

## Sixteenth VeSte Party 2012-2013

VeSte 2012-2013 started with a large group of eleven members, but continued from October onwards with nine members. After a year of hard work and lots of fun, we are proud to present our work to you!

### Initiatives

- **Exchange students:** The Student Council found that there is a discrepancy between what students expect from supervision when they go on exchange and what is provided by Wageningen University. After quite some research and lobbying, the university promised that the number of working hours for the Erasmus Coordinators will be increased so they have more time to focus on outgoing exchange students.
- **Exam results:** Teachers officially have 10 working days to check an exam, but a lot of times teachers do not meet this deadline. The SC took surveys to point the Executive Board to the problem and the results are taken back to the exam committee. They promised to be more pro-active to approach teachers when this problem arises.
- **Safe access to the campus:** In March 2013, the Student Council organised two action days with the goal to improve the 'safe access to the campus'. This was followed by a brainstorm evening between the municipality, the university and others. Besides attention to the problem, a process has started where the university and municipality together have to look for short and long term solutions and putting them into practice.
- **Student Cafe:** The Student Council has been involved in the development of Orion from the beginning. In this process, pressure was put on the realisation of a student cafe, which in the end succeeded. The name of the student cafe, 'The Spot', is chosen from a name competition that was organised in cooperation with the Student Council.
- **May 5<sup>th</sup>:** It appeared that the 5th of May (liberation day) would be a part of the exam week for upcoming years. After a lot of negotiating and lobbying, the SC arranged that at least the morning of May 6th will be exam free for all students.

### Dossiers received from the university

- **Price policy:** The Executive Board proposed an increase in the institutional tuition fee. For several reasons the SC advised negatively about Price Policy 2013-2014. The Executive Board stated in return that they would keep monitoring the effects of the raised fee and the SC would become more involved in the process of defining the institutional tuition fee.
- **Clustering of re-exams:** In order to reduce procrastination, gambling and competition between exams, the university proposed to cluster the re-exams into the months of February and August. After consulting students, the SC approved the clustering of re-exams under certain conditions.
- **Evening exams:** Since there it is getting more and more difficult to find enough lecture rooms to schedule exams, the university proposed to introduce evening exams for the academic year '13-'14. The SC decided that under conditions evening exams would be allowed, since there was no suitable alternative.

### National developments

New government plans arose: a social loan system for both BSc and MSc students and a change in the public transport rights of students. We gave input to these plans through our contacts at the Intercity Student Organisation (ISO). At the end of our board year, a lot was still unclear and certainties were not yet provided by the minister.

Furthermore, VeSte was involved in setting up an organisation representing all beta students of higher education throughout the Netherlands. The technical universities and representatives of most technical faculties are now regularly coming together to discuss issues relevant for the beta/technical-student.

### Activities

VeSte organised quite some events this year, such as VeStival, where a Constructus DJ contest was held, the debate and a very successful board congress. The VeSte-Thymos tournament was as successful as before, which reinforced the cooperative relationship of VeSte with the most important sport association in Wageningen. Last but not least we worked hard on the promotion of VeSte during the elections. The campaign resulted in eight seats for VeSte for the year 2013-2014.

It was a pleasure to represent you, the active students, for the year 2012-2013. We wish you all the best for your study time in Wageningen and remember to stay active!

Wouter-Jan, Sanne, Marit, Jasmijn, Haoran, Esther, Christianne, Anneriek, Anniek