of this group. This means that the committee has not only looked at various fields of research, but also the background of the speakers themselves with the goal of making sure that, for example, there’s approximately an equal number of men and women among the selection of speakers.

 Currently the committee is working hard to make further information clear and to establish ticket sales. Exactly what the ticketing system will look like this year and whether it will differ from last year is currently still being considered. The congress was announced on social media in December 2023 and will be further promoted within and outside the association in the coming period. To make the congress accessible to the widest possible audience, the language of communication will be English, as in past years.

## Teacher-Bites-Dog Committee

The Docent-Bite-Dog Committee was formed as early as November 2023 this association year, so that a photo could be taken in time for the Lustrum calendar. An additional advantage was that meetings could be held immediately in Week 1 of the third term. This meeting considered which teacher-duos should be interviewed and invited to be present at the activity itself. In addition, consideration was given to where the activity will take place. A lot of people had also signed up for this committee, which will hopefully make the organization of the activity easy.

## Freshman Committee

The Freshman Committee (EjCo) has again worked hard during the first semester to involve as many first-year students as possible in the association. The First Year BBQ and also the Pubquiz were well attended. The cooperation between the committee members, also thanks to the chairs, is going well. Parents Day is coming up in April 2024 and this includes looking at the possibilities for an international Parents' Day. The committee has decided to ask the teachers of CEH whether the parents of international students could watch a lecture via a zoom-link or via Microsoft Teams. In addition, the first-year CEH students will be asked whether they would like to make a video with the committee in which they show the campus. This poll will be held during a college talk with the first-year CEH students, but will also be communicated with the Intercom if they could gauge the enthusiasm for this among the first-year CEH students. The video will be sent to the parents of the CEH students when it is made. Should the CEH students like this, a date and time when filming could take place will be considered. In addition, another Pre-activity will be organized. This will take place later in the college year before the Beer Games. The Pré-activity that should have taken place in the first semester, could not take place as there was not enough time to organize it and PR for it in time. In fact, the activities were planned too close together. The General Board member Internal Affairs could have looked at the planning better in this regard. Furthermore, the EjCo will organize a free activity together with another committee.

## Party and Drinks Committee

The Party and Drinks Committee (FeBo) has been working hard for the first six months to provide members with some fun in the evening. It started back in September 2023 with the opening drinks at Café Samson and the opening party at Bar de Regenboog. Both activities were very successful and had a busy turnout. In addition, the committee also organized a Sinterklaas drink at Café Camelot in late November. This activity was also well attended. As icing on the cake, the Christmas party took place at De 4 Heeren the week before the Christmas vacations. At the last party of the year, once again many members attended. Moreover, people were enthusiastic about the new location.

In addition to our own parties, an "Inglorious party" also took place at Café Van Buren. The contact with the other study associations was with the FeBo board member. The contact went smoothly and meetings were held with some regularity. Unfortunately, the turnout of GSV members was disappointing. This had to do with the fact that the party fell on a Monday and was in the week of St. Nicholas. Because of this, many already had a busy schedule. This will be looked at better for future parties. There will also be another edition of Proudt2beFout in the next six months.

The organization of the parties and get-togethers went smoothly. When organizing these activities, consideration was given to the start times, which were always between 20:00-20:30, with the exception of the Inglorious party. This way, members who did not have a room in Nijmegen could still attend. The committee also made more allowance for drink deals on non-alcoholic refreshments. For example, at the Sinterklaas drink there was a deal for 0.0% dark beer and at the Inglorious party there was a deal for soft drinks.

However, the committee also ran into some obstacles. These were mainly related to organizing the Lustrum gala. First, there were problems regarding the finances of the gala. Early on, the committee came to the conclusion that many gala venues had become considerably more expensive and that there was therefore little room in the budget for a more expensive venue or for nice extra perks. This was a big blow to the committee, as it was expected that there would be a lot of extra money for a more elaborate Lustrum gala. The committee then started looking at venues that did fall within the budget and ended up at the Waagh, among others. However, the board did not prefer the Waagh, given that this is the same venue as last year's gala. The board feared disappointed reactions from members if the Lustrum gala was not much different from the previous year's gala.. It was then argued by the committee that there should be more money for the gala to go for another location. The board said this was not possible and that other solutions should be sought. For next year, it would be wise if the FeBo budget took into account the greatly increased prices in hosting the gala compared to previous years.

Finally, the Board Treasurer joined a committee meeting. During this meeting the atmosphere was not always constructive, but in the end a financial plan was drawn up in good cooperation. In this meeting it was decided that extra money could go to the gala by cutting back on the other parties and get-togethers. The committee thought this was a good solution. In addition, a miscalculation by the Treasurer revealed that the committee's basic budget was actually €200 more than had been calculated. This made it possible to hold a gala at Fort Lent for €35 per person. It only went wrong again because a PR message with this price had already gone out before the Treasurer had received a full budget of the gala and the cuts from the committee. As a result, the PR had to be removed again, causing confusion among the members. The board responsible should have communicated more clearly to the committee in this situation that the award needed to be confirmed by the Treasurer before it was announced.

It was intended that the FeBo would take on the organizing of the Lustrum gala, but would do so in consultation with the Lustrum Committee (LusCo). It was decided to leave the organization with the FeBo, since this committee has more experience in organizing galas. The collaboration with the LusCo was agreed upon because the FeBo was working with part of the LusCo's budget. However, this did not go smoothly when the LusCo questioned Fort Lent as the final gala location. In fact, the FeBo had already set its sights on this location and because of all the money issues, there was also some time pressure behind it. The FeBo board responsible should have informed the LusCo earlier that Fort Lent was being considered. Unfortunately, this did not happen. So a meeting had to be scheduled on very short notice to meet with the FeBo and the LusCo. Before this meeting, the FeBo was supposed to have everything figured out for both locations. However, the main focus was on Fort Lent. During this meeting, an unpleasant atmosphere developed between members of the FeBo and those of the LusCo. In the end, members of the LusCo did not feel that they were being listened to, so they just agreed and otherwise kept their hands off the gala. Despite the unpleasant atmosphere that previously hung between the two committees, the air has now cleared.The board regrets this turn of events. Despite these obstacles, the board looks forward to a smashing Lustrum gala and to all the parties and get-togethers that will follow in the second half of the year.

## Charity Committee

The Charity Committee is a new committee formed at the beginning of the college year. Therefore, the committee had yet to be completely filled. Fortunately, there were plenty of enthusiastic members at the committee fair who wanted to sign up for this committee. Soon the first meeting was scheduled to come up with fun ideas to raise money at no cost. This year we chose to focus on raising money for the RAGweek Foundation. The idea behind this was that it would save the committee effort, since it did not have to contact a charity itself. This way, all the time could be put into coming up with and implementing new ideas. However, the committee was willing to also participate in actions such as *Serious Request* that took place in Nijmegen this year. However, this did not happen. The reason for this is explained below. In the future, the committee could possibly abandon the focus on RAGweek Foundation and approach charities themselves to raise money for them. The committee forms a fun group with everyone participating enthusiastically. Nevertheless, it was difficult for the committee's executive director to find structure in the committee. This resulted in no new meetings for a long time after the first few meetings and insufficient communication to the committee. This was due to the fact that the board leader envisioned chairing the committee himself. The reason for this choice was that the committee did not yet have a clear structure and there were mainly first-year members on the committee. However, this was too ambitious. Due to the busyness of all board duties, the committee often took a back seat, so meetings and organizing activities stood still for a long time. As a result, it did not manage to organize its own activity, do an activity at *Serious Request* or join an activity of another committee before January 2024. So in retrospect, it would have been more convenient to appoint a committee chair immediately.

The committee chair eventually discussed this with the board and asked them for help with this. Then the General Board members Internal and External Relations went along to a committee meeting to assist the board leader in structuring the committee. At this meeting a different chairman was also chosen, so that the board leader no longer had to take on all the tasks. In addition, after the meeting, a date was scheduled and a roadmap was drawn up for the committee's first activity. This also made it clearer to the committee what needed to be done. Subsequently, a RAGweek board member also attended a committee meeting to further explain RAGweek and provide tips on activities. The board member regretted the way the committee was started. The committee members also regretted it, but indicated that they are still enthusiastic about the committee. Lessons have been learned from the situation and everything is going to be done to avoid this in the second half of the year.

On Friday, January 26, 2024, the deposit collection campaign took place. The committee spent the whole day collecting deposits throughout Nijmegen. The idea was that members could sign up and then the committee would come by on Friday to collect the deposit. However, there were few registrations because the PR for this came out too late. This was caused by poor communication within the committee due to the Christmas vacation and exam period. The committee managed to solve this by approaching friends and acquaintances who live in Nijmegen themselves. This yielded a lot of response and soon the committee had so many addresses that they had to split up into several groups. In the end, €367.70 in deposit money was collected. The committee can look back on a successful and very entertaining activity and is very proud of the amount raised.

In the second semester, the committee is going to organize an auction. This auction will take place during RAGweek. In addition, efforts will be made to join an activity of another committee. The committee is going to see if another activity similar to the deposit campaign can be organized.

## Historical Institutional Journal

A new contract was entered into this year for the HInT which reduced the print runs to 150, instead of 300. This was chosen for sustainability reasons and past issues have shown that this number was enough. Unfortunately, during the process of taking out a new contract with BladNL, unnecessary costs were incurred. In fact, a separate invoice was sent for the October edition because it fell between the old and new contract. This will cause the HInT editors to exceed their base budget. To avoid this in the future, the HInT contract has been included in the list of contracts managed by the General Board member External Relations, in which the contract was previously missing. This allows for a smooth transition of contracts should future boards wish to amend the current contract. In addition, work on the various editions by the editors went smoothly, and each edition was released on schedule thanks to the script prepared by the editors.

 The HInT is also active online. Each new HInT issue is posted on the website so that members can also read the HInT online. Thus, members can peruse the HInT anytime, anywhere, regardless of circulation. The HInT has additionally expanded to Instagram with the HInTstagram, on which new issues are announced. There are still plenty of opportunities to expand this account further this coming semester and bring more attention to the association through its Instagram. With this new account, there is an effort to create a larger audience for the HInT and keep members informed about the editions released. In addition to its online presence, the HInT has also been given a new place in the GSV room. The board has set up a reading nook where the shelf with HInTs can now be found next to the couch instead of in the hallway. This is to put the editions more in view of the members and give them a place to peruse the articles. Although the reading nook has not yet been used that much, the HInTs are regularly browsed during member hours.

## Internationalization Committee

The Internationalization Committee this year has an equal ratio of History and Comparative European History students. In addition, the committee is pleased to have international students from every grade active on the committee so that there is a broad understanding of how to involve as many international students as possible in the activities. In addition, in this way the committee members reach a large group of fellow students within the CEH program whom they can enthuse about activities.

The committee kicked off the year with the traditional International Lunch and also organized an activity as part of the Radboud's Welfare Week. This activity was therefore also promoted by the Radboud itself and attracted international students from inside and outside the association. The board is satisfied that the Arts and Crafts activity offered a place to connect Dutch and international students; also students coming from other studies. In the coming semester this will be further facilitated by organizing an activity in cooperation with another committee. Thus, the board hopes to develop a further connection between History and CEH and to see more international students during activities.

## Introduction Committee

The Introduction Committee (IC), newly formed as of 1 October 2023, has spent the past six months mainly looking for four new (junior) members and making preparations for upcoming Introduction Week. On 10 October, four enthusiastic members joined and preparations could begin. At the committee meetings, using the script of the disbanded History Introduction Committee, possible activities were considered and the board representative shared news around the Faculty Introduction with the other committee members. At the meetings, the Department Secretary of History, Art History and Antiquities also joined in, as had been the case in previous years. Cooperation with her went smoothly, according to the committee.

 Upon the dissolution of the History Introduction Committee, the remaining balance in the current account (€24.16) was transferred to the association's account. The Faculty of Arts also transferred another €245.43 to compensate for the past introduction. Both these amounts were thus the balance of the Introduction Committee History account before the 2023 introduction. With these amounts, the IC has a responsible buffer within the association's budget to organise beautiful introduction weeks in the coming years.

Next semester, the IC will continue to organise, will start mentor recruitment and will seek cooperation with other committees (to organise the Teacher-Student Football and the cantus, among others) and external partners (for sponsorship and venues for activities).

## Lustrum Committee

The goal of having the Lustrum committee be representative of the association has been achieved. The committee consists of members from different year layers and Dutch and international students. During the writing of the semester report, the Lustrum committee is still working to finalize the organization of the Lustrum Week. The lustrum week will consist of the following activities:

Thursday, February 22: Cantus and the Opening Party;

Friday, February 23: Breakout Lunch;

Monday, February 26: Member choice activity, the Beer Tasting;

Tuesday, February 27: Bowling with teachers;

Wednesday, Feb. 28: Lunch lecture with a well-known person;

Thursday, Feb. 29: Dinner and the Lustrum Gala. The first Lustrum activity, the Pub Crawl, was well received. The end point of the pub crawl was the Camelot. Unfortunately, an incident took place here which the board was afterwards addressed by Café Camelot. The board has had a conversation with the Camelot about this and has apologized. There will be another Lustrum activity in the second semester. It was looked into organizing an activity together with another study association, but unfortunately due to the full schedule this will not take place. In addition, the Lustrum committee was supposed to organize the Lustrum gala together with the Feast and Drinks committee but due to disagreements the organization of the gala now lies with the Feast and Drinks committee, although they still receive part of the gala budget from the Lustrum committee. The board has communicated to the Party and Drinks committee that they should continue to communicate with the Lustrum committee about what happens to this money for the gala. For further information, see "Party and Drinks Committee. Despite the unpleasant atmosphere that previously existed between the two committees, the air has now been cleared. Further work has been done to create a Lustrum Calendar, in which each committee, the CoA, the Cash Committee and the Board will have a place through a nice photo. A Lustrum song has also been written and sung by the Board and some members of the Lustrum committee. It will be able to be sung for the first time during the lustrum cantus or the opening party afterward. In addition, work has also been done on an almanac. A separate subcommittee has been set up for this and this part of the committee is still putting it together. Themes to be included in the book have already been thought of and people have also been contacted who will be supplying pieces of text for the book. In the beginning this committee was quite difficult as it was difficult to find a beginning. This has been remedied as the chairman of the committee and the General Board member Internal Relations have worked together to try to bring more structure to the committee. The goal is to release the almanac by the end of June/beginning of July 2024. Should this fail, we will see if the almanac, in consultation with the 41st board, can be released in September. However, this is a backup deadline; the goal is to meet the first deadline. To find out how much interest there is for an almanac among the members, an email has been sent to the members and PR has been sent in the Whatsapp groups. In this, members will be given the opportunity to express their interest. From this, a target number will be set and that number of almanacs will be ordered.

## Education and Lecture Committee

The Education and Lectures Committee has been working hard over the past six months to provide members with interesting lectures outside of studies. First, a pub lecture was organized in November 2023 with the approaching elections as the main theme. This activity was organized in close cooperation with lecturers from the course. This went very smoothly and an incredibly interesting and fun evening was put together. In addition, the OnLeCo organized a Lunch Lecture with the theme of Sinterklaas. This resulted in a full room, tasty lunch and an interesting lecture. All in all, this can also be considered a very successful activity.

Although the meetings were always pleasant and the group got along well, a few obstacles took place in the past six months. First, the "G-café" in September could not take place because no teacher-speakers could attend. There was also no replacement activity for this activity. This activity fell very early in the college year and the committee had only just started. Moreover, lecturers often have busy schedules and thus need to be approached well in advance. In the future, the committee will start working on this activity before the summer break, should it take place again in September.

In addition, the election activity went wrong regarding the location. The activity took place at Café Selbachs. Although the back room of this café was ideal for the activity, a beverage purchase of €400 was expected. Because communication within the committee and communication with Selbachs was somewhat strained, there was no time to find another venue. Even though drinks and snacks were ordered during the activity, the drink purchase was not met. As a result, the OnLeCo had to pay the remaining amount of the bill to Selbachs, which came out to €68.20. This amount had not been taken into account in the budget. Thus, some cuts will have to be made in future activities to compensate for the extra cost of the election activity.

In organizing the Museum Day, a museum was chosen late by the committee, so it had to be organized rather hastily. This approach allowed little to be offered outside the museum itself, keeping the number of participating members low. However, two committee members did take the initiative to give a short talk about the museum. In the end, the afternoon went smoothly and concluded with drinks at café Camelot. For next academic year, the OnLeCo wants to see how the Museum Day can be handled better or differently, so that there is more enthusiasm among the members.

The committee is currently organizing the March 2024 Thesis Symposium. This will involve collaboration with magazine Ex Tempore. The first steps for this activity have already been taken and communication with Ex Tempore is going well so far.

## Podcast Committee

The Podcast Committee keeps well to the given deadlines and there is also more and more structure in the making of the podcasts. The themes of the podcasts are limited to history topics and/or committees. Although sometimes it is still difficult to find the line between a study and society related and not study and society related. For example, there has been a conversation with the Young Historian of the Year.

## Travel Committee

The Travel Committee has been working to come up with locations that are accessible and inviting to all members, mindful of the ongoing wars and destinations that are as LHBTIQA+-acceptable as possible. By LGBTQA+-acceptable, the committee means destinations that, according to the central government website, will not persecute the so-called queer community. This way the board hopes that every member will feel safe and welcome while traveling.

Last semester, the Travel Committee traveled to Antwerp on the weekend before period 2 as the Little Trip 2023 (Nov. 3 to 5). There were 50 spots available and we ended up with 39 members traveling with our travel partner Toonen. Because of these lower numbers, the Travel Committee contacted Hostelworld, the Booking.com for hostels, about canceling some rooms, which could have been done free of charge but ended up going wrong between Hostelworld and the actual hostel. As a result, the committee received a voucher for Hostelworld instead of the returned amount of the deposit. This voucher of €433.80 could only be used as a down payment on Hostelworld and not as payment of the remaining amount for the hostel in Antwerp. An error that cost the association a lot, but the Board and the Travel Committee could not change or do anything about, despite many attempts.

There was also a situation in which a one-way trip by tram to the beer brewery would be reimbursed by the Travel Committee. It was impossible to find out who actually paid for this one-way tram ticket as some machines were not working and not everyone had actually checked in. That is why it was decided to leave this at the travelers' own expense, as otherwise situations would arise where travelers who had not paid for this tram journey, would suddenly receive €2.50 back. The budgeted €2.50 for the tram ride has been put into the remaining voucher amount to limit the damage.

To cover the costs, the board chose not to automatically refund the remaining amount of the Small Trip voucher if members would not ask for it back themselves, an amount of €5.40 per person. In order to remain transparent to travelers, with some delay due to the settlement with Hostelworld, a message about this was sent on January 9, 2024 in the Little Trip's Whatsapp groups with the request that if members wanted this amount back, they should mail it before February 1, 2024. So on a voluntary basis, members were allowed to request this amount back and one member did so. All in all, it was a very successful trip that was well reflected upon. The Travel Committee looks back with satisfaction.

Next semester the Big Trip 2024 will take place during the May vacations (April 27-May 5) to Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In order to avoid high costs and long travel times for the alternative 'greener' means of transport, which has been looked into, the Travel Committee and the board have decided to fly in order to organize a special Lustrum trip. This will be a plane trip with Croatia Airlines. Within the countries we will travel by bus and train. However, the Travel Committee was able to use part of Hostelworld's voucher from the Small Trip for the Big Trip 2024, an amount of €221.48. In the end, the Travel Committee made a loss of €36.01 on the Small Trip.

Initially, the Big Trip 2024 was to have Morocco as its destination, but due to the September 2023 earthquake, doubts about LGBTQA+ acceptableness, and subsequent dissuasion by COA and travel agents, the Travel Committee changed the location to former Yugoslavia as the destination for the Lustrum Trip. Registration for the Big Trip 2024 took place on Dec. 11 and the trip was immediately full and had a waiting list of 10 more members. So the Travel Committee went right to work to see if additional spots could be arranged. The same day the Travel Committee got the last 5 spots arranged for the same price: €565 per person. So the association will travel to Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina in May 2024 with 35 members, including the Travel Committee and the Board. Further details of the week and the academic nature of the trip will be shared with the travelers at a later date.

Because the Small Trip and the Big Trip have included or will include some international students from the association, both trips are organized entirely in English to ensure inclusivity.

There will be no GSV Summer Trip this year. This remains a non-priority item with little to no enthusiasm.

## Social Media Committee

The Social Media Committee is a completely new group this year. As a result, the past few months have been a bit of a search for exactly how the committee would be used. Although the committee has already helped create several PR messages, there is still more to be gotten out of this creative group. The committee will therefore continue to explore the possibilities of the TikTok account over the next six months and work with it to develop more fun content for the GSV in addition to the content on the already active other social media.

## Sports Committee

The Sports Committee has organized only one more activity this association year, the Teacher-Student Football. This activity attracted a nice amount of members, allowing us to play a nice tournament against each other and against the teachers. Furthermore, the committee is already busy organizing the Batavierenrace, which will take place on May 24 and 25. Registration and the van have already been arranged for this activity. The committee is also well on its way to gathering a full GSV team. Later in the year, the committee will focus on the Beer Olympics, Docent-Student soccer during induction week and the Beach Volleyball Tournament.

# Externe contacten

## Faculty of Arts

The Treasurer has represented the GSV in the Faculty Consultations Study Associations of the Faculty of Arts over the past six months. The cooperation between the study associations and the faculty went relatively well in this regard. In late 2023, on the initiative of the Faculty of Arts Student Council, the good cooperation was endorsed through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Faculty, LETO and the study associations, which contributed to greater trust and clearer expectations between the two parties. Indeed, the document has made clear the points on which the Faculty of Arts and the study associations strengthen each other and what can be asked of each other. For example, it has been agreed that study associations should indicate within 14 days whether they can meet a request from the faculty (e.g. arrange volunteers for the open day). Besides the monthly meetings, they also communicate with each other via a Microsoft Teams channel. This way, it is easier for associations to contact faculty staff and vice versa. Consultations on the 2024 Introduction are also conducted through Faculty Consultations. The Marketing & Communication Department of the Faculty of Arts has expressed the hope of scheduling special consultations dedicated to Introduction in addition to the Faculty Consultations from the announcement of the faculty introduction programme onwards. A working group has also been launched to organise a faculty work orientation day with some student associations, LETO and Career Service Letters. The Chair represents the association in these meetings.

## Umbrella Association LETO

Over the past six months, efforts have been made to maintain good contact with Dome Association LETO. Alternately, board members attended General Assembly meetings and the LETO board also visited during a members' hour to get acquainted with members of the association. Unfortunately, the board was not always able to make PR for LETO activities because they sometimes fell at the same time as activities of the association. LETO's schedule was not announced until later than that of the associations, so it was not always possible to shift the schedule. When making the planning of the second semester, the LETO planning was taken into account, although this was very difficult because of the busy schedule of the association.

## Study Programme

Over the past months there have been some conversations between part of the board and the Training Chairman. These conversations were about cooperation between the association and the program as well as about the Grand Trip. Discussions about the Grand Trip were mainly about the design of the academic character and teacher recruitment for the lectures prior to the trip. In addition, the board introduced itself during one of the staff meetings of the program in order to make ourselves known to as many lecturers as possible. An agenda will also be sent to faculty members with the activities they are welcome to attend for next semester.

 Some activities have also been organized recently in cooperation with the program, such as the OnLeCo election-activity and the *Early Modern Movienight*.

 Furthermore, the General Board member of Internal Relations has attended OLC meetings not only as a board member but also as a Training Committee member, sharing with them any comments and/or observations made by members of the association. Of course, these members remained anonymous in this process to ensure privacy. The other OLC members took these remarks and/or observations on board and, where necessary, they were discussed more often with the General Board Member for Internal Relations.

## Samenwerkingsoverleg Faculteitsverenigingen

Over the past few months, some of the board has attended the GMAs of the Samenwerkingsoverleg Faculteitsverenigingen (SOFv) or made its voice heard by authorizing another board. Through these meetings, among other things, the board is kept informed about general issues that are going on in student associations and what the University Student Council is working on.

In addition, the Chair will participate in a SOFv working group for a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion handbook. Insights from these discussions can also be taken away for the association, these can help in drafting its own code of conduct.

Grants made available by SLIM through the SOFv to cover some of the costs of organized activities have also been used several times in recent months.

## Students of History Netherlands

The General Board Member External Relations has represented the association within Student History Netherlands (SGN) over the past six months by attending meetings with the other Exteriors of the SGN associations in the Netherlands. In addition, a first board meeting was held at the end of January 2024 in Rotterdam, where all boards of the SGN associations came together to discuss the progress of the SGN day and get to know each other better. Unfortunately there was not really a clear planning, getting to know each other did not really happen and the whole meeting was over with 20 minutes. The second SGN board meeting will take place in Nijmegen where there will be a clear schedule and where there will be room for input and getting to know each other, even though this will not take place until after the May break.

 This year's SGN Day will take place on Friday, March 15, 2024 in Utrecht, the Netherlands. This day will focus on the theme 'Student culture through time' through socializing but also through several lectures with Maarten van Rossum, Duco Hellema and others. Multiple PR messages with further information will follow soon. The extra SGN activity will take place on Friday, June 7 in Leiden.

In addition to the SGN day and extra SGN activity, the General Board member External Relations has asked SGN members for advice on drafting their own code of conduct. From these opinions came useful information that the board can use for its own code of conduct. It was also asked to look for lecturers who would like to give a lecture for the Grand Tour, with Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina as areas of interest. Here one candidate emerged who will provide the travelers with an enjoyable lecture.

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# Interne contacten

## Drinks

Over the past six months, with the exception of January 2024 due to the exam period, drinks have been organized every month at our partner Café Camelot. The board has been very pleased with the turnout of members at the monthly get-togethers. During these get-togethers there were recurring themes such as the Speeddate Drink and the Oktoberfest Drink, but also new theme drinks were introduced such as the Afkowobobo, the Hygge Drink & the Pre-Lustrum Week Drink. With these themes, the board used matching decorations and was able to secure refreshment deals with and without alcohol, in consultation with Café Camelot. The contact with Café Camelot ran smoothly and the staff was happy to help with the drink deals for the themes. The board therefore hopes that this fine cooperation continues in the next six months and beyond.

 The board has noticed that the monthly get-togethers, which start at 8 p.m., only really get going from 9-9:30 p.m. onwards. The board is going to consider how best to address this over the next six months. No other board get-togethers have been held at locations other than Café Camelot, and the board has no plans to do so.

A get-together at the Vrijheidsmuseum has not been possible in the past six months because of difficult communication with the museum. Fortunately, communication has been re-established and the date of the Vrijheidsmuseum drink is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Further details about this get-together will follow in due course.

Finally, the board looks back on the well-attended Internal Constitution Drinks with a sense of satisfaction.

## Committee Officers

For each committee, the functions were distributed. The General Board member of Internal Relations also held interviews with all committee chairs and from these it was clear that in almost every committee the various functions were well performed. Regarding committee chairs, there have been a number of changes from last year. Multiple chairmen were also appointed to some committees in order to reduce the workload of the committee chairmen. The wishes of the committee members have been listened to. When it was indicated that the committee would prefer to have more than one chairperson, this was chosen. At the end of the year we will look at how this was perceived and whether this is something to pass on to future boards. Later in the college year there will be another meeting with the committee chairs.

## Committee Chair Meetings

Due to circumstances, the General Board member of Internal Relations was unable to chair this meeting. The Chairman of the Board took over and it was a short but powerful meeting. There was nothing special to report. There will be another meeting at the end of the college year.

## Member hours

On most Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays there have been members' hours in the club room during break time. Here members have been able to chat over a cup of tea, coffee and/or a cookie. In addition, 2023 member hours took place outside during the first weeks of September due to the warm weather. The board also worked room shifts almost every week from 10:00-16:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The board experienced the member hours as enjoyable, but often not busy. There were also not many members in the room during room services. As an attempt to improve this, the board posted a schedule of room services on the front page of the website. This way it is immediately clear to website visitors when they can go to the room and who is present at that time. In addition, the board is going to provide additional naming of member hours at the upcoming college talk.

# Promotie

## Lecture Talks

Over the past few months, lecture talks have been given at the lectures of first- and second-year students. At the first lecture talks of the year, some registration forms were also handed out, so that a number of students who had not yet registered had still found their way to the association. The lecture talks were not always given by the Chair, but often in conjunction with another board member or it was more practical for one or two other board members to give the lecture talk. At the first lecture talk for the first-year international students, the entire board was present.

## Facebook group

Since this college year, use of the Facebook group has ceased due to its low or non-use. The biography of the group now shows what social media the association can be followed on, so that one is immediately referred when opening the group. The board has not noticed a lack of interest in the Facebook group since its use stopped and will therefore continue to promote it on the other social media.

## Instagram

The Instagram is primarily used for posting photos after activities, but in addition, as a promotion for activities that need extra exposure, each month's calendars and other news. In addition, the board has begun posting alumni videos in which they explain about their careers in order to inspire current history students about opportunities after college. Furthermore, Instagram stories are also regularly used to give atmospheric impressions during activities or to share interesting news from external groups. Finally, posts related to the lustrum have been given their own layout with the lustrum colors and the laurel wreath of the logo has been incorporated to highlight the lustrum.

## LinkedIn

The LinkedIn has so far been used to promote internships and projects for which history students are being asked. In this way, the board hopes to bring these opportunities more to the attention of members instead of these opportunities only appearing in the newsletter. In the coming semester, formal activities such as the Congress and Career Committee activities will also be promoted on LinkedIn.

## Newsletter

The newsletter has so far appeared every month with information about upcoming activities, pictures of past activities and news about internships and projects. This will continue, with an effort to distribute the newsletter on every first day of the month.

## TikTok

The newsletter has so far appeared every month with information about upcoming activities, pictures of past activities and news about internships and projects. This will continue, with an effort to distribute the newsletter on every first day of the month.

## Website

Several efforts have been made over the past six months to improve the website. First, the problem of website delays and registrations not always getting through has been looked at. In this regard, the General Board Media member is being helped by a Computing Science student who is paid to do this and also worked on the website last year. In addition, the Faculty is also offering help this year. To address the delay, the website has been cleaned up. For example, photos from past years are now stored on a Google Drive instead of on the website itself. Members can still access these photos the same way through the portal. Only the storage location has changed, but access to the photos is within the website as before (see the Privacy section for how this works). In addition, there were still many photos on the website that could be removed. These include photos such as old declarations and images that were once used on the website but were now no longer in use. These were all still stored on the website and could therefore be removed. In total, this involved more than 10,000 images. Cleaning up the website makes it a lot less cumbersome.

 On top of this, maintaining two websites is also very taxing on the website, which is why the English website was removed. Because the server now only has to keep one website online, it is less taxing on the system. Although there still seem to be some problems with registrations, other solutions have been offered by the outside parties the board is working with that will continue to be worked on over the next six months.

However, the fact that the English website has been removed does not mean that the pages can no longer be found in English. Each page can now be read in Dutch with the English translation underneath. However, the page titles are still in Dutch and the board is still looking at a solution for the titles in which the opinion of the association will be consulted. Thus, not only has the problem of the burdensome English website been solved, but the English text is now as updated as the Dutch text and it will be easier to keep it that way in the future. All pages have also been gone through and adjusted so that they are correct again, both the Dutch text and the English translation. Duplicate or redundant pages have been merged or removed.

Although the website is not yet doing its job optimally, the board is working hard to make it work as well as possible. Therefore, the board would like to have the registrations done through the website so that everything can be found in one place. With the above measures, the website has already improved somewhat and the board will continue to address the remaining problems next semester.

## Whatsapp

The WhatsApp groups remain the main promotion sites in which messages are sent up to three times a day. This is done in the morning, early and late afternoon to spread the messages. The committees plan the promotion using the excel sheet and this works well. The promotion via WhatsApp will therefore be continued in this way.