

## **First VeSte Party 1997-1998**

The university council adjourned in December 1997, and till that time VeSte occupied two seats, in the University Council, by the persons of Geisje Hoetjes and Hinco Gierman. Behind the scenes, Sandra Veerman was already working very hard, and occupied the third seat for VeSte, when the Student Council started in 1998 with 12 members in total. Geisje had started studying Economics in 1993 and was a member of KSV. Sandra and Hinco were both members of SSR-W, and were studying rural development studies and biotechnology, respectively. Three people out of different groups in Wageningen, which had very fruitful discussions together.

### **Plans for the university**

One of the big issues this year was the introduction of the new law which regulated the modernisation of the management of the university. At the same time, the fusion with the Dutch organisation for agricultural research (DLO) was taking on serious forms (by that time named Knowledge Centre Wageningen). Both events had a great influence on the future of the university. In the discussions about the plans for the coming four years, called the "Instellingsplan", and the adaptations in the regulations for government and administration we have had a good input. Together with the other parties we prevented discounts on student facilities and innovation in education.

### **Block system**

In this year, the block system, as we have now, is introduced. We had a strong opposition against this plan. Our opinion was that this new system, through his Regis rules with less re-examinations, would decrease the freedom of the studies. We have written a note proposing a system with more re-examination opportunities, but we got little support. Fortunately, three years later our proposal is adopted.

### **At national level**

Also at the national level we have been quite busy. We became an aspirant-member of ISO (Dutch national student association), and the same year became an official member. Via ISO and LKvV (national chamber of student associations) we took part in a lot of national discussions. Not only the implementation of the MUB, but also more practical things like Jurassic advice we derived from them.

After all, this has been a very spectacular and exiting year, for us as well as for the university. It is amazing how many things you learn in one year with everything belonging there to. The knowledge and special skills you learn are of indefinable value and will never be useless. It is a very special experience, which gives your study an extra dimension. A year in the Student Council suits perfectly in the view of VeSte: the academic developed student!