

September 20, 2022

## **Policy plan 2022-2023**

Faculty of Humanities

Algemeen Platform Humaniora Amsterdam



*Chair*

Fenne van den Meerakker

*Secretary*

Daphne in 't Veld

*Treasurer*

Nikki Kok

## **1. ALPHA**

The 'Algemeen Platform Humaniora Amsterdam' is the faculty association for the study associations and journals of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Amsterdam. ALPHA was founded in 1999, when after the establishment of the Faculty of Humanities at the university there was a need for an association-body that could help the study associations and magazines at this faculty. ALPHA still fulfills this role today: a platform to which all study associations and magazines at the faculty can turn to if needed. ALPHA stimulates mutual cooperation between its members, suggests initiatives for associations and magazines, supports its members with a financial contribution and organizes annual events for the students of the Faculty of Humanities. ALPHA also acts as the link between the study associations and journals on the one hand and the other bodies of the University of Amsterdam on the other. Several times a year General Council meetings (ARV's) and magazine consultations take place, which focuses on the distribution of subsidies, the role of ALPHA and mutual cooperation.

ALPHA's duties are clear. The policy pursued this year will be quite similar to that pursued in previous years. However, we do strive to show our face as often as possible now that (fysical) activities can take place again after two difficult years due to the effects of COVID-19.

In the past, the faculty of humanities has faced student protests that in some cases have also reached the study associations. We emphasize that ALPHA as a faculty association is apolitical. ALPHA will always ensure political neutrality in its policies and provide guidance and advice to the student associations where necessary.

It is important that everyone knows about ALPHA's existence and what we can do for magazines, study associations and the faculty. We try to achieve this through introductory meetings, mandatory participation in ALVs/ARVs or magazine meetings, an information evening, our constitution drinks, social get-togethers throughout the year, a gala, and a humanities sports tournament. In addition, social media will be high on this year's agenda to accomplish this. The year calendar will reflect the above activities. All the important dates, such as meetings and deadlines are listed in the calendar. Please write these down in your own calendars.

## **2. The language**

With the increasing number of international students at FGw, the need has arisen at ALPHA for a clear policy regarding the language of instruction. Last year we noticed that there are many mixed boards within the FGw. For this reason, we choose English as the general language of instruction at the meetings. The boards with international

students benefit greatly from this and the fully Dutch boards often have no problems with English and will still be able to ask their questions in Dutch.

In addition, all documents can be consulted in Dutch and English. Thus everyone, if well-read, is prepared for the meetings and many questions will hopefully be answered beforehand. We provide comprehensive and complete handouts. Contracts will also be provided in English and personal contact, such as personal email exchanges, questions during a meeting and introductory talks, will be conducted in English if desired. When inviting students to public events organized by ALPHA, the invitation will always be in both Dutch and English. The website will also be available in both English and Dutch. Please note that the ALPHA board does not have English as its first language and that we will do our best, but may have to look something up that may make an answer take a little more time.

### **3. Study associations**

This year ALPHA will largely continue the policy regarding study associations of previous years. As in previous years, ALPHA will play a central role in encouraging cooperation among study associations and between study associations and magazines. ALPHA will hold an introductory meeting with the board of each study association to explain our role as a faculty association and to be able to discuss mutual expectations. To encourage mutual contact from ALPHA, we will look into the possibility of having drinks after the ARVs. Money will be budgeted to pay for these get-togethers.

In addition to drinks throughout the year, constitution drinks will take place at the beginning of the year. These get-togethers, also known as COBOs, are designed to congratulate and get to know each other. ALPHA will do its best to attend as many COBOs as possible, as we want to show our faces as often as possible.

To encourage cooperation, there should also be financial resources for activities that arise from mutual cooperation. The Grand Project Pot will continue for this reason.

Every study association that is a member of ALPHA is entitled to regular subsidy under certain conditions. The regular grant is intended for study-related activities that are substantively in line with the study association's field of study. A total of 7,400 euros has been set aside for the regular grant, divided into three application rounds. The application ceiling remains at 850 euros. Subsidy is also available for study tours. Like last year, this will be an amount of 4,000 euros. This amount will be determined based on the number of participants in the previous year. Study associations that expect a strongly deviating number of participants can report this during the introductory talks.

Through the Large Application Allowances (GAT) scheme, a study association wishing to organize a large activity can apply for a minimum amount of 250 euros at once from ALPHA. When organizing a large activity, it is important that the study associations know in advance whether ALPHA will award the grant or not. Each study association may submit one Major Application in grant rounds 1 and 2 for an activity that will take place later in the year. Different rules apply to these applications, which can be found at our new website. The Major Applications will be included in the proposal presented at the ARV, which will then be voted on. If the proposal is approved, the study association is guaranteed the grant. The money is transferred after the activity. The GAT scheme is practical for large study associations because the activities they organize often have higher costs, and at the same time offers smaller study associations the chance to organize larger events with more financial security.

The money from the Contingency Fund transferred to ALPHA by the boards in the 2021-2022 academic year will be reversed as soon as possible after the board change. The Contingency Fund will continue to exist this year as well. Furthermore, we would like to draw boards' attention to the possibility of obtaining grants from the Amsterdam University Fund (AUF) and Foundation Grants. Further information can be found on the websites of both bodies.

#### **4. Magazines**

The magazines have access to grants that are primarily for production costs. The budgeted subsidy amount for the magazines this year is 4,000 euros. During the magazine meeting, which takes place twice a year, the magazines vote on the distribution of subsidies. In addition, during the magazine meetings there is room for sharing experiences and the magazines can consult ALPHA or other magazines for advice. To allow the editorial board members of different journals to get to know each other and encourage cooperation, ALPHA is going to try to provide an opportunity for drinks after each journal meeting to exchange ideas informally.

For journals and study societies that want to organize an activity together, the Grand Project Pot is available. Acquisition is important for both journals and study associations. Acquisition can be good for gaining external contacts of the magazine and for faculty awareness. To support the journals in the area of acquisition, an acquisition evening will be organized like last year. This meeting is mandatory for at least one editorial board member. The evening is also open to study associations, but not mandatory for them. Efforts will be made to invite a speaker who can give an instructive lecture or workshop for magazines and study associations.

Magazines will have to consider carefully this year whether to return to only physically printed magazines or continue online. Lastly, ALPHA recommends maintaining good contact within BLABLA (Bladen Binding Letteren Amsterdam).

## **5. Big Projects Jar (GPP: Grote Projectenpot)**

As has been mentioned many times, cooperation between study societies and study societies and magazines is an important goal for ALPHA. For good cooperation, it is important that boards and editorial board members get to know each other, and sufficient funds should be available for events to be organized. For this reason, the Grand Project Pot was created several years ago. ALPHA also definitely encourages collaborations this year, we ask to think carefully and creatively about possible collaborations. ALPHA is always willing to help think of the possibilities and play a coordinating role if necessary.

To claim funding, projects must meet two conditions: they must (I) originate from a collaboration between associations and/or magazines and (II) relate to the humanities. Despite organizing many special GPP events in recent years, the amount of money in the GPP was never fully asked for. This year, the amount in the GPP pot will be the same as last year. The amount of a grant is determined by the number of actively organizing clubs or magazines. The grant is awarded in advance.

An information evening will be held on Tuesday, October 3, where attendance of all boards and editors is mandatory. During this evening, the rules for applying for the GPP will be further explained. For inspiration, ALPHA will provide examples of GPP events organized in past years. There are two rounds of grants for the GPP. This year, like last year, the full amount available for the GPP will be made available in round one. Any money remaining after round one will be carried over to round two. Full regulations regarding the GPP application can be found on the website.

## **6. Events**

### ALPHA Information Evening

ALPHA information night is the second meeting of the college year, this year it will be on Tuesday, October 3. All boards and editorial board members will be invited to this evening. The treasurer of ALPHA will provide boards and editors with information regarding finances and grant applications.

### General Council Meetings (ARVs).

There will be three ARVs this year. At these meetings, the ALPHA treasurer will present the grant distribution proposal. After the presentation, the study association boards will vote on the proposal. In addition, during the ARVs there is room to discuss what the various associations are working on. Attendance during the ARVs is mandatory for the president and the treasurer. This will be strictly enforced. If they are absent without a valid reason, no grant will be awarded.

### Magazine meetings

There will be two magazine meetings this year. At these meetings the treasurer will present the proposal for the subsidy distribution, after which the editorial board members of the magazines will vote on it. Attendance is mandatory. In addition to the two magazine meetings, there will also be a mandatory acquisition evening.

### Warm Welcome Week

Together with VOX-POP, ALPHA planned a Warm Welcome Week for freshmen at the beginning of September. This is the opportunity for study associations and journals to show what you can do with humanities and what you can get out of it. This was also a good opportunity for boards to get to know each other and share initial joint ideas.

### New Year's Gala

ALPHA has taken a coordinating role in organizing the Christmas Gala in recent years. This year there is not expected to be a Christmas Gala, as it is normally the Friday before the Christmas vacation. We expect that many will be on vacation or going home, both Dutch students and internationals. We would like to organize a New Year's gala in order to still accomplish a gala within FGw, this will take place on Friday, February 3.

### Humanities Sports Tournament

For a number of years ALPHA has hosted a soccer tournament. Unfortunately, we find that with the decreasing number of participants, finding enough teams is often not manageable. Also, soccer is a specific sport that not everyone gets excited about. We hope to increase enthusiasm by turning it into a sports tournament, a mini Olympics for the FGw. This will be organized just like the gala with enthusiasts from different associations.

### Board picnic

ALPHA will organize a board picnic at the end of the year this year. This will give both old boards and new candidate boards the opportunity to get to know each other.

### Drinks throughout the year

Because we feel it is important that there are plenty of opportunities for boards to get to know each other better and see each other as much as possible, we will organize drinks every block. The exact dates and location will be announced in due course.

## **7. Visibility**

ALPHA believes it is important that associations, magazines, faculty and other people know their way to ALPHA and will actively work to maintain, and where possible increase, ALPHA's visibility. For this reason, ALPHA's website and social media will be revamped this year. Money will also be budgeted for this.

ALPHA wants to be involved in what is going on among the boards and editors. Good contact is very important for this. The ALPHA board will therefore strive to attend get-togethers of each association and to attend major activities supported by ALPHA. Also the drinks after the ARVs, the magazine meetings and our get-togethers serve as a means to stimulate mutual contacts.

The ALPHA board can always be reached by email. If for any reason there is a need for a personal meeting, it can always be requested from the board. It is also possible to contact the board through less formal channels, such as WhatsApp. A WhatsApp group will also be created again this year for communication between ALPHA and study associations and magazines.

This year ALPHA is also keen to pay attention to its visibility to people outside the faculty or the UvA. Through the ALPHA Facebook page and Instagram page, boards and other students will be kept informed about what is going on within ALPHA and what events are planned.

## **8. Office 2.01F/G**

ALPHA is located in office 2.01F/G at the P.C. Hoofthuis (Spuistraat 134), along with a large number of student associations and magazines. ALPHA will assume a coordinating role by providing sign-in lists via Drive. That way you don't just come in when a board is meeting. ALPHA will also work to ensure that every board has an opportunity to use meeting space. This applies to all FGW study associations and magazines, not just those using office 2.01F/G.

ALPHA would like to emphasize that all boards and magazines are jointly responsible for keeping the rooms clean. House rules have been established to which everyone

must adhere. The house rules are listed in the contract that the study associations have with ALPHA. We will organize several cleaning days where everyone does their part to keep the office as clean as possible for everyone. ALPHA is aware that not every association is in the office with the same frequency. We will meet you in the common office whenever possible. Furthermore, ALPHA would like to emphasize that study associations with offices in other locations can always contact ALPHA for advice or consultation in case of disagreements or problems concerning the office.

## **9. COVID-19**

Same as last year, this year it is possible that COVID-19 can play a role in organizing activities for both study associations, and magazines. If there are problems, ALPHA is always available for advice and questions. We assume that study associations and magazines will follow the rules advised by the government at the time.

## **10. Closing**

This year we aim to increase our visibility, and thus accessibility, by showing our face a lot. We want to encourage collaborations between study associations and magazines by connecting them in a timely manner at our get-togethers and activities. ALPHA is a social body, designed to keep the bonds between boards strong. We look forward to getting to know you all next year and helping you where needed!

Fenne van den Meerakker – chair

Daphne in 't Veld – secretary

Nikki Kok – treasurer