

# Minutes General Meeting #4

Location: M1 00.28, Toernooiveld 212, 6525EC Nijmegen

June 10<sup>th</sup> 2020x

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## Attendees

Julian van der Horst (chair 29<sup>th</sup> board)  
Koen Bremer (vice-chair 29<sup>th</sup> board)  
Jelle Besseling (secretary 29<sup>th</sup> board)  
Nick van Oers (treasurer 29<sup>th</sup> board)  
Tim van Alten (commissioner of internal affairs 29<sup>th</sup> board)  
Jen Dusseljee (commissioner of external affairs 29<sup>th</sup> board)  
Marie-Sophie Simon (candidate chair 30<sup>th</sup> board)  
Jorrit de Boer (candidate secretary 30<sup>th</sup> board)  
Kimberley Frings (candidate treasurer 30<sup>th</sup> board)  
Stijn Vandenput (candidate commissioner of internal affairs 30<sup>th</sup> board)  
Michiel Kraan (candidate commissioner of external affairs 30<sup>th</sup> board)  
Jeremy Guijt  
Wietse Kuipers  
Gijs Hendriksen  
Milan van Stiphout  
Rick Lukassen  
Joren Vrancken  
Marthijn van den Nieuwenhuizen  
Nienke Wessel  
Serena Suzanna Maria Rietbergen  
Bas Hofmans  
Dirk Doesburg  
Rico te Wechel  
Tom Nies  
Job Doesburg  
Polina Moroza  
Yannick Hogewind  
Patrick van Beurden  
Astrid van der Jagt  
Luna-Elise Scherthaner  
Esther Shi  
Yentl van Dop  
Kirsten Hagenaars  
Roland Leferink  
Noël Bangma  
Bas van der Zandt  
Thijs de Jong  
Jan van Bommel  
Ayala Hoeks  
Koen Verdenius  
Lien Wullink  
Violeta Sizonenko  
Andrea Minichova  
Alexander Wolters

## Notes from the Secretary

This meeting was held online, in a Google Meet video call. At the time of the meeting, online meetings were legal and binding under the “Tijdelijke wet COVID-19 Justitie en Veiligheid” (specifically article 6). The meeting was recorded in order for the secretary to also be able to handle the voting process. Consent for the recording was asked beforehand and recording was stopped during one discussion (indicated in the text). People entering or leaving the meeting were not recorded as per usual, instead they are only listed above.

During the voting process, the members in the call were able to register to vote in a Google Form. This list was then checked against the participants in the call and duplicates, benefactors and incorrect information were removed before uploading to Helios Voting. Helios Voting was used because this system allows for secure online voting where information about who voted for whom is not revealed. The online counting process was broadcast from the secretary’s screen, and the participants were able to check their vote in the system by themselves.

### 1 Call to order

19:30 *Julian van der Horst calls the General Meeting to order*

Julian van der Horst asks if there are objections against recording the meeting. There are no objections and the recording is started.

### 2 Announcements

Julian van der Horst reminds the GM to mute themselves when they are not talking, and explains the procedure about requesting to say something.

Thijs de Jong relays a question from Joris Reichert, who wonders how the voting process will occur. Julian van der Horst explains that voting will occur via the Helios system.

Julian van der Horst explains that questions that were sent in beforehand will be answered at the point of the document where the question is about.

Julian van der Horst says that last GM it was said that the Soccer Guild would present their society, but that this will be postponed to the next GM.

Ayala Hoeks asks whether it is okay to ask questions during the GM which were not sent in beforehand, this is okay.

Julian van der Horst asks Jelle Besseling to read the authorizations and notices of absence. Jelle Besseling announces that he has received the following notices of absence:

- Simone Meeuwssen
- Erik Barendsen
- Thom Wiggers

Jelle Besseling announces that he received the following authorizations:

- Ward Theunisse authorizes Nienke Wessel

- Leon van den Boogaard authorizes Jan van Bommel
- Max Leijtens authorizes Nienke Wessel
- Joris Reichert authorizes Thijs de Jong
- Isolde Hoogendonk authorizes Lien Wullink
- 25 ▪ Roland Leferink authorizes Gijs Hendriksen until the time he joins
- Wouter Kobes authorizes Yentl van Dop

Two more authorizations were made during the meeting before the candidate board vote:

- Jan Aarts authorizes Jeremy Guijt
- Rick Lukassen authorizes Wietse Kuipers

### 30 **3 Changes to the agenda**

The agenda is accepted without changes.

## **4 Approval of minutes of the GM of the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2020**

Milan van Stiphout remarks on section 6.3, line 56 that it should be noted that Nienke Wessel is the committee treasurer of the Educacie.

**Decision** 35 *The minutes are approved with the proposed changes*

Julian van der Horst asks Jelle Besseling to explain about the attendance. Jelle Besseling says that there is no attendance list going around, but that voters will be kept track of before the vote.

## **5 Update financial situation**

40 Nick van Oers explains that the document was made to give clarity about the financial situation during the COVID-19 situation.

Nick van Oers explains that in the event of the faculty not helping with costs made for the study trip, Thalia would still eat the cost for the study trip participants. He says that some people did not sign the contract which would mean that Thalia does not have a legal basis to ask those participants to pay for the cancelled trip. He says that Thalia is financially healthy enough to pay for the costs.

45 Nick van Oers says that this decision was made because of these extraordinary circumstances, and that he does not want to set a precedent for future study trips. He adds that the contract will be checked again to make sure that extraordinary circumstances are specified explicitly.

50 Milan van Stiphout says that last year in a discussion about this very circumstance, it was decided that Thalia should not have to pay and that the risk should be on the participants, because it could regard high amounts of money. Milan van Stiphout asks why the contract was not signed by all people. Nick van Oers replies that signing the contract with participants was not done soon enough, and the corona situation had already started at that time. Nick van Oers reiterates that he does not want to set a precedent by this situation, and that there is a good chance that the faculty will help

in the costs. He says that this is only happening because cancelling the study trip was out of control for the participants and Thalia, and that Thalia is in a good financial situation.

Milan van Stiphout says he is not happy with the situation, and that having the contracts not signed should never have happened. He says that in the future people might refer to this situation and argue that Thalia should cover the costs of other problems. Nick van Oers says that this is a reason that the contract should be looked at again and revised so that can be prevented.

Joren Vrancken asks what the exact amount of the costs is, because Nick van Oers had said €3000 while the document states a number in the 5000s. Nick van Oers explains that he meant the result of the budgeted costs against the actual costs with the €3000 amount.

Koen Verdenius says that he thinks a major mistake was made and that Nick van Oers should have handled it this way instead of talking about it as a minor slip up. He says that normally when mistakes like this happen you go the GM with your tail between your legs and tell the GM how things went wrong and construct a plan to prevent the problem in the future. Nick van Oers replies that there was discussion within the board to improve the policy regarding study trips. He will also look at the timeline regarding planning the study trip to prevent further mistakes. Koen Bremer says that he wants to hear a concrete promise about how they are going to deal with this in the future, either at the next GM or at some point of time in the future, regarding the usage of these contracts such that a problem like this won't happen again.

Job Doesburg says that there is a plan of a timeline that should be followed, so he thinks that at least that part does not need thorough rethinking. He also clarifies that the point of the contract is to make sure people going on the trip are aware that the study trip is like going on a vacation with friends rather than a fully insured travel. If the participants want insurance they will then be able to buy that themselves. He says that this may not have been clear enough this year, and that Thalia was already in financial risk before the contracts were signed and that this should not have happened.

Rico te Wechel adds to Job Doesburg's reaction by saying that he thinks the underlying problem is that documenting mistakes and communicating these documents is not done well enough. He says that during the organisation of the trip the way that was referred to documents was mainly in the form of a reference when they did not know something, instead of going through the documentation beforehand. He says that this problem occurs in other committees as well. He thinks the way the study trip organisation can be improved is by thinking about passing on information in a better way. Jeremy Guijt wants to point out that a handover session was offered to the committee but they did not respond to that. Milan van Stiphout says that he agrees with Rico te Wechel's point but wants to add that in situations like this the board should take action.

Sébastien Versteeg says that for big events like a study trip it's very important to have a plan of action or a protocol that you follow strictly, like is done with an event like SNiC, where it works well.

Rico te Wechel reacts to Milan van Stiphout's point, he agrees and says that boards often forget that they need to give guidance to committees about passing on information.

Jeremy Guijt asks what the status is on postponing or cancelling events. Jen Dusseljee says that most companies cancelled their events to schedule a new one in the future, and that some companies are planning to have an event in an online form.

**20:06** *Julian van der Horst adjourns the meeting to allow the board time to discuss and reopens the meeting at 20:10.*

Nick van Oers proposes that the contract of the study trip will be revised, and furthermore write a "plan of action"<sup>1</sup> and brainstorm a plan together with the candidate board to make sure plans of action are followed an information is kept when a new committee starts. He says that this will also be done in close contact with the study trip committee. Jeremy Guijt says he is willing to help in

<sup>1</sup>Draaiboek

writing a plan of action as a former committeemember. Nick van Oers adds that the deadline for the new plans will be the next GM.

100 Koen Verdenius says that it should not be the responsibility of the candidate board to write new documents because the problems are the fault of the current board. Nick van Oers explains that the candidate board should be involved in thinking about processes that they will have to enact, he reiterates that the current board will do this together with the candidate board. Koen Verdenius says that he is not happy with Nick's phrasing and that he thinks for an issue like this he should "diep door het stof gaan"<sup>2</sup>. He thinks Nick van Oers is too nonchalant about this mistake. Nick van Oers says that he understands and does accept responsibility, he adds that the financial burden will hopefully not fall on Thalia because the faculty will probably give financial aid. Nick van Oers says he does not know how to really respond to Koen Verdenius, and that he is trying to make the best of a situation.

110 Joren Vrancken asks why there is not a plan of action yet. Nick van Oers says that Tim van Alten checked and there is not a clear designated plan of action.

Jeremy Guijt says that the focus should lie on improving the situation and finding solutions instead of being vindictive about it. He thinks we should not try to assign blame and make people feel that.

115 Koen Verdenius reacts to Jeremy Guijt: he says he is not trying to be vindictive. His problem is that Nick van Oers is talking like the problem was out of his hands, and he thinks the board and the study trip committee should instead take responsibility. He adds that part of the solution should be looking at what went wrong, if Nick is not ready to take responsibility at this point. Nick van Oers replies that he may not have said this clearly enough, but that he does understand that a mistake was made and that it is the board's responsibility.

120 Job Doesburg says that GM documents are part of the documentation, and that a reinvention of documentation might not be necessary when important decisions can be found in the General Meetings.

## 6 Presentation candidate board

Jeremy Guijt asks if board members and candidate board members are sitting in audible range of each other. Julian van der Horst says that some candidate board members are in audible range of board members, but that they can move if a discussion without them is needed.

125 In constitutional order, the candidate board members—Marie-Sophie Simon, Jorrit de Boer, Kimberley Frings, Stijn Vanderput, and Michiel Kraan—tell a bit about themselves and their previous roles in Thalia.

Jeremy Guijt asks if Marie-Sophie Simon and Michiel Kraan are currently in a relationship. Marie-Sophie Simon says that this is true, but that this will not influence the board functions.

## 130 7 Policy plan 2020-2021

Jeremy Guijt asks if a discussion can be held about the constitution of the board, because he thinks it's relevant when people have a relationship in the board. Julian van der Horst agrees to a discussion and the candidate board leaves the meeting for a while. No minutes have been taken for this part, and it was not recorded.

21:06 *The meeting continues and Marie-Sophie Simon presents the policy plan*

<sup>2</sup>Dutch proverb, meaning accept and take in humiliation

## 135 1.1 Possibilities for events

Milan van Stiphout says that a go/no-go moment is generally only meant to prevent financial costs, not to prevent a lot of effort. Marie-Sophie Simon agrees and says this will be changed in the document.

140 Ayala Hoeks says that allowing unplanned events might cause chaos, and asks how the candidate board will keep a good planning of events. Marie-Sophie Simon responds that they will try to keep a good planning, but that they want to keep the possibility of having unplanned events because the corona situation might cause plans to fail.

145 Ayala Hoeks asks how mandatory society events will be planned. Stijn Vanderput responds that there are societies that will have online events, which would be easy enough to plan, and that they will try to also spread out other society events.

Ayala Hoeks asks if the candidate board has found problems in planning events with partners. Michiel Kraan answers that many meetings with partners still need to happen during the summer. Jen Dusseljee says that he heard from most companies that they still have budget to make partnerships with us. Joren Vrancken warns everybody that the coronavirus will cause more unforeseen effects, and that the current status of companies is not guaranteed to stay that way. Marie-Sophie Simon 150 replies that they are preparing as much as possible.

## 2.1 Lustrum

155 Milan van Stiphout asks if there is a new date for the lustrum week. Marie-Sophie Simon replies that the lustrum will at least be moved to the second semester, and that the specifics of the plans still need to be made.

## 2.2 BIT-event

Milan van Stiphout makes an appeal for the BIT-event, he says that there is a benefit to having partnerships with other associations. He thinks problems with the BIT-event could have been fixed, and that maybe the BIT-event should be reinvented to keep something interesting for the information 160 science students. Nienke Wessel says the problems stated in the policy plan are good reasons for cancelling the event, and she agrees with the choice.

## 2.3 Information Sciences

Milan van Stiphout says that he thinks there should be more concrete plans to connect with Information Science students. Marie-Sophie Simon says that there are plans, but because there is little 165 known about the possibilities of events it's not included in the policy plan. Sébastiaan Versteeg says that it is a good idea to focus on master students in general instead of Information Science students in particular. Gijs Hendriksen says that many masters students are here to just finish their studies, so that at a certain point it's not needed to appeal to them further.

170 Wietse Kuipers says that the masters thesis market was a well executed event, and that events that are directed to masters like that are good to have.

21:43 *Julian van der Horst suspends the meeting until 21:50*

### 3 Financial

Ayala Hoeks asks if a new financial plan will be presented when there is more certainty. Kimberley Frings answers that she thinks this is a good idea.

#### 3.2 Board

175 Thijs de Jong asks why the board choose to keep the budget for board clothing at €900. Marie-Sophie Simon replies that the budget includes the suits and other clothing, and that the board year is already a personal investment so it seems fair to have the association compensate for clothing—as it can afford to. Nienke Wessel says that board clothing should not be a reward for doing a board year and that €150 per person should be enough. Jeremy Guijt thinks that it's not needed to buy the most  
180 expensive suits so that the budget should stay at €150 per person. Marie-Sophie Simon replies that previous boards spend more than this amount and that she thinks the people do not need to pay this. Joren Vrancken says he agrees with Marie-Sophie Simon and that a suit is important to help the board do their job and come across as professional. He says the clothing is not a kind of reward. Koen Verdenius says he agrees with Joren Vrancken that a suit for the board members is needed for  
185 the association.

Thijs de Jong says the board months (compensation from the university) will be more per person this year, and that this will help compensate for clothing. Marie-Sophie Simon replies that this compensation is not meant to buy suits but to compensate for missing study time.

190 Job Doesburg says that while he mainly agrees with Joren Vrancken, he thinks that the board clothing can be seen as a kind of reward.

Rick Lukassen says he does not see a reason to increase the clothing compensation this year, and that looking professional is mainly important for the commissioner of external affairs. He says that a suit and T-shirt can be bought with only €150.

195 Job Doesburg says that the discussion is coming to a fundamental issue and that further discussion will not help. Marie-Sophie Simon wants to do a show of hands to check what the members think of having this amount. The show of hands does not work well in the online meeting and a formal vote is requested. Jelle Besseling will set this up and later on there will be the possibility to vote.

#### 3.4 Collaboration

200 Jeremy Guijt asks if there is information on whether lunch lectures will be possible again. Jen Dusseljee says that many partners are willing to do online lunch lectures.

Jeremy Guijt why the choice was made to lower the budget for 2021-2022 and keeping a high budget for 2020-2021 as it might not be possible to spend everything on events. Kimberley Frings answers that the partner income is what constitutes the amount for 2021-2022.

205 Jeremy Guijt asks how the amount for relations is chosen and whether this money will be used for a WISO. Kimberley Frings answers that it will not be used to organise a WISO, but for presents for speakers and such. Jeremy Guijt says that it might be a good idea to make a reservation to use for organising a WISO in a later year. Kimberley Frings says that she will look into that option.

Job Doesburg says that the amounts for the 2021-2022 reservation is correct in his view.

210 Thijs de Jong asks why the amount for lunch lectures is not zero because online lunch lectures do not cost anything. Kimberley Frings answers that the plan is to host lunch lectures at the university again later in the year.



### 3.5 Education

Ayala Hoeks asks why SNiC is not included in the budget. Kimberley Frings answers that there will be no ticket sale for SNiC this year so no income or expenses are created.

### 215 3.6 Events

Milan van Stiphout says that he thinks the budget for the EVC is too high, and it should be reduced because there are more committees now that organise events. Kimberley Frings answers that this was the amount that EVC asked for. Rico te Wechel clarifies that the amount was calculated by setting a goal of 75% the amount events of last year. He adds that the EVC will look at and deliberate the  
 220 spending amounts this year. Job Doesburg says he thinks the budget of societies should be increased to allow for bigger society events. Koen Verdenius says that it is a good idea to look into using this amount for different kind of events, and not just the classic EVC events.

Koen Verdenius says that he would like to hear the conclusion of this discussion. Kimberley Frings says that they will keep the current amount but talk to the EVC about the types of events. Koen  
 225 Verdenius says he would like to see that in the policy document, Kimberley Frings says that that can be done.

### 3.7 General

Ayala Hoeks asks what numbers this contribution is based on. Kimberley Frings says that it's based on a decline in the amount of new members.

230 *Jelle Besseling has setup the voting process and explains what will be happening.*

A vote is held with the statement **The total budget for board clothing for 2020-2021 will remain the same as in 2019-2020.**

In favour: **13**

Oppose: **22**

235 Blank: **13**

Invalid: **0**

**Decision** *The candidate board has to change the budgeted amount for board clothing*

*The discussion about the contribution continues*

Kimberley Frings says that they have a rough estimate of the amount of first year students that will  
 240 start.

Ayala Hoeks remarks that she would like to have seen the city trip by the international committee in the policy document, with some explanation. Marie-Sophie Simon says that the city trip has already been discussed with the current board. Jan van Bommel says that the city trip seems like a good idea. Nienke Wessel asks what the idea of the trip is. Marie-Sophie Simon explains that is meant for  
 245 international students to get to know a Dutch city. Astrid van der Jagt says that she likes the idea, but would like to see some more in the policy plan. Marie-Sophie Simon says she will come back to that after they had a small discussion. Job Doesburg says that the explanation is not needed in the policy plan to keep it short.

Ayala Hoeks asks why the Thabloid was decreased. Kimberley Frings replies that this was suggested  
 250 by the committee.

Wietse Kuipers says he likes that the society budget is increased.

Jeremy Guijt asks if the added budget for the lustrum is meant for the 30th or 35th lustrum. Kimberley Frings replies that this is meant for the 35th lustrum. Jeremy Guijt thinks it's not necessary to already add money to the lustrum reservation. Job Doesburg says that starting adding to the reservation in this year makes sense. Jeremy Guijt says that it makes sense to spend the money for the lustrum in a year where members visiting that lustrum are present.

## General remarks

Job Doesburg asks what the status is on communicating with the university. Marie-Sophie Simon says that the university keeps the association in the loop, but that there are no big decisions made yet.

Astrid van der Jagt thanks the candidate board for spending all the effort on the policy plan. She says that she would have liked to see some more concrete plans. Marie-Sophie Simon explains that concrete plans were hard to decide on because of the corona situation. Jeremy Guijt says he would have liked to see tentative plans, even though he thinks the short policy plan is a good idea.

23:25 *Julian van der Horst adjourns the meeting.*

23:36 *Julian van der Horst reopens the meeting.*

## 8 Voting Policy Plan 2020-2021

Marie-Sophie Simon explains some changes they will make to the policy plan.

- In section 1.1 it will be clarified that the go/no-go moment is to prevent financial expenses instead of effort.
- The budget for board clothing will be reduced to €150 per person. The left over money will be reserved for a future WISO.
- A remark will be added to the part about the EVC to explain that the board will look at the kind of events.
- The reservation for the next lustrum will not change.

A vote is held with the statement **I approve the policy plan 2020-2021 and the candidate board from 1st of September.**

In favour: **26**

Oppose: **7**

Blank: **14**

Invalid: **0**

**Decision** *The candidate board and the policy plan of the candidate board for 2020-2021 are accepted pending the promised changes.*

## 9 A.O.B.

There is no other business to discuss.

## 10 Table Round

285 Astrid van der Jagt likes that we have a Discord server, but she would like to see the board being active more in there. Julian van der Horst says the board will talk about that.

Jeremy Guijt asks if the brunch from the board he bought at the RAGweek borrel is still possible. Julian van der Horst says it is.

Job Doesburg says he liked that the Helios voting system was used.

290 Joren Vrancken says that the GM was well organised by the board.

Koen Verdenius asks “if Thalia enters into an agreement or verbal contract with a person and said person does not honour that agreement or contract, would that be reason for the association to suspend further activities with this person or party?”. Julian van der Horst says yes, in certain occasions. Koen Verdenius says that during the RAGweek borrel Thalia went into a verbal agreement with Jan van Bommel that he would set a tattoo of the Thalia logo, he thinks Jan van Bommel should  
295 be suspended or settle with the board in this manner. Julian van der Horst says this will be discussed with Jan van Bommel. Koen Verdenius asks if Jan van Bommel can respond with a certain deadline or a settlement in the form of a thousand euros. Jan van Bommel says he’ll do it, if Koen Verdenius holds his hand. Koen Verdenius agrees on holding his hand, and would like to see the tattoo before  
300 the next GM that is physical.

Roland Leferink asks if there will be an active members activity this year. Nick van Oers replies that instead there will be something else that is still being worked on.

*Naturally a lot of people congratulated the upcoming board during the table round, this has been left out of the minutes.*

## 305 11 Adjournment

00:10 *Julian van der Horst adjourns the General Meeting.*