



STUDENTENVAKBOND
voor alle Amsterdamse studenten

**General
Members
Assembly
26**

August

2026

Board Update #6

Status: Informational

Dear GMA,

This is already our final board update. What a year it has been! We've learned so much, had so much fun, fought hard, and experienced so much. It has been a true honor to serve on the board of this truly unique organization this year.

Summer often brings a bit more downtime, which gives us good opportunities to tackle larger, long-term projects, or to wrap up some smaller tasks, and of course to train the new board members and oversee the onboarding period.

Our year is almost over, but we're still full of fighting spirit, and we're working hard to pass that spirit on to the next generation.

With fighting spirit,

B81

Education

Education wo

At the UvA, everything is on hold due to summer break. This means we're a bit less focused on urgent matters, but that doesn't mean everything has come to a standstill! For example, we've started brainstorming a potential vision on militarization, and the first plans for a new OC meeting have already been made!

Education hbo

At the universities of applied sciences (Hhbo), not much has happened due to the summer break and because our hbo staff member is on vacation. We've made some plans for the HvA AiA committee, which is very exciting, and we've also made plans for what we'll be doing during the orientation periods. We've also reached out to the AHK's central student council, which is very eager to collaborate with us; over the coming months, we'll explore further what this collaboration might look like!

Education mbo

The mbo Education team has mostly been chasing after the ROC and working with the FNV to try to get a foot in the door. Unfortunately, all our efforts so far have come to nothing; the CSR sent us an automated email reply from two board terms ago, so we're now calling and texting people personally. If anyone has ideas on how to storm the impregnable fortress that is the ROC, please let us know.

Housing

I wish I could start this section with "not much has happened this time," but it wouldn't be about housing if that were the case.

To start with, the HiCondo case is still ongoing. The city has managed to force HiCondo to lower rents, which is, of course, a success. At least, it would be a success if they weren't lying through their teeth about the number of units. The city claims to have forced a rent reduction for ALL units in HiCondo (350), when in fact it applies to only SEVEN (7) units. This is because only the units that underwent a points assessment last November are eligible for the rent reduction. Why the municipality is then bragging about such numbers might have something to do with certain campaign promises...

In addition, we are in contact with a journalist to publish a major article about this case. Specifically, we want to highlight that the municipal team responsible for enforcing the Good Landlord Act refuses to provide a written definition of intimidation, even though they have been asked to do so repeatedly. This municipal team dismisses all the evidence gathered by the RC, even though the landlord himself admitted in court to having engaged in intimidation and made threats. An interesting case, the plot of which just keeps getting deeper... In any case, we're staying on top of it—they won't get rid of us that easily!

Aside from HiCondo, we've also been in contact with the AUC residents' committee. Something interesting happened there a few weeks ago: after years of being denied access to the common areas, a small group of residents took matters into their own, breaking into these spaces. This caused a huge stir in the media, and it seems as though the nuance has been lost. I'll spare you the details, but the most concerning aspect of this story is that DUWO is threatening to impose collective fines; they want to pass on the costs of the actions taken by a small group of residents to the nearly 900 residents of AUC. This is utter madness, of

course, and fortunately, DUWO is already backtracking on its threats. We're in contact with members of the city council and are keeping a close eye on the situation.

Finally, we've arranged for the chair of our Housing Committee to appear soon in De Volkskrant in a feature on student finances to highlight the sky-high room prices; we're offering a training session together with !WOON for first-year students during orientation week; and we've found two brand-new housing staff members!

Student Well-being General

Recently, Student Well-being, Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization (DID) have been merged into a single portfolio. This marks the completion of the exploratory phase, and it has been decided to continue addressing these themes collectively under the new name S&D. By merging the portfolios, the various themes can be better interconnected, and work on student well-being, diversity, and inclusion can continue from a single portfolio.

Student Well-being (SWZ)

Within Student Well-being, work has continued on the collaboration with the Buurteam and our Legal Aid Desk. An initial flyer has been drafted for the joint walk-in consultation hour, and further consideration has been given to the practical details. The preferred time slot is currently Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The plan is to start with a three-month pilot, during which a representative from the Buurteam will be present. In addition, we are continuing to explore the structure and positioning of Student Well-being for the coming board year.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Decolonization (DID)

Within DID, there have been further discussions recently about the future of the portfolio and its connection to Student Well-being. We've examined how the themes within both portfolios can be better aligned and what support is needed to achieve that. Furthermore, there are some exciting developments in a specific WOO request regarding the CDO, but we can't elaborate on this yet; however, we do recommend reading this document. We also discussed staffing and the handover to the next board.

Services

General Services

We're exploring a new partnership with ROBIN, a Spanish startup founded by two graduates who completed their studies in the Netherlands, with the goal of supporting Spanish students who also want to study here. Discussions include, for example, incorporating ASVA membership into their membership program so that students automatically become ASVA members. Things are also going well at the balie (jeej balie!), and even though it's summer, students are still stopping by for all sorts of things. Preparations have also been made for

the introduction period bike sale and other introduction activities, and we found a cargo bike on Marktplaats that we're going to pick up in Veghel! (For those who didn't know: both cargo bikes had been stolen...)

Legal Aid Desk

Within the Legal Aid Desk, the collaboration with the Buurtteam has been further developed. We've been working on preparations for a joint walk-in consultation hour where students can easily drop by with questions and receive support. An initial flyer has been created for this, and agreements have been made regarding the possible day, time, and staffing. In the coming period, we'll continue preparing the pilot so it can launch in the new board year.

Academy

Our Academy coordinator has (unfortunately for us) found a "grown-up" job, so the past few weeks have been all about wrapping up his responsibilities, figuring out where we want to go with the next Academy coordinator, and then hiring that person. As of this writing, the application process is still in full swing! We've also set a date and location for the ABD, and the successor can start planning the schedule and promoting the event! We've also received some training requests to help clubs get up to speed, so it's great to see that people are turning to us for this purpose.

Constituency

Constituency

Constituency has been busy conducting the member survey. The initial results are already providing a lot of feedback and will likely be further processed by B82. Sabijn has also been actively involved in the introduction period. The plan also included organizing a get-together to which the boards of all our partner associations would be invited. However, this event was canceled due to logistical reasons.

National Student Union (LSVb)

For the LSVb, the past few weeks have been dominated by the board transition. The LSVb has successfully assembled a fantastic new board, including two former ASVA board members!! This new board kicked off its term with a major issue: militarization. Currently, in collaboration with FNV Y&U and De Nieuwe Vredesbeweging, they are hard at work organizing a national peace protest on September 27. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar, because there is no issue more urgent than this!

In addition, the LSVb has also been addressing the issues of Iranian students. Many of these students pay the highest tuition rates, even though the rial is now virtually worthless due to inflation, and in some cases they don't even have access to their Iranian bank accounts because of sanctions and the war. The LSVb has launched a petition to lower tuition fees for

these students and to set up an emergency fund, similar to what was done for Ukrainian students when the war broke out.

Finally, the student union weekend is being organized! This will also be the venue for the last GMA in which B81 will participate. A great way to wrap up a spectacular year!

Political Contacts

Unfortunately, once again, there isn't much to report in this area. All the contact we've had with politicians recently has been related to HiCondo, but unfortunately, we've been ignored for a while now. There has also been some contact with members of BIJ1 and D66 regarding the AUC case (see the "Housing" section). Written questions have been submitted, and the alderman is expected to respond to them around September. We're keeping a close eye on this!

ASVAinAktie (AiA)

Since the last board update on ASVAinAktie, we've been working hard! Active members are taking on more and more responsibilities and, together with the relevant staff and board members, have been working on the following areas:

Preparations for introduction week: active members have developed a "life path" game that raises new students' awareness of societal and student-related challenges, and explains why the solution lies in the organization of students and staff through the union. Find ASVAinAktie at the following times and locations: **August 24—12:00 PM to 4:00 PM** in Oosterpark; **August 25—5:00 PM to 8:00 PM** on Roeterseiland; **August 26—1:00 PM to 6:00 PM** at the Nieuwe UB; **August 27 – 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM** at Central Station, **August 28 – 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM** at the Jaap Eden (festival opening).

Development of the anti-militarization campaign: active members in the grassroots working groups and the campaign working group have worked hard on the framework for the campaign—demands and strategies aimed at combating the militarization of education and society. Within ASVAinAktie, the campaign will be further developed over the coming months, and work will continue on a process to involve ASVA's work organization in the creation of the final campaign.

Given the challenges facing ASVA and the vision of a union supported by its members, it is important that B82 takes steps to bridge the gap between the working organization and active members. This is explicitly a process, not merely a goal to check off a list. B82 will have to take on this challenge, but can, of course, only do so together with the working organization. Therefore, expect a detailed update and an invitation to discuss this process, as well as ideas regarding the relationship between the working organization and active members, at the upcoming MO.

Internal

Infoteam

Things are going well with the Infoteam. Our foreign correspondent (a.k.a. graphic designer) is back in the Netherlands! The white paper is completely up to date, which is sorely needed since we now also have a photo-videographer job opening. Photos will be taken at Saskia's, at the GMA, and of course of the KB. There's also a SWZ menstrual product guerrilla campaign video on the agenda. Furthermore, we've been busy creating promotional materials for the introduction periods (we've got new pens—woahh!). Finally, have you seen our cool TikToks?

Admissions Committee and Recruitment Committee (SoCo & ZoekCo)

We made it! We have a small but mighty full board! Even though our term is about to end, we'll try to see if we can find an additional board member. Now the evaluations are coming up, after which we can start passing on our knowledge to the next SoCo and ZoekCo.

Association Committee (VeCo)

This is the final VeCo update, and it makes me a little sad. We hijacked a WoMiLu, forged an Insider (stay tuned), and, of course, hosted Saskia's. What a wonderful way to wrap up this year!

VeCo <3 Activos 4ever!!!