

# Proposal to the board about giving members priority over benefactors for event registration

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The past half year, the corona virus outbreak has cancelled almost all of Thalia's events. With the start of the new year, we are able to host a very limited amount of real-life events again, though with very limited capacity. Consequently, this means that it is to be expected that it will be harder to register for those events.

Citing Thalia's Articles of Association, Thalia's goal should be to promote the contacts between students of Computing Science and Information Sciences. With the limited capacity at events we are currently having for most events, in my opinion, Thalia should put all effort in executing this goal of connecting our students. Therefore, I would like to incentivize the board to consider executing a different policy for event registration for events with limited capacity: as the title suggests, 'real' members should get priority over benefactors.

## **In practice**

To start with, in my opinion, the registration policy should be able to differ per event depending on the context. However, I will give the following practical example that I think would work in most cases.

Event registration is split into 2 phases. In the first phase, only members will be able to register for an event. In the second phase, if there is still capacity left, also benefactors will be able to register (or they can put themselves on the back of the waiting list). For example, when organising a borrel with a capacity of 40 people and a registration period of 4 weeks (until the night of the event), the first 3 weeks should be members-only registration, and the last week before the event is open for anyone.

Even more practically, as I think it is best to implement this policy as soon as possible, this policy does not require an update to the website. The registration phases can be stated in the event text description, and the organising party can announce that any benefactors that registers during the first period, will be removed manually. This is, for example, also done previously for the wine tasting (people that haven't attended the previous wine tasting get priority) or committee lunch (first year students get priority).

## **Are we allowed to do this?**

Yes. Not the articles of association, nor the internal regulations, state anything about the way event registration should be done. It wouldn't be a new phenomenon either, Thalia's study trip, the Batavierenrace, wine tasting or committee lunch have had a different event registration policy too. The articles of association only give benefactors the right "to attend events organised by the association", but this does allow for reasonable conditions. Considering the conditions we are currently in, I think prioritising 'real' members at real-life events, is a more than reasonable condition.

### **Why would one become a benefactor then?**

Benefactors are people that support Thalia (financially), and in return get the ability to join events. However, benefactors are not and should not be the focus group of Thalia, and people should not become benefactor for the mere reason of profiting from our events. If this new policy would be a reason Thalia would have fewer benefactors, so be it. Also note that we are not banning benefactors from all our events, we only do give priority to 'real' members for the first phase of registration.

### **Should we keep this policy for the long future as well?**

To be honest, even before I associated corona with a virus, I personally was already in favour of a policy like this, at least for certain events that are known to have a limited capacity (such as the Thalia weekend). However, it wasn't really a problem in practice. With corona now, however, I do think that it is a much more relevant topic. Note that this proposal is not a proposal to change event registration forever, it is a mere incentivize to the board to strongly consider policies like this in the future, at least while corona is a thing.

### **Is this really a problem right now?**

Personally, I have heard quite some fuzz about this being a problem in the previous years (so before corona). I will agree that it is most certainly **not** the case that all our events right now are completely filled with benefactors and 'real' members have no chance to join real-life events at all - we didn't even have that many events yet. However, (1) I would really like to prevent this becoming a problem, considering the low number of real life events we will be having, and (2) principally, I think that each case where a benefactor is able to join an event while a 'real' member is on the waiting list, should be prevented (this latter statement is a bit of an overstatement of course, but I think you will get the idea).

### **What if a benefactor in a committee organises an event?**

As stated earlier, this proposal is not written with the goal to become a hard rule. The policy can be decided per event and of course, if a benefactor organises the event it would make no sense that they would not be allowed to join that event themselves.

### **What about honorary members?**

The articles of association treat honorary members and benefactors pretty much the same, but I think the board can think of a proper policy here themselves.

With this proposal, I hope to open the discussion at this GM and hear whether people agree with it or not, so the board can take the GM's opinion on this matter into account for the future.