

Policy Review

28 October 2020

Corona

The coming of Corona has hit everyone in different ways. As a board, not being able to have weekly lunches, have activities and have access to the Bastille room, in general, has limited us a lot in activism and primarily recruiting new members. We think we did a fine job running the association and participating in the contract negotiations, but things like promotion just fell short.

Contract negotiation LISA

Our most important policy point is to continue and (ideally) finalize the contract negotiations with LISA. This policy is an extension of the negotiations held by the previous board. Our main focus during these negotiations will be to ensure that students will receive and/or retain access to the services they require. To achieve this goal, our strategy in these negotiations will feature three main principles. First of all, we will seek to extend the negotiation period by at least half a year, in order to prevent a cliff-edge scenario that will hurt all parties involved. During this period, we will aim to involve the SU, Eureka, and DAS to a larger degree, with the purpose of representing student interests in the negotiations. Finally, we will seek to compromise with LISA where possible and acceptable, such as the abuse department and the helpdesk.

There is a contract signed for the year 2020. The most relevant changes are described in the contract overview that can be found amongst the GMM documents. The contract for the year 2021 is still being discussed and one or more meetings per months take place to finalize this contract. We also figured out that Ureka is written with only one "e".

Promotion

Due to the amount of resources that will have to be spent on the negotiations, we expect to have limited time to work on other areas. Promotion in particular is something that we would still like to work on when possible, especially if the negotiations go better than expected. New active members are currently predominantly recruited through word-of-mouth promotion. While the last Kick-In provided us with a long list of interested students, none of these students became active within SNT. The main reason for this was that these students were mostly first year students, who were not particularly interested in technical associations. A way to boost the amount of new active members could be to organise another activity similar to the ITO tour that was organised last year. Besides that, recruitment posters could help to bring more brand awareness. Last year, there was a plan to create a mailing list for technical news to which students would be able to subscribe. We still do think that this is a good way of promoting the association and would like to implement and promote this mailing list. Lastly, UToday has communicated to us that they would be interested in our opinions about the services offered by the UT. This would also be a great way to get the name of SNT on the news more often, thus generating more brand awareness.

The contract negotiation process has taken up the majority of the board's time during the first few months, as expected. The spread of COVID-19 soon after the finalisation of the contract negotiations further reduced the possibilities for promotion, with major events such as the Kick-In being very limited in scope. A number of UToday articles were published to bring more attention to SNT, but not much more.

Documentation

Documentation, like promotion, is a point that we want to focus on when the negotiations with LISA allow it. There are still some plans that we would like to accomplish. The first of which being the finalization of the Hornet documentation, for both internal (board and helpdesk) and external (study organisations) use. Also, we would like to update the wiki for active members; there is a lot of useful information to be found there, but there are also a lot of outdated items. We would like to update or remove these where necessary. One of the items we want to extend and renew is documentation on the transfer of knowledge between current board members and their candidate counterparts. In the past, for a plethora of reasons, knowledge transfer from one board member to the next has not gone as smoothly as desired on several occasions. We think it would help if guides are rewritten for each task (chair, treasurer, secretary and HDC) and potentially even for becoming a board member in general. Lastly, we would still like to plan for certain events, such as the birth of a child of a (former) SNT member, marriage of a (former) SNT member and death of a (former) SNT member as described in the previous policy plan.

We have spent some time updating the wiki, especially the board position-specific documentation. As written above, it was not a main focus of our time as board. Documentation of certain events, as described above has not been written, but has been discussed in board meetings and thus there is an intent of writing them. The Hornet documentation is mostly done and requires only some finishing touches, such as reading through and finalizing the last file. Furthermore, we have updated the active members, however, not all committees have indicated yet who are still active and who are not.