

## Fifteenth VeSte Party 2011-2012

In 2011-2012 VeSte again, after elections, received nine seats in the Student Council. This meant we could continue to represent active students with the same support and enthusiasm, and the fifteenth VeSte fraction was more than ready to take up this challenge! During our year, we kept on striving for high quality of education and student facilities, as well as the possibilities for broad academic development. Some of our highlights:

- Sufficient and adequate working/thesis places for students (RSI/CANS) The SC received complaints from students about thesis working places, and related to that, the RSI (Repetitive Strain Injury) and CANS (Complaints Arms Neck and/or Shoulders) problems. VeSte believed these signals should be taken very seriously and therefore these problems were investigated by means of a questionnaire, of which the results were handed over to the Rector.
- Governmental plans 2011-2012 was an exciting year: there were many discussions about the proposal 'Studeren is investeren' and the 'Halbe Heffing' was implemented (and luckily abolished again later). These developments were communicated to and discussed with students, study advisors and the Executive Board. Besides, Veste was highly involved in the national lobby against these measures, via our involvement in ISO (Interstedelijk Studenten Overleg).
- Accreditation and performance agreements We were involved in the accreditation of the university, which was completed successfully! Besides, discussions were held about the targets the university had to set for 2015 where amongst others the Binding Study Advice was left out based on the SC's advice and the decision was made to explore the opportunities for installing an excellence program.

But of course there was more:

- Culture for students in Wageningen was put on the agenda of the university
- A discussion on the tuition fee and costs for international students was held (to be continued...)
- Students of the joint Bachelor program tourism can also use a dictionary at their exams
- Agreement on a proper Student Facilities Definition was finally reached
- Involvement in the development of an electronic book ordering system at the WUR-shop• Initiative was taken to explore the opportunities of a central computer system: a system that can help students to find an unoccupied computer in the library or elsewhere in the university buildings
- Studying mothers were helped by organizing contacts with the municipality and student deans
- A report on Quality vs. Quality was written and handed to the university, with indicators for quality of education and facilities
- An integrated website for international students was initialized

### Lustrum

This faction had the honor to organize the third VeSte lustrum. Our fifteenth anniversary was celebrated by organizing an opening, a master class on how to start your own business, a supporters barbecue and an open party.

### Activities

We are proud of organizing a very interesting debate about study success: a huge success! The value of extra-curricular activities was discussed with members of the house of representatives (Boris van der Ham, D66; Anne-Wil Lucas, VVD; Tanja Jadnanansing, PvdA and Jasper van Dijk, SP) , Sebastiaan Hameleers (chair of ISO) and of course many students! Besides, an action at the WUR-shop and a board congress with workshops for all board members was organized. At the end of our year, we found eleven enthusiastic new VeSte members, a record! Unfortunately, there were no elections, but instead a promotion week was organized, where VeSte was present at different study organizations, had an inflatable castle and started with short fun movies: VeSte TV. With all our enthusiasm, seriousness and fun, stress, drinks, jokes, sarcasm, moves, Calimero-moments, parties and learning points we had the best board year we could possibly wish for! We wish all the VeSte fractions to come the same experience and all the best because, **Blue is good for you!**

Cheers!

Maria, Aart, Anne, Willemijn, Sanne, Leonie, Rik, Roy and Marloes