



Framework for Support of Student Organizations and University Bodies



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Foreword

Dear Executive Board, Dear Reader,

The Central Executive Board for Student Organizations (CUOS), an administrative body of the University of Groningen (UG), and the Executive Board of the University recognize the importance of student organizations, who together greatly enhance the attractiveness of the UG and of Groningen as a student city. These organizations provide support to the UG in general and study support to students. They encourage student sports, social cohesion and cultural development, they represent the interests of students and they encourage students to broaden their international horizons. An active student life and involvement in student organizations helps students to develop professionally and socially and fosters the inclusion of international students.

In the course of the 2017-2018 academic year, the CUOS Board noted that the regulations intended to support student organizations were not always clear and easy to understand. CUOS therefore proposes that this document serve as the foundation for future support of student organizations (hereinafter 'organizations'). This Framework will serve as a starting point for future CUOS boards, but more importantly, it will provide all parties involved in the support of organizations, both inside and outside the UG, with more insight into how the support procedure works. This Framework replaces the University Council document of 31 October 2011 entitled 'Framework for Support of Student Organizations' (*Kader ondersteuning studentenorganisaties*). The Graduation Fund Regulations, CUOS Regulations, CUOS Guidelines and this new Framework together govern the provision of support to organizations at the UG.

In its annual plan, the 2017-2018 CUOS Board described how it would focus on simplifying and clarifying the support procedure. The present document was drawn up for this purpose, in consultation with various departments of the UG and the University Council. We would particularly like to thank Saina Abeshzadeh, Student Assessor of the Executive Board, Loes Visser of Student Organization Groningen (SOG), Henk-Jan Wondergem of Lijst Calimero (a student party), Rutger Klein Nagelvoort, Director of Education of the Department of Strategy, Education and Research, Arienne Dreijer of the Department of Legal Affairs (ABJZ), Anouar Ibn El Kadi, chair of the 2016-2017 CUOS Board and the University Funds Committee (UFC).

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the 2017-2018 CUOS Board,

Juul Oosterhuis
Chair



Background

The UG supports organizations for the following three reasons:

1. The statutory obligation in the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW), Article 7.51, to provide financial support to students who serve on the board of: a student organization of a certain size with full legal competence; a programme committee; a degree programme as meant in Article 9.17; the University Council; the Faculty Council; the body established under the consultative participation regulations as meant in Article 9.30, third paragraph, or 10.16a, third paragraph; the Participation Council; the Participation Board; the Student Council; or participate in administrative or social activities that, in the opinion of the Executive Board of University, are in the interests of the University or the student's programme of education.
2. Active participation in student life must be encouraged in addition to appropriate study behaviour (as described in the Strategic Plan).
3. The involvement of organizations and participation councils and self-help and self-governing organizations should be encouraged, among others to further the interests of student communities at the University (as described in the Strategic Plan).

Organizations are facilitated with the following five instruments:

1. Committee grants that are in the interests of both the individual student and the organization in question. Awarded to student board members by the Executive Board on the recommendations of CUOS.
2. Activity grants suitable for all organizations that fall under the category 'cultural and other organizations'. Awarded directly by CUOS. These grants can also be awarded for specific objectives whereby discretionary spending powers apply.
3. Internationalization grants to encourage the internationalization of organizations and the inclusion of international students. Awarded directly by CUOS. These grants can also be awarded for specific objectives whereby discretionary spending powers apply.
4. Housing, whereby by accommodation with work stations is allocated by CUOS to boards and committees of organizations that fall under the categories 'university bodies', 'student facilities' and 'cultural and other organizations'.
5. Decentralized support, whereby the faculty or a student facility provides housing or grants to student associations, sports clubs and cultural organizations.

This background forms the foundation of this Framework. It should be noted that no list of regulations can be perfect nor provide a made-to-measure answer for every situation. Furthermore, the provision of support as meant in these regulations amounts to both recognition of the activities concerned and encouragement to organize such activities in the future. The Graduation Fund, the Regulations, the CUOS Guidelines and this Framework together form the documents that govern the provision of support to student organizations. The most recent versions of these documents can be found on the CUOS website: www.rug.nl/cuos.

Future support

Ambitions

CUOS initiated the drafting of this new Framework in order to provide a better overview of the regulations and revise these where required. The Executive Board expressed the first three ambitions in earlier documents. The ambitions of CUOS are additional to these. Further ambitions were expressed during a meeting (the Student Consultative and Advisory Meeting; hereinafter 'SOA meeting') between Juul Oosterhuis, chair of CUOS, Saina Abeshzadeh, Student Assessor of the Executive Board and representatives of the student section of the University Council, Loes



Visser of Student Organization Groningen (SOG) and Henk-Jan Wondergem of the student party Lijst Calimero.

1. The ambition expressed by the Executive Board to take account of the influence that student organizations have on the image of the UG.
2. The ambition expressed by the Executive Board to provide effective support to student organizations and student board members using limited resources.
3. The ambition expressed by the Executive Board to spend the funds efficiently, with an emphasis on long-term agreements, simplification of the regulations and a reduction of the procedural workload.
4. The ambition expressed by CUOS to simplify the regulations and establish an overview for the support of student organizations and university bodies.
5. The ambition expressed by CUOS to revise the current regulations governing this support.
6. The ambition expressed in the SOA meeting to give the study associations more recognition for their growing collective contribution to the UG and the student community.
7. The ambition expressed in the SOA meeting to not apply a correction to committee grants based on the number of students per faculty in the category ‘study associations’.
8. The ambition expressed in the SOA meeting to distribute the total number of committee grants more effectively to ensure more efficient expenditure of the Graduation Fund.
9. The ambition expressed in the SOA meeting to more clearly reflect the desired profile of the UG.
10. The ambition expressed in the SOA meeting to make the available committee grants equal for all student facilities.

A listing or relisting in the Graduation Fund

General

Committee grants are made available from the Graduation Fund. Any board member of an organization listed in the Fund can apply for a grant (see also below). If an organization is not yet listed in the Graduation Fund, it can apply to CUOS to be listed during any academic year. Organizations that are listed must apply to be relisted every three academic years, but may also submit an application for a relisting in any other academic year. This is also known as a review of a listed organization. The deadline for submitting an application for a listing or relisting is 15 November. Past experience shows that boards should not underestimate the application procedure, because they are often dependent on the policies of previous boards. Table 1 provides an overview of the categories of organizations listed in the Graduation Fund and when they must apply for relisting.

Organizations’ applications are submitted to CUOS, which will then make a recommendation to the Executive Board within a number of months. The Executive Board makes the final decision. The decision will also be discussed in the Committee and University Council meetings. A decision applies only to the next academic year, or to a consecutive number of academic years starting from the next academic year, however a new listing will apply retroactively for one academic year. For example, if the 2017-2018 board applies for a listing for that academic year and the organization is listed, the 2017-2018 board can also apply for a committee grant for the same year.

Academic year	Category to be relisted
2018-2019	Sports & social
2019-2020	Study
2020-2021	Cultural & other
2021-2022	Sports & social
2022-2023	Study



2023-2024	Cultural & other
2024-2025	Sports & social
2025-2026	Study
2026-2027	Cultural & other

Individual committee grant and non-student board memberships

Any board member of an organization listed in the Graduation Fund can apply for an individual committee grant through www.rug.nl/studievertraging. They must submit two documents: proof that the student has a grant or loan from the Education Executive Agency (DUO) and an overview of the distribution of the committee grants (this is a simple overview of the names of all board members and the number of committee grants). All applicants must submit the same overview.

Categories of organizations

Organizations listed in the Graduation Fund are divided into various categories. Table 2 provides an overview of these categories, including the maximum number of committee grants available, the maximum amount and the percentage of the total. The value of a monthly committee grant differs per category. The standard amount is €444.20, however other amounts apply to the university bodies (see next page).

In the following chapters, CUOS explains what each category comprises, how it is assessed and what has changed since 2017-2018 (if applicable).

A financial consequence of this Framework is that the Graduation Fund for the categories below will be increased with €1500, being the difference between the six committee grants of €444.20 and the six committee grants of €694.20 (for student facilities).

Table 2						
	2017-2018			Future		
Category	Monthly committee grants	€	%	Grants	€	%
UG bodies	289	213,071.60	20.3	289	213,071.60	20.2
Student facilities	174	120,790.80	11.5	180	124,956.00	11.8
Study	635	282,067.00	26.9	750	333,150.00	31.6
Sports	410	182,122.00	17.3	339	150,583.80	14.5
Social	365	162,133.00	15.4	315	139,923.00	13.3
Cultural	75	33,315.00	3.2	75	33,315.00	3.2
Other	120	53,304.00	5.1	120	53,304.00	5.1
PhD ceremony	8	3,553.60	0.3	8	3,553.60	0.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,076</i>	<i>1,050,357.00</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>2076</i>	<i>1,051,857.00</i>	<i>100</i>

University bodies

The amounts of the monthly committee grants for university bodies are different than those of most other categories. The amount for assessors, including those of the Medical Sciences Faculty Board, is €794.20. The amount for members of the Faculty and University Councils, CUOS and student facilities is €694.20. This information is provided in Table 3. The total amount per person has been included for the sake of transparency.



Table 3						
Subcategory	Number of persons	Monthly committee grant/person	Total monthly committee grant	€ per monthly committee grant	€/person	€ total
University bodies						
<i>Board assessor</i>	1	12	12	794.20	9,530.40	9,530.40
<i>Faculty Board assessor</i>	9	5	45	794.20	3,971.00	35,739.00
<i>Medical Sciences Faculty Board</i>	1	5	5	794.20	3,971.00	3,971.00
<i>University Council member</i>	12	6	72	694.20	4,165.20	49,982.40
<i>Faculty Council member</i>	65	2	130	694.20	1,388.40	90,246.00
<i>CUOS member</i>	5	4	20	694.20	2,776.80	13,884.00
Subtotal						203,352.80
Student facilities	n/a	n/a	180	694.20	n/a	124,956.00
Student organizations	n/a	n/a	1613	444.20	n/a	716,494.60
						1,044,803.40

Student facilities

The student facilities ACLO, ESN, KEI and Usva have proven their worth and do not need to be extensively reassessed every year to determine the amount of their grant. These are major organizations that represent all students, have a professional image and make an important contribution to the UG: if they did not organize the relevant activities, the University would have to. A condition for automatically receiving an activity grant and being relisting by CUOS is that a CUOS board member and another UG representative must attend the meetings of the General Board (or equivalent body) and the Executive Committee of these facilities as an observer. The two observers must also receive all annual accounts and be kept informed of developments. An exception is Usva, which became part of the UG in 2018. CUOS will maintain only informal contact with this body.

As of 2018-2019, CUOS plans to make the amount of the monthly committee grant the same for all student facilities (to date, ESN and Usva received 42 monthly committee grants where KEI and ACLO received 45). The 2011 Framework describes how the grants of the student facilities will only change if there are changes to the organizational structure, the range of activities or the financial situation of the UG.

ESN has professionalized its activities in the past years by establishing a General Board, among other things. This body also plays an important role, together with the UG, in providing help to international students. Finally, they offer a larger range of activities than they did in 2011. For these reasons, the grant of the board of ESN has been increased somewhat. Usva's range of activities has also increased since 2011, they have a greater workload and they have also professionalized.



Student facilities receive an annual fixed activity grant. They do not have to submit a separate application to CUOS unless they wish to request a change. The following remarks apply to individual student facilities:

1. CUOS provides ACLO with an activity grant of €50,000/year.
2. CUOS provides ESN with an activity grant of €30,000/year and housing.
3. CUOS provides KEI with an activity grant of €30,000/year and housing.
4. CUOS provides Usva with an activity grant of €92,000/year. It should be noted that now that Usva has become part of the UG, the activity grant will be provided in the same manner as those for other student facilities. As of 2019, the amount has been decreased from €100,000 to €92,000. In addition to this fixed amount, Usva will also apply once a year for a grant on behalf of all cultural organizations (also as of 2019).

It should also be noted that in future, it may become possible to give a student organization the status of a student facility (in consultation with the Executive Board and CUOS), although only in exceptional cases.

SKLO

The society for philosophical organizations (SKLO; *Studentenkoepel voor Levensbeschouwelijk Organisaties*) was given an exceptional status last year in respect to both committee awards and activity grants.

This exceptional position is considered necessary because of the importance of philosophical organizations for many UG students. The SKLO may distribute its activity grant among the affiliated organizations and towards its own costs as it sees fit. Because the SKLO distributes its allocated monthly committee grants itself, CUOS wishes to be kept informed of the method in which this is done prior to allocation of the grant. This method must demonstrate that the grant is distributed fairly and that the organizations that are both SKLO members *and* also listed in the Graduation Fund are NOT included in the distribution of the grant. The SKLO must submit this extra document simultaneously with its application for listing or relisting in the Graduation Fund.

Study associations

The University of Groningen and Hanze University of Applied Sciences each determine their own rules for the allocation of monthly committee grants to their institution's study associations. Study associations with members from both the UG and Hanze UAS can apply to CUOS. Study associations with only members from Hanze UAS can apply to their university's Student Activities Foundation (SSA).

Study associations with only UG members can apply to their own faculty for grants and housing. Their boards may also be eligible for a Graduation Fund grant.

Last year (2016-2017), CUOS decide to establish a new model for the category 'study associations'. The current CUOS board thanks the board of 2016-2017 for establishing this new model and implementing the review in the 2017-2018 academic year. After reading the preliminary recommendations, CUOS concluded during the aforementioned SOA meeting that study associations deserve more recognition for their growing collective contribution to the UG and the student community, which resulted in ambition 6 as described in Chapter 3.1. If the maximum amount per category was to remain unchanged at 635 monthly committee, all study associations would effectively be 'punished' for their positive development. Increasing the maximum to 750 will ensure the fair and appropriate availability of monthly committee grants for each category. Another change for the study associations is that faculty study associations with relatively few students are no longer penalized (see also ambition 7).

The study association assessments focus on both the general conditions and the special conditions described in the Graduation Fund. Among others, these special conditions concern the organization's activities, contact with the faculty and the number of faculty or degree programme students who are full, annually paying members.



Sports clubs

Sports clubs can apply to the ACLO for grants and housing. Their boards may also be eligible for a Graduation Fund grant.

To fulfil the ambitions described in Chapter 3.1, specifically the ambition to take account of the effect that student organizations have on the image of the UG (ambition 1), to provide effective support to student organizations and student board members using limited resources (ambition 2), to give the category 'study associations' more recognition for their growing collective contribution to the UG and the student community (ambition 6), to distribute the total number of committee grants more effectively to ensure more efficient expenditure of the Graduation Fund (ambition 8) and to more clearly reflect the desired profile of the UG (ambition 9), the maximum amount for this category has been adjusted. It should also be noted that this adjustment results in a better distribution of the maximum number of committee grants across the categories and the number of monthly committee grants better reflects the workload of the organizations and their importance for the student community.

The sports club assessments focus on both the general conditions and the special conditions described in the Graduation Fund. Among others, these special conditions concern contact with and support from the ACLO with regard to competitive and/or professional sports, dedicated sports club accommodation and the number of UG and Hanze UAS students who are full, annually paying members.

Student associations

Student associations which have their own building or accommodation are considered to be established organizations. These associations are largely capable of supporting themselves and are not eligible for housing or activity grants from the UG, but may be eligible for Graduation Fund grants.

To fulfil the ambitions described in Chapter 3.1, specifically the ambition to provide effective support to student organizations and student board members using limited resources (ambition 2), to spend the funds efficiently (ambition 3) and to distribute the total number of committee grants more effectively to ensure more efficient expenditure of the Graduation Fund (ambition 8), the maximum amount for this category has been adjusted. It should also be noted that it appears that a significant amount of the available committee grants (50) will remain unused in the near future.

The student association assessments focus on both the general conditions and the special conditions described in the Graduation Fund. Among others, these special conditions concern the number of UG and Hanze UAS students who are full, annually paying members.

Cultural organizations

Cultural organizations can apply to the UG for grants and housing. Their boards may also be eligible for a Graduation Fund grant.

The cultural organization assessments focus on both the general conditions and the special conditions described in the Graduation Fund. Among others, these special conditions concern the organization's activities and the number of UG and Hanze UAS students who are full, annually paying members.



Other organizations

Other organizations can apply to CUOS for grants and housing. Their boards may also be eligible for a Graduation Fund grant.

Assessments of other organizations focus on both the general conditions and the special conditions described in the Graduation Fund. Among others, these special conditions concern the organization's activities and the number of UG and Hanze UAS students who are full, annually paying members. To be eligible for a listing in the Graduation Fund, other organizations must be active in one of the areas described in the Graduation Fund.

Students' organizations and PhD students

The interests of PhD students are represented by the Groningen Organization for PhD Education and Recreation (GOPHER) and the Groningen Graduate Interest Network (GRIN). Both organizations are eligible for committee grants. This category is not required to apply for relisting.