rijksuniversiteit groningen

Central Implementing Body for Student Organizations (CUOS)

Annual Report CUOS 2024-2025



Central Implementing Body for Student Organizations (CUOS)

June 2025

1. Foreword

Dear Reader,

You have before you the annual report of the Central Implementing Body for Student Organizations (CUOS) for the academic year 2024-2025. The purpose of this annual report is to provide insight into the policies implemented by CUOS this year. It is designed around the goals set forth in the annual plan and, in addition, the general activities of the CUOS. The policy goals mentioned in the annual plan are:

a) Professionalizing the organization of the CUOS and communication from the CUOS;
b) Reviewing the application forms submitted by student organizations for grants and the Graduation Fund;
c) Reconsidering the assessment model regarding the membership bonuses/restriction of Cultural and Other Foundations and (small) associations as established in the Graduation Fund;
d) Exploring the possibilities of transforming the Establishment Grant for International Organizations (OIS) into a Merger Subsidy.

These and other items will be covered in this annual report. The CUOS thanks the Board of the University and specifically Femke Munniksma, Marjolein Wiltvank, Annemiek Eleveld, Mateo Bril, Robert Otten, Mark Aalders, André Haag, Berend Stuut and the groups of SOG, Lijst Calimero and DVS for their cooperation over the past year.

Finally, the 20th CUOS Board wishes its successors much success and wisdom in the coming academic year.

Sincerely,

CUOS XX consisting of:

Roan Luning	President
Bram van der Sloot	Secretary
Stefan Vinke	Finance portfolio
Matthias Benjert	Housing portfolio
Jurre Wolsheimer	Portfolio PR & Communications

Contents

1. Foreword **2**
2. In brief **4**
3. Policies pursued by the CUOS **5**
4. Graduation Fund **7**
4.1 General 7
4.2 Evaluation of Graduation Fund Part B Appendix 1 7
4.2.1 Cluster sports and social clubs 7
4.2.2 Limited to no use of Form J by student organizations 7
4.2.3 General conditions 7
4.2.4 Changes to StOF 8
5. Grants **9**
5.1 Activity Grants 9
5.1.1 Change procedure cultural organizations 9
5.2 Internationalization and Inclusion Subsidy (IIS) 9
5.3 Establishment grant for International Student Organizations (OIS) 10
5.4 Campaign subsidy 10
6. Emergency Response courses (BHV) **11**
7. Accomodation **13**
7.1 General 13
7.2 Lack of space 13
7.3 Access issues 13
8. Finance **15**
8.1 Introduction 15
8.2 Revenue 15
8.3 Expenditures 15
8.4 Realization 2024 15
8.5 Reserve 16
9. Outlook **17**
9.1 SKLO's position around the Activity Grant 17
9.1.1 Deviation annual report 2023/2024 17
9.1.2 Flawed cooperation between SKLO and the CUOS 17
9.1.3 Special position 17
9.1.4 Recommendation 17
9.2 Members surcharge Conviviality 18
9.2.1 Change of formula 18
9.2.2 An unachievable maximum 18
9.2.3 Recommendation 18
9.3 Minimum number of members sports 18
9.4 Professionalizing CUOS 19
9.4.1 Recommendation 19
Appendix 1: Finances **20**

2. In brief

- Graduation Fund: last year, 40 boards applied for inclusion or recalibration in the Graduation Fund. Of these applications, 31 organizations were included in the Graduation Fund. The CUOS awarded a total of 684 board scholarship months in 2024-2025.[1]
- Activity grant: the CUOS awarded an amount of **€ *299,679*** to 22 organizations, of which **€ *133,406*** went to 10 cultural organizations, and **€ *166,273*** to 12 other organizations.
- Internationalization and Inclusion Grant (IIS): the CUOS awarded an amount of ***€ 14,850*** to 37 organizations this year. A total of ***€ 23,489*** had been requested by 42 organizations.
- Establishment Grant for International Student Organizations (OIS): the CUOS did not receive any applications this year.
- Campaign subsidy: this year, the CUOS distributed ***€5000*** to 4 candidate groups, which is the maximum in the CUOS Regulations
- The CUOS continued to expand the organization and planning of the Emergency Response courses. Nevertheless, there were significantly fewer registrations than last year. This suggests that a reorganization may be considered.
- The CUOS has proposed adjustments to the Graduation Fund Regulations regarding the membership restriction of Cultural and Other Organizations and the general conditions.
- The CUOS has taken a critical look at currently available grants and how they are filled. This led to the transformation of the Establishment Grant for International Student Organizations (OIS) into a Merger Subsidy.
- The CUOS has worked on the overall professionalization of the CUOS, including increasing the recognition of CUOS with new promotional materials and adjustments to the website, forms and regulations. In addition, options for a potential application system have been explored.
- The CUOS strives for operational efficiency and, as a result, collaborations with other parties in the Activity Grant assessment process have been critically examined. As well as outsourcing certain tasks around housing, where a more direct way of directing would be more efficient.
- The CUOS formulated recommendations for the succeeding board to address and elaborate on certain areas of concern.
- The twentieth CUOS board festively celebrated the fourth CUOS lustrum with former administrators and colleagues from the University of Groningen.

[1] At the time of writing this Annual Report, the objections have not yet been finalized. It is therefore possible that the figures presented may change at a later date as a result of the objections.

3. Policies pursued by the CUOS

3.1 Professionalizing the CUOS organization and communication from the CUOS

The CUOS recognizes the importance of continuous professional development as many student organizations in Groningen depend on the CUOS. It is therefore necessary to improve a number of internal processes within the CUOS. These improvements have taken place in the following three areas: handover, communication and house style.

Handover

Until recently, there was no specific handover document for each position within the CUOS board. In addition, not all of the existing handover documents contained current information. This year, the knowledge necessary to perform the associated tasks was tracked for each position. Based on this information, new handover documents were drafted and the general handover document was also updated. In addition, there have been several collaborations with the Advisory Board to ensure the consistency and professionalism of the CUOS as much as possible.

Communication

Information regarding the application for individual board scholarships and tuition-free boards has been refined this year. In consultation with the University Funds Committee (UFC), it was decided to centralize all information on the UFC website. Previously, this information could also be found on the CUOS site, which incorrectly gave the impression that CUOS is responsible for the application and disbursement of tuition-free boards and individual board scholarships, when this is not the case. Because of this change, all communication now goes directly through the UFC, which is, after all, responsible for this process.

In addition, work has been done this year to refine the provision of information on the CUOS site. To this end, changes have been drafted to describe the application for the Graduation Fund and grants as specifically and clearly as possible. This refinement is intended to eliminate ambiguities and make the application process more accessible and efficient for student organizations. After the objection period, these changes will be implemented and the new application forms will be published.

House style

Last year we worked on new CUOS promotional material that conforms to the guidelines of the UG house style. To this end, the UG communications department was contacted to design this material in accordance with the UG house style. The board engaged a graphic designer who designed new promotional material for the CUOS. This has resulted in a banner on the website and a recognition sign (no logo) so that the CUOS can distinguish itself. This is expected to increase the recognizability of the CUOS.

3.2 Revising the application forms submitted by student organizations for grants and the Graduation Fund.

The application forms were revised this year and placed in a uniform format. The content of the forms has also been revised. Form J, which - usually on the basis of the secretarial annual reports - sets out the policy pursued for each year, has been revised in terms of content and is now better aligned with the requirements within the Graduation Fund. As an illustration, a description of the organization's interpretation of this code of conduct has been included in the new Form J, forming a new item. In addition, an adjustment has been made of the item 'developments in the field of internationalization and inclusion'. Here, the section 'internationalization' has been removed. The section 'inclusion' has been merged into the item 'developments in the field of inclusion, well-being and personal development', replacing the section 'member support'. CUOS believes that this better captures the essence of the organization's level of support for members, thus better reflecting the governance burden. Finally, terms have been clarified, requirements explained further and sub-questions created to assist student organizations in completing the relevant form.

Upon completion of the objection period, these new forms will be published on the site and student organizations will be notified. The content of the forms is still being prepared in accordance with the updated house style. This will be completed by the end of this academic or early next academic year.

3.3 Reconsidering the assessment model regarding the membership bonus / restriction of Cultural and Other Foundations and (small) associations as established in the Graduation Fund

During the recalibration of the Cultural and Other Organizations cluster last year, the CUOS determined that the membership restriction in the special assessment for the Graduation Fund had been unfair to associations in this cluster. This year, the CUOS examined ways to mitigate the negative impact of this provision. Ultimately, in collaboration with ABJZ, the CUOS proposed that this provision be removed in the new Graduation Fund Regulations starting next year. This advice was adopted.

3.4 Exploring the possibilities of transforming the Establishment Grant for International Organizations (OIS) into a Merger Subsidy

This year CUOS has received signals from student organizations willing to legally merge. This has shown support for the Merger Subsidy. Moreover, no OIS subsidy was applied for this year. Therefore, the CUOS proposed to amend the subsidy in order to promote the use of the available subsidy budget.

The CUOS has changed the OIS Scheme to the Merger Subsidy regulation. Through this regulation, merging organizations can apply for up to a maximum of 1,000.00 to pay for the change in statutes. The CUOS wants to promote cooperation between associations this way and contribute to the continuity of the association(s).

4. Graduation Fund

4.1 General

This year, the CUOS has given advice to the Board of the University on the recalibration of the sports and social clubs. The advice 2025-2028 was sent to the Board of the University in March 2025 and discussed in the University Council in April 2025. In this recommendation, all student organizations in the sports and social cluster were assessed using the criteria from the Graduation Fund Regulations '24-'25. A total of 31 different organizations were included in the Graduation Fund for 2025-2028.

4.2 Evaluation of Graduation Fund Part B Appendix 1

4.2.1 Cluster sports and social clubs

The Graduation Fund Regulations and consequently the assessment model for the sports and social clubs category were revised last year. In this revision, the assessment model for social clubs was modified, now using a formula to calculate the membership bonus. This is an inverted exponential formula, where the pay decreases cumulatively by an exponential factor of the number of members. The formula used in this Scheme is: P*(N-74)^k, where P is the original pay rate of 2.5%, N is the total membership of the social club, and k is a positive constant of 0.35 governing the rate of increase. This year, the new calculation method of the membership surcharge came into effect for the first time.

4.2.2 Limited to no use of Form J by student organizations

During the review of Graduation Fund applications, it was found that many student organizations did not use the required Form J. During information sessions, it was stressed several times that the application should be submitted in accordance with the requirements on the site, including the application forms. Given the high number of applications submitted without the required form, it was decided this year, for practical reasons, to still consider these applications in order to avoid delays in the assessment process. From next year, however, applications not submitted according to the required forms (as listed on the CUOS site) will not be considered. The advice extended to student organizations is to keep the forms updated annually.

4.2.3 General Conditions

CUOS ran into a number of difficulties in developing the regulations. The main bottleneck here is the general conditions for the recognition of student organizations in the Graduation Fund. The assessment of the Graduation Fund revealed that strictly speaking, student organizations do not comply with this. It concerns Art. 4 General Conditions Appendix 1 Regulation on Recognition and Recalibration of Student Organizations UG and HG:

Appendix 1 Regulation on Recognition and Recalibration of Student Organizations UG and HG.
Article 4 General terms and conditions
3. In addition, the Articles of Association stipulate at least the following.

a) The organization is aimed at the student community of the UG and/or HG, or of a study programme, school or faculty of the UG and/or HG.

b) The executive board of the organization consists of (part-time) students and/or PhD students/PhD scholarship students.

c) In principle, the organization is accessible to every student enrolled at the UG or UG and HG, or to every student enrolled at the UG or UG and HG from a particular program, school or faculties of the UG and/or HG, unless this cannot reasonably be asked of the organization. The foregoing is at the discretion of the CUOS.

The CUOS notes that student organizations are becoming increasingly accessible to students enrolled at other educational institutions, such as NHL Stenden (hbo institution) and Noorderpoort (mbo institution). This concerns educational institutions other than the University of Groningen (UG) and Hanzehogeschool (HG). In the implementation of the regulations, this does not quite correspond to paragraphs a and c included in the General Terms and Conditions. After all, Appendix 1 to the regulations relates entirely to student organizations with UG students or with UG and HG students as members. In practice, it regularly occurs that it is not explicitly stated in the statutes of the organization that members must be from the UG and/or HG.

CUOS has proposed to refine this provision and make it such that opening the organizations to students other than UG and HG does not affect an organization's eligibility within the Graduation Fund. In addition, it will also be possible for students to serve on the board for a maximum of one year after graduation. Finally, mbo students will also be allowed to sit on the board, without this leading to exclusion of the student organization in the Graduation Fund given the current general conditions. The CUOS emphasizes that non-enrolled UG and HG students cannot claim an individual board scholarship. The CUOS sees the adjustment of this provision as valuable and fitting within the current developments where, for example, mbo students are more involved in Groningen student life.

4.2.4 Changes to StOF

A number of other issues have also been proposed to be implemented in the regulations. This concerns the revision of the assessment model for cultural and other organizations, for details see section 3.3 in this annual report.

From next year, the Regulation '25-'26 will bear the name 'Student Support Fund', following the change of terminology in Article 7.51 of the HRA.

5. Grants

5.1 Activity Grants

In the area of the Activity Grant, the CUOS has a decisive role. In addition to the Activity Grant which the CUOS processes on application, the student facilities ACLO, ESN, KEI, and Usva receive a fixed amount on an annual basis as usual. They do not have to apply for this unless a change is deemed necessary. This was the case for KEI & ESN this year, because of increasing costs due to inflation, higher operating costs, and an increase in the number of students. Therefore, a request was made to the Board of the University to adjust the amount upward.

The CUOS **granted** an amount of***€ 299,679*** to 22 student organizations this year. This is less than last year (€314,319). The amount allocated for the 10 cultural organizations is***€ 133,406***. This is higher than last year (€131,561). The amount granted to the cultural organizations includes the amount for Usva.

To the SKLO, the CUOS granted a total of ***€19,209*** for seven philosophical student organizations. In doing so, the CUOS notes that the SKLO's role in implementing this grant was perceived as disruptive and unnecessary. This is consistent with previous evaluations regarding this collaboration. For a detailed description of this problem, please refer to Chapter 9.

5.1.1 Change procedure cultural organizations

This year, Usva once again provided advice to CUOS on the grants to be awarded to cultural organizations. However, consultations with Usva revealed that while it is good that they are and remain involved in the determination of grants for cultural organizations, some complications arise in the preparation of the advice. Usva indicates that they are less versed than the CUOS in such formal procedures. Therefore, in part for the sake of clarity and simplicity towards all organizations, it was agreed to pull certain aspects of the procedure for cultural organizations back more to CUOS. An example is the drafting of the decision letters. In addition, merging the various regulations of Usva and CUOS provides greater clarity. To this end, the provisions in the Usva Activity Grant Regulations will be incorporated into the CUOS Activity Grants and Accommodation guidelines. The involvement of Usva in the decision-making process of grants to cultural organizations is still perceived as pleasant. The Regulations therefore explicitly state that CUOS will only proceed to award grants to cultural organizations after advice has been sought from Usva.

5.2 Internationalization and Inclusion Subsidy (IIS)

This year, 42 student organizations applied for a total of ***€23,489*** for the IIS. Last year this involved 46 student organizations. At that time, an amount of ***€17,462*** was paid out. This year, the CUOS granted an amount of ***€14,850***, divided among 35 organizations. The CUOS retains the policy discretion to determine which applications are most eligible for the grant, and how much of the requested amount is then disbursed. The CUOS noted that a relatively large amount of money was requested for activities or issues for which the IIS was not intended. In this regard, CUOS points out the importance of compliance with the Internationalization and Inclusion Grant Regulations.

5.3 Establishment Grant for International Student Organizations (OIS)

No applications were submitted this year for the Establishment Grant for International Student Organizations (OIS). This year, CUOS examined whether the policy surrounding the OIS should be changed. As a result, the CUOS issued a recommendation to change the OIS to a so-called Merger Subsidy. The realization of this can be read in Chapter 3.

5.4 Campaign subsidy

Based on the CUOS Regulations, candidate groups registered with the Central Voting Office for the election of the student section of the University Council during the University Council elections can apply for a grant from the CUOS for campaign financing. This year - in addition to the three incumbents - a new party, namely Stem voor Studenten (SVS), successfully applied for the Campaign Subsidy. This resulted in a different distribution of the total amount of ***€5,000*** this year than last year.

Partly because of the application of a new party, this year the CUOS reviewed the applications extra critically with regard to the information provided. It should be emphasized that no judgments were formed on the basis of unsubmitted documents. Furthermore, among other things, the financial needs of the four organizations were compared with each other, in order to ensure that applying for a lower amount does not automatically mean that this organization will also receive relatively less than the other organizations. Indeed, the amount to be asked for is in practice influenced by some organizations' expectations regarding the number of applicants.

This year, the ***€5,000*** is divided as follows: *€1,516.66* for De Vrije Student, *€1,516.67* for Lijst Calimero, *€1,516.67* for Studentenorganisatie Groningen and *€450* for Stem voor Studenten.

6. Emergency Response courses (BHV)

For several years, CUOS has been coordinating Emergency Response courses (BHV) at a central level for any student organization board member who wants to attend. This is organized by the Portfolio Holder PR & Communication. The courses are provided by the Institute for Safety & Environment Groningen (IVM). All organizations pay the amount determined by IVM on the offer themselves. By arranging this at a central level, training days can be arranged as efficiently as possible and the costs per individual participant are as low as possible. These courses are held in June, July and August.

This year there has been a reduced number of registrations. Whereas last year, for example, more than 125 participants had signed up, this year the number is around 80 (at the time of writing, last-minute registrations are still to follow). Many of these registrations came after the passed registration deadline of May 21. There is a relation with the board change of student organizations later in the year.

Signing up later comes with organizational challenges and an increased board burden at an already busy time of year. Because dozens of organizations are involved and nearly 100 individual cases must be considered, final plans are difficult to establish.

Strictly speaking, the broad-based organization of BHV courses does not fall within the core functions of the CUOS. It can therefore be examined whether the burden can be reduced in some way. This could be done, for example, by organizing the registrations in a different way. Currently, in principle, all registrations are collected before a certain date, regardless of the date of the course itself.

One option is to work with multiple registration deadlines that close two weeks before the day of the course. In fact, the course can still be rescheduled or cancelled 10 days in advance at no cost. Instead of working with a ranked choice system, a first come first serve system can then be used. This saves in complexity of BHV planning while CUOS retains its facilitating BHV function. This will be included in the transfer.

To ensure full BHV coverage in the new premises, Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 5-9, CUOS is providing, and paying for, 14 BHV courses in total to student administrators enjoying CUOS housing. This covers a total amount of €2693.46 on the final CUOS budget. In order to provide each floor with enough emergency response officers, the following distribution of course participants per student organization was made, based on the instructions of the prevention coordinator Veiligheid Binnenstad West, Edwin Kok:

For safety reasons, some BHV courses are paid for by the CUOS. This was determined last year in consultation with the Veiligheid Binnenstad West prevention coordinator. KEI has not signed up for BHV courses at the time of writing due to the lack of a candidate board. Since they must all take BHV courses before KEI week, the requirement will still be met. For next year, it is advisable to re-engage in discussions with the UG to review the safety requirements.

KEI: 2
ESN: 2
SIB: 2
SOG: 1
AEGEE: 2
AIESEC: 2
CUOS: 2

Last year, 29 student organizations took a BHV course through CUOS. This represents 80 student board members at the time of writing.

7. Accomodation

7.1 General

One of the core tasks of the CUOS is to appoint a contact person in the management of the offices at the Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 5 to 9. The organizations housed here have the accomodation portfolio holder as contact person. Fifteen different student organizations are housed here.

At the beginning of the year, agreements were made about the use of the premises during the annual premises consultation. These agreements have been observed. The agreements made concern the house rules, which are also established through an agreement on the use of premises. A new addition to these rules was the introduction of a cleaning schedule. This has worked very well and has resulted in the kitchen remaining clean and tidy.

Contact with the housed organizations was also satisfactory this year. The accomodation portfolio holder tried to keep the lines of communication as short as possible with both the student organizations and the UG's university service team.

There are two organizations that did not receive renewed accommodation rights this year. Although the CUOS, pursuant to the CUOS regulations, strives for continuity, it was decided not to grant the right to accommodation this year, for the reasons see also the decision Activity and Accomodation Grant 2025. However, one new organization did join the premises.

It remains important to remind organizations of the rules that apply to the use of the offices. Especially at the end of the year, organizations sometimes want to be less strict about the rules. It is essential to remain consistent and hold these organizations accountable if necessary.

7.2 Lack of space

The space CUOS can allocate to student organizations is limited. As a result, the CUOS faces a complicated allocation issue. Each year, more organizations ask for housing than the CUOS has offices to distribute. As a result, organizations share their offices with other student organizations in order to make more space available for new organizations. Several organizations in the building would like more space due to an increased administrative burden. Currently, all office spaces are allocated and the building is full. As a result, CUOS must always be critical of the use of space by student organizations.

7.3 Access issues

Access to the building is regulated from the back office cluster Binnenstad. Access must be granted by means of a UG student pass. This pass can be scanned at the entrance, after which the door opens automatically. However, this causes problems for Hanze students. They do not have a UG student pass and it is not possible to grant access with their own student pass. Moreover, the CUOS no longer provides lending passes from the UG, as this is contrary to its security policy. This compromises the implementation of the grant. Indeed, the CUOS provides housing for board members of recognized organizations; however, the right to housing would be illusory if they cannot gain access to the premises.

According to the back office, failure to return issued passes constitutes a major objection. Board members thus retain access to the premises even after their board term has ended.

CUOS does not share this concern and does not see why coordinating the issuance and collection of lending passes could not be organized by CUOS itself.

In addition, there are problems surrounding the provision of so-called late access. This involves granting additional authorization from the back office for access to the premises outside regular office hours, such as on holidays or weekends. Although this usually goes well, it has now gone wrong several times. It is confirmed from the back office that access has been granted, but when the board of the student organization subsequently reports to the building, the access does not appear to be functioning.

This is obviously unacceptable. Organizations make arrangements with outside parties and then find themselves without a meeting space. In such situations, the CUOS is incorrectly identified as being responsible because the CUOS cannot grant authorization.

Therefore, the fact that the CUOS cannot perform this authorization independently is highly impractical. For this reason, the CUOS recommends that this authorization not be left with the back office, but transferred to the CUOS. This would be practically easy to achieve, since the CUOS already operates within the UG's system.

8. Finance

8.1 Introduction

The fiscal year of the University and subsequently the CUOS runs concurrently with the calendar year. This means that the fiscal year runs from January 1 to December 31. For this reason, this report contains the financial statement for the fiscal year 2024. The 2024 result and budget can be found in Appendix 1. For clarification, the figures in the earlier chapters of this annual report refer to the 2025 figures. The figures in this chapter refer to 2024 as that year is closed.

This year, CUOS evaluated its financial performance again. To gain more insight into housing costs, the CUOS has now gained access to AFAS, which requires the Finance Portfolio Holder to approve all transactions first. This will allow the CUOS to make more realistic estimates of income and expenses in future years.

8.2 Revenue

The Board of the University funds annual expenses from the CUOS. In addition to the Executive Board's annual contribution, CUOS expenses are paid for with recovery of various grants. For the year 2024, a total amount of **€16,135** has been recovered. This amount is similar to the previous year. The CUOS would like to see this amount come down. It has been pointed out in recent years that the money should be used correctly and in full. This should be continued in the coming years.

8.3 Expenditures

General expenses include expenditures for the performance of board duties. Grants include the payment of the various grants. Accomodation includes all costs associated with the buildings on the Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat and Turftorenstraat.

8.4 Realization 2024

Based on the 2024 figures, there are a few points that stand out. An amount of **€21,819** more in Activity Grants was awarded than budgeted. Experience shows that most of this difference is recovered, leaving a minimal difference. In addition, the CUOS should take into account that organizations may object. As a result, grants may still be awarded afterwards.
For the Internationalization and Inclusion grant, the grant ceiling has been exceeded by an amount of **€1,504**. Because accommodation costs would be lower, CUOS decided at the time to award more Internationalization and Inclusion grants in 2024.

Housing costs are lower in 2024 than budgeted. This is due to lower costs in the Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat. Despite the incidental high expenditure due to the move (see the item 'Other' under housing costs), the total housing costs are significantly lower.

8.5 Reserve

The CUOS has accumulated a high reserve in the past. For this reason, the Board of the University has decided to reduce the CUOS reserve to **€50,000.** This reserve can be used to pay for unexpected small expenses. It is also expected that in the coming years, partly due to recoveries, the reserves will slowly increase again. A number of years ago the reserves were used for incidental grants. Currently these reserves have no specific purpose.

9. Outlook

9.1 SKLO's position regarding the Activity Grant

9.1.1 Deviation annual report 2023/2024.

As already explained in Section 5, the SKLO still plays a role in the assessment of the Activity Grants for philosophical organizations. Contrary to what was suggested in last year's annual report, this has once again been the case this year. Last year - partly as a result of several years of evaluations by the CUOS which showed that mistakes were being made structurally and that the process was ineffective, confusing and unnecessary - it had been decided to bring the assessment of these organizations directly under the responsibility of the CUOS. Although this was agreed with the SKLO Board at the time, it became apparent during the initial introductory meeting with the new SKLO Board that these arrangements had not been discussed with them. In cooperation with CUOS, the new SKLO board intended to improve the assessment procedure and not repeat the mistakes made earlier. The twentieth CUOS board then decided to continue this procedure for one more year as a transitional arrangement, under the suspensive condition that no new problems would arise.

9.1.2 Flawed cooperation between SKLO and the CUOS

Cooperation around grant provision has again been very difficult this year. No substantive advice was provided by the SKLO with respect to the applicant organizations, which meant that the CUOS still had to independently carry out a substantive assessment. This even included checking the general terms and conditions of the organizations in question. Furthermore, the documents provided by the SKLO turned out to be incomplete, which made it necessary to impose a recovery period, despite the fact that the CUOS had informed them in detail about the requirements and procedure prior to the procedure.

9.1.3 Special position

The CUOS considers it important to note that the role of the SKLO in the procedure surrounding the activity grants is a curious one. After all, the SKLO itself also submits activity grant applications and is therefore not an independent umbrella body. This contrasts with the role of Usva, which - given its position within student life - does have the ability to assess cultural organizations in terms of content, with CUOS playing only a monitoring role. In the case of the SKLO, this actually creates the undesirable situation where a party partly assesses its own applications.

9.1.4 Recommendation

In summary, it can be concluded that the SKLO's involvement in the assessment procedure has not added value, but has mainly led to confusion and unnecessary delay. Contrary to what the current Board had hoped, no structural improvement has taken place. The CUOS therefore strongly recommends that in the future the SKLO not be given a role in the assessment procedure for Activity Grants for its underlying philosophical student organizations. It should be recognized that societies covered by the SKLO can only apply to the CUOS for Activity Grants through the SKLO. They cannot do this independently, since, due to their categorization as ‘social clubs’, they cannot claim this grant directly without the intervention of the SKLO as required by the regulation. It should also be noted that this may come at the expense of supporting philosophical activities organized by these associations, requiring these associations to look at other ways of funding.

9.2 Members surcharge Conviviality

9.2.1 Change of formula

Last year, a change was made in the Graduation Fund Regulation regarding the membership surcharge of societies. The calculation of the membership surcharge now uses an inverted exponential formula, with the remuneration decreasing cumulatively by an exponential factor related to the number of members. The reason for this change was the disproportionate increase in board scholarship months for large associations, due to their high membership numbers. The previous board found that most of the board burden is associated with setting up the organization, and that as the organization grows, the board burden per member decreases.

9.2.2 An unachievable maximum

During the recalibration of social clubs, the impact of this formula became apparent. The CUOS notes that, as expected, the formula has benefited smaller societies. The opinion shows that six of the eight associations receive more board scholarship months than before; these are the relatively smaller associations. It can be concluded that the formula has achieved the intended effect. However, the CUOS also views the formula critically. For example, the CUOS notes that the two remaining, larger social clubs receive fewer board scholarship months than before. These associations, with relatively high membership numbers, are hit harder by the new formula. While the CUOS stresses that there is no intention to disadvantage these associations, the CUOS recognizes that with the formula in its current form it is not feasible. The current 'large' associations have about 2000 members, while the formula only grants the maximum number of board scholarship months, i.e. 75 months, at a membership of 4000.

9.2.3 Recommendation

CUOS does not consider this situation ideal and therefore recommends a critical review of the membership surcharge formula. A balanced approach should be sought, in which large societies are adequately rewarded, while the membership surcharge for smaller societies better reflects the actual board burden. Consideration could be given to adjusting the formula so that the maximum number of board scholarship months to be received is aligned with a realistic membership number appropriate to current Groningen student life. A revision of the formula helps to ensure an effective and equitable assessment model without compromising the original goal.

9.3 Minimum number of members sports

The Graduation Fund regulations currently state that, in principle, a sports association can be included in the Graduation Fund when the association has at least 100 members. During the recalibration of sports associations this year, this provision led to the rejection of three applications based on membership numbers.

This minimum requirement of 100 members for sports associations for inclusion in the Graduation Fund constitutes an extraordinarily high requirement and exception to the minimum number of members of other categories. This distinction is not well justified. Indeed, the burden of governance in sports associations is similar to that of associations in the other categories. To illustrate, the projection is that after adjusting this minimum requirement to 75 members, it will allow at least two of the three to meet the minimum membership. The proposal is to bring this membership threshold of sports associations in line with the other

categories (except cultural organizations) to 75 members. The CUOS recommends that the next board consider this change.

9.4 Professionalization CUOS

The current CUOS board believes that CUOS would benefit from further professionalization efforts. This year the board has already taken a number of steps in this direction. For example, work has been done on new promotional materials, the site is being revamped and various application forms and regulations have been revised.

Another issue the CUOS wants to address is professionalizing the application process. Applications for the Graduation Fund have for some time been via email. These emails are submitted to the secretary and contain a considerable number of attachments. In practice, this creates a number of technical bottlenecks. For example, it has regularly occurred that the size of the files is so large that the files are placed in ZIP folders, which complicates the accessibility of the applications. After the application is received, an initial check takes place for completeness of the application, albeit without substantive review. These documents are then checked by file name to see if all required documents have been provided, and if necessary, to provide a recovery period. The CUOS has therefore also been looking at how this application process can be standardized, coming up with the idea of developing an application system. The possibilities for such a system were then explored. The UG's Center for Information Technology (CIT) was contacted. Based on the above points and additional wishes, among others, a concrete request was submitted to the CIT. We are currently exploring how our wishes can be worked out into an application system.

9.4.1 Recommendation

The CUOS advises the next board to follow the developments in this area and where possible take further steps in realizing a more user-friendly and efficient application process.

Appendix 1: Finances

Realisatie 2024				
Inkomsten		**Begroting 2024**		**Realisatie 2024**
Bijdrage College van Bestuur	**€**	**378.550**	**€**	**381.242**
Algemene Bijdrage	€	375.050	€	378.550
Prijsbijstelling 2018	€	3.500		
Inflatiecorrectie			€	2.692
BHV bijdrage Studieverenigingen			**€**	**16.161**
Inkomsten Totaal	**€**	**378.550**	**€**	**397.403**
Uitgaven		**Begroting 2024**		**Realisatie 2024**
Algemeen	**€**	**2.800**	**€**	**3.144**
Beleidskosten	€	300	€	300
Overdrachtskosten	€	600	€	570
Constitutieborrel	€	850	€	1.662
Cadeaus	€	150	€	146
Representatiekosten	€	200	€	140
Reproductiekosten	€	200	€	-
Bureaukosten	€	500	€	327
Activiteitensubsidie	**€**	**292.500**	**€**	**314.319**
ACLO	€	50.000	€	50.000
ESN Groningen	€	32.500	€	33.000
KEI	€	30.000	€	35.500
Usva	€	92.000	€	92.000
Overige gerealiseerde subsidies	€	88.000		
AEGEE			€	4.500
AISEC			€	500
ACSA			€	640
Ataxia			€	820
Bragi			€	13.000
Enactus			€	1.300
Estrellas			€	4.436
Gica			€	5.500
GSb			€	3.950
GSCF			€	6.000
GST			€	4.000
Handbalclub Cirkeltijgers			€	500
Integrand Groningen			€	500
Kalliope			€	915
Lijst Calimero			€	300
Literair Dispuut Flanor			€	1.890
SIB			€	15.750
SKLO			€	23.969
SOG			€	2.350
Stukafest			€	3.000
Teimun			€	10.000

Campagnesubsidies	**€**	**5.000**	**€**	**5.000**
De Vrije Student			€	1.667
Lijst Calimero			€	1.667
SOG			€	1.667
Oprichtingssubsidie Int. Org.	**€**	**2.000**	**€**	**1.766**
PSAG			€	800
Amicus Civitas			€	966
Internationalisering- & inclusies.	**€**	**15.000**	**€**	**16.504**
AEGEE			€	396
ACSA			€	500
Bulgarian Society Groningen			€	1.000
Caerus			€	900
CLIO			€	281
Commotie			€	60
Cover			€	125
De Golfbreker GSZV			€	450
De Groene Uilen-Moestasj			€	125
ELSA Groningen			€	120
ESN Groningen			€	820
Flanor Literair Dispuut			€	600
FSG			€	450
G.S.P.V. De Ramenlappers			€	287
Ganymedes			€	1.000
GDS Kalliope			€	1.000
GFE			€	387
GLV Idun			€	265
GSb			€	1.550
IK			€	300
Instituutsvereniging ZaZa			€	60
JFV			€	700
KEI			€	1.000
M.F.V.Panacea			€	328
MESA			€	92
Nexus			€	470
Nobis Cura Futuri Fryslan			€	101
ODIOM			€	78
Popkoor Estrellas			€	72
Sirius A			€	72
Stichting Groninger Studentenkrant			€	725
TBV Lugus			€	200
Teimun			€	700
VIP Studievereniging Psychologie			€	50
VIP Gezamenlijk			€	1.000
Vitalis			€	240

Terugbetalingen				**€**	**-16.135**
Huisvesting		**€**	**66.500**	**€**	**56.683**
	Servicekosten	€	32.000	€	8.213
	Schoonmaakkosten	€	12.000	€	4.548
	Afval	€	6.000	€	4.856
	Telefoonkosten	€	1.000		
	Elektronica	€	8.500	€	3.601
	Externe huisvestingskosten	€	6.000		
	BHV cursussen			€	19.480
	Overig	€	1.000	€	15.986
Incidentele Uitgaven		**€**	**1.000**	**€**	**-**
Uitgaven Totaal		**€**	**384.800**	**€**	**381.282**
Resultaat		**€**	**-6.250**	**€**	**16.121**

Reserve 1-1-2024	€	42.039	€	44.941
Exploitatieresultaat	€	-6.250	€	16.121
Reserve 31-12-2024	€	35.789	€	61.062

Begroting 2025 t/m 2027 Inkomsten		Begr. 2025		Begr. 2026		Begr. 2027
Bijdrage College van Bestuur	**€**	**378,550**	**€**	**378,550**	**€**	**378,550**
Prijscompensatie	€	*2,650*	€	*2,650*	€	*2,650*
Terugbetaling subsidies	€	*10,000*	€	*10,000*	€	*10,000*
BHV bijdrage Studieverenigingen	€	*17,200*	€	*17,200*	€	*17,200*
Inkomsten Totaal	**€**	**408,400**	**€**	**408,400**	**€**	**408,400**
Uitgaven		**Begr. 2025**		**Begr. 2026**		**Begr. 2027**
Algemeen	**€**	**2,800**	**€**	**2,800**	**€**	**2,800**
Beleidskosten	€	*300*	€	300	€	300
Overdrachtskosten	€	*600*	€	600	€	600
Constitutieborrel	€	*850*	€	850	€	850
Cadeaus	€	*150*	€	150	€	150
Representatiekosten	€	*300*	€	300	€	300
Reproductiekosten	€	*200*	€	200	€	200
Bureaukosten	€	*400*	€	400	€	400
Activiteitensubsidies	**€**	**304,500**	**€**	**304,500**	**€**	**304,500**
Stichting ACLO	€	50,000	€	50,000	€	50,000
Stichting ESN Groningen	€	33,000	€	33,000	€	33,000
Stichting KEI	€	35,500	€	35,500	€	35,500
Usva	€	92,000	€	92,000	€	92,000
Nog te verdelen subsidies	€	94,000	€	94,000	€	94,000
Campagnesubsidies	**€**	**5,000**	**€**	**5,000**	**€**	**5,000**
Oprichtingssubsidie Int. Org.	**€**	**2,000**	**€**	**2,000**	**€**	**2,000**
Internationalisering- & inclusies.	**€**	**15,000**	**€**	**15,000**	**€**	**15,000**
Huisvesting	**€**	**71,000**	**€**	**71,000**	**€**	**71,000**
Servicekosten	€	*30,000*	€	30,000	€	30,000
Schoonmaakkosten	€	*10,000*	€	10,000	€	10,000
Energie en water	€	*10,000*	€	10,000	€	10,000
BHV	€	*20,000*	€	20,000	€	20,000
Overig	€	*1,000*	€	1,000	€	1,000
Incidenteel	**€**	**1,000**	**€**	**1,000**	**€**	**1,000**
Uitgaven Totaal	**€**	**401,300**	**€**	**401,300**	**€**	**401,300**
Resultaat	**€**	**7,100**	**€**	**7,100**	**€**	**7,100**

Reserve 1-1	€	*54,391*	€	*61,491*	€	*68,591*
Exploitatieresultaat	€	*7,100*	€	*7,100*	€	*7,100*
Reserve 31-12	€	*61,491*	€	*68,591*	€	*75,691*