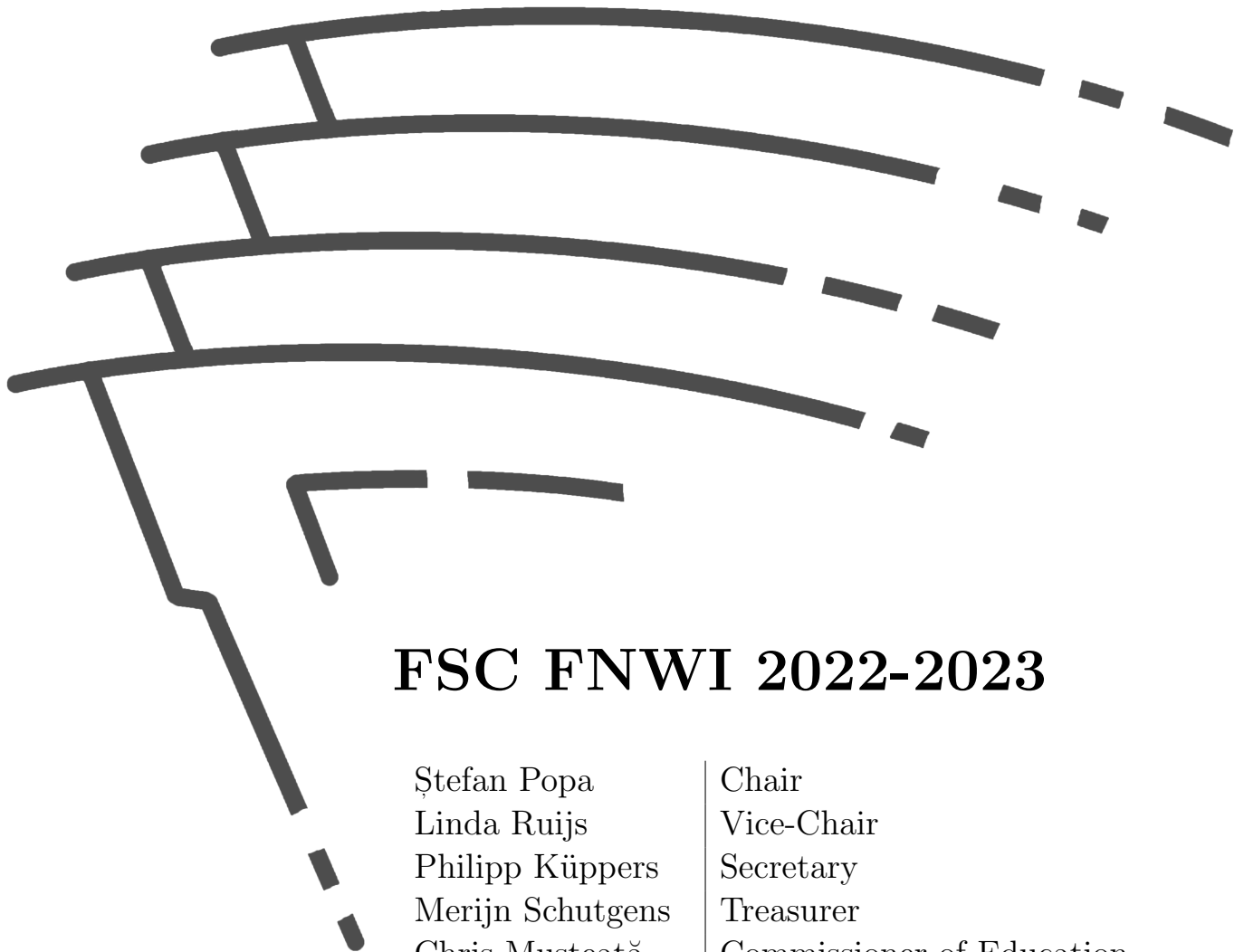


Progress Document



FSC FNWI 2022-2023

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| Ştefan Popa | Chair |
| Linda Ruijs | Vice-Chair |
| Philipp Küppers | Secretary |
| Merijn Schutgens | Treasurer |
| Chris Musteață | Commissioner of Education |
| Caner Deniz Çetin | Commissioner of Internal Affairs |

Preface

Dear reader,

In this document, we have detailed what we, the Faculty Student Council of the Faculty of Science (FSC FNWI), have been up to in the last few months, the progress we have made on the plans we had presented in our Vision Document, as well as new projects we have initiated or plan to pursue.

We hope that after reading this document, you will join us for the Progress Event on the 13th of March at the Information Desk situated at the entrance of the Huygens Building. There, we will present the document and initiate a discussion about its contents. We would love to hear your opinions, concerns and ideas. And of course, we are always looking for your input. Do not hesitate to contact us via our socials¹ or email if you encounter any problems throughout the year, or if you think that we have missed something relevant for the students at our faculty so far.

On behalf of the FSC FNWI,
Ștefan Popa
Chair FSC FNWI 2022-2023

¹Check us on Instagram (@fsc.science.ru), Facebook (@fscfnwi) and our website (<https://www.ru.nl/science/fsc/>)!

1 Quality of Education

The quality of education provided by our faculty is, and always will be, our primary focus. We have been keeping close contact with Programme Committees as a way of maintaining a good workflow. We are doing our best to ensure that both students and teachers can get the most from course surveys, which are the topic of countless debates and modifications. We have concentrated a lot of effort on promoting the aforementioned course surveys in various ways. You may have already noticed promotional content on the login screens in terminal rooms or on displays across the Huygens building!

We are aware of how crucial lecture recordings are to the learning process, whether it is for reviewing course material or addressing overlaps. We think our faculty provides this in a competent manner. However, we want to make sure that this will not change and the good news is that FNWI has no immediate intentions to move from the existing approach.

Due to delays and changes in the faculty's management, the pilot project regarding overlapping exams is currently on hold. We have found discrepancies between the English and Dutch EERs (where relevant) while pursuing a continuation for this pilot, and we are making sure that they will be resolved. The pilot for overlapping exams has not yet been terminated, and we intend to bring it back on track as soon as possible.

It is not uncommon for teaching assistants and student assistants' contributions to courses to go unappreciated. We are working to provide assistants with feedback in a manner similar to how teachers receive it. This would give the opportunity for a more thorough understanding of one's performance. But, this is not a one-sided tool. We also want to provide assistants the opportunity to review courses from their own viewpoint. This would provide the teachers a better idea of the difference between the expected workload and the actual workload of a course.

In our vision document we have mentioned making more educational tools available for students, such as Overleaf subscriptions. We have discussed with the Programme Committees and with various students in our faculty and came to the conclusion that there is no need to pursue this further. FNWI already offers plenty of tools and we did not find any missing essentials that could hinder one's progress.

2 Internationalization and Integration

As we mentioned in our Vision Document, being the second international Faculty Student Council, we believe international students are important for our faculty. Especially through the recent developments in politics and education, we are determined to continue to support international students and represent their interests, and we want to make sure their concerns are heard and addressed, regarding both education as well as their well-being.

Firstly, the housing crisis is still a major issue for many students. A new initiative by Radboud and HAN, together with HospiHousing, connects students with Dutch host families. This is particularly interesting for international students as it allows them to integrate much better into the Dutch society. Unfortunately the project is currently on hold as there are not enough families participating. We are currently trying to get in touch with this initiative as we believe it is increasingly important, especially for our faculty. Furthermore, we have been in close contact with the Student Union AKKU, and talked to them about the importance of advocating for expanding the area in which the current free bus subscription applies. This will allow international students to also look for housing outside of Nijmegen. This is of course not something that can be changed easily, but we hope our concerns will be taken seriously.

Secondly, when it comes to education, we continued the efforts of our predecessors in reducing the language barriers encountered as much as possible. We are currently in talks with various parties about the EER process in hopes for making the drafting process more accessible to internationals as well as reducing the discrepancies between the EER versions. Furthermore, together with the students active in the Education Policy Committee, we managed to initiate a discussion about translating this policy documents using the Student Translator. In this way, a lot of the documents the Programme Committees will now receive will also have English translations.

Finally, we previously mentioned that we want to further facilitate international student's integration into the Dutch culture through possible new projects, as well as looking at points of improvement for the current initiatives. Unfortunately, we were not able to get much progress on this point yet, however we will soon hold an internal brainstorm session where we will come up with a preliminary plan of action as well as look for the relevant parties that can help us in this matter.

3 Student Well-Being

The well-being of students has and will always be an important topic for us as the Faculty Student Council. As stipulated in our Vision Document, we aim to ensure that aid programs that are in the works are implemented and to properly monitor the experiences with existing programs. While there can be no doubt about the good intentions behind many programs and support structures within this umbrella term, we sometimes see that they remain hard to be reached by students or that students are unaware of their existence. To this extent we plan on finding a way to structurally increase visibility of these among students.

One of our focuses this year has been on trying to tackle the high workload that students experience. For this reason, we conducted a student survey about study workload within our faculty not so long ago. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey. It received approximately 400 replies. We have already compiled the results and discussed them with the relevant bodies and sent them to all students of the faculty as well as made them publicly available on our website. The faculty has now seen the scope of this problem, and in a short while a brainstorming session will be held where we will look for practical solutions. Moreover, many particularly relevant organs within the faculty are actively working on trying to tackle this issue adequately. One thing is certain, at least, namely that lowering the workload and maintaining a good standard of education is a difficult and delicate matter. Moving ahead, we will keep everyone's best interests in mind while remaining an active participant within these necessary discussions.

Another focus within this matter, is the creation of trust contact persons, or confidants, within the study associations of the faculty. As of now, in most associations there are now students appointed in this role who have followed the relevant training. Together with the involved parties we aim to increase the visibility, awareness and reachability of these students and what they do so that this structure will fill an approachable, permanent and helpful role.

Finally, after the recent earthquake hit southeastern Turkey and northern Syria, we heard from students and supported them during the process by helping them find a possible way to inform people about the things that have happened. We, together with volunteer students, organized an information desk to inform others about the magnitude of the situation and guide them through possible donation methods. After the information desk, it was apparent that an awareness for the situation was improved. The information desk also provided a chance for people to help out the people in need, and support their peers. We believe initiatives like this also help with improving the well-being of students.

4 Facilities

We believe that the quality of the facilities offered by our faculty is paramount to helping students benefit the most from their education. This is why throughout our term we planned to encourage improvements to our facilities such that their needs are met.

Unfortunately, this is something we have not gotten much progress on so far. We have heard your feedback about how do you think the Huygens building could be improved, and together with our own ideas, we have shared these with the relevant persons. We will keep you up to date about the progress on this project.

Secondly, we have received push-back at the central level about reinstating the free coffee pilot. We are currently evaluating our options and whether this is something we want to pursue further. Additionally to these original points of interest, we also aim to improve the current dietary options at the Giga-Bite, and a discussion will follow soon.

5 Student Participation Visibility

In our Vision Document, we mentioned we wanted to increase our visibility towards students as well as improve our contact with study associations. We made several plans for this. We are now more often in the board rooms in the hope that students as well as student boards will feel more at ease about approaching us if they have issues or concerns. Moreover, we also ask student associations to promote our events and initiatives as much as possible on their own channels.

Secondly, we wanted to increase our activity on our social media even further. We now heavily promote our activities on our Instagram and Facebook pages, as well as add even more information on our website. For example, to be more transparent about our progress, we planned to post quarterly updates about our meetings and activities. We also promoted the other participational bodies on our channels in the hopes of increasing their reach as well.

Finally, we are now also more heavily asking the programme committees and other participational bodies for input and feedback. So far, the outcome has been mixed. We are currently trying to figure out where the bottlenecks arise and aim to improve the situation for next academic year.