



Policy Plan Gerardus van der Leeuw
2024 – 2025

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1. Introduction

Dear reader,

The document you have in front of you is the Gerardus van der Leeuw policy plan for 2024-2025, containing the goals and plans the association has for the upcoming year. We hope to properly inform you all the important, and fun, things Gerardus will be involved in this year.

Best wishes and loving roar,
Floor, Lieke, Vicky, Scarlett and Isis,
The Gerardus board of 2024-2025.

2. Borrels

The monthly borrels are a good opportunity to catch up with other students. We would like to continue offering this opportunity, but plan to organise the borrel every two months. This is with the hope that more people will then attend each borrel. To attract even more people, we would like to attach activities to each borrel. Think, for example, of a pub lecture or pub quiz. We will also give committees the opportunity to organize something during the borrels. The board will provide the location, and this will make it easier for committees to organize something. We will not host our borrels at one specific location this year, but will try out different cafés around Groningen.

3. Activity week and gala

Last year, Gerardus celebrated their fourth lustrum with a very special Lustrum Week which was a big success. Part of the fun of this Lustrum Week was the fact that there were a bunch of activities to be enjoyed. This year, the board wants to organize an Activity Week to once again give students the opportunity to enjoy all kinds of fun activities together.

Along with the activity week, we also would like to organize a gala this year. The date for this is not set yet, but there is the possibility to do this during the activity week.

4. Theology

Due to the disbanding of disputation Bonifatius two years ago, it was agreed with the assessor and the faculty board that at least one activity per year would be organised specifically for theology students. Besides this mandatory activity, we as a board want to try to organise more activities within the area of interest of theology students, for example a publecture. However, these activities will be open to all students. Money has been set aside for at least one and hopefully more activities.

5. Student wellbeing

Student wellbeing is important to Gerardus. It is the reason the study association exists, to give students a good time in addition to studying. To ensure that members can enjoy their time as students, the following points will be observed:

- o The board will support the student assessor in her endeavours, and support the SAM platform.
- o The board will work closely with the confidential advisors and make sure they are easily approachable for members when needed.

- o The board will send a special birthday card to members to let them know Gerardus is thinking of them on this fun day.
- o We would like to organize an activity in the wellbeing week, if possible.

6. Inclusion and internationalization

The Gerardus board strives to create an inclusive space to cater towards our internationally diverse faculty. We will continue to ensure a comfortable environment for both international students and Dutch students alike, mainly by maintaining the usage of English during Gerardus events and activities, in accordance with our handbook. Certain events catered towards Theology students will be held exclusively in Dutch, no more than 4 events per academic year will be held in Dutch. The Gerardus board additionally aims to accommodate to the academic interests of both Theology and Religious Studies students by organizing respectfully relevant activities for both groups. This academic year, the Gerardus Board can be communicated with in Dutch, English, and Portuguese due to the linguistic capabilities of its members.

7. Sustainability

Sustainability is an important issue for Gerardus. Therefore, we will observe the following points to be as sustainable as possible:

- o During activities there will always be vegetarian and vegan options available, to take into account all kinds of diets.
- o If Gerardus decides to make merchandise with the theme of the study association, sustainability will play an important role in choosing the companies from which the items will be sourced. This may result in the items being slightly more expensive, but it ensures that the merchandise will be as environmentally friendly as possible.
- o If the Travel Committee wants to go to a destination more than 500 km away, they may go by plane after receiving approval from the board.
- o These points are in accordance with Gerardus' handbook and contain no new information.

8. GMA

The board wants to make the GMA as fun and accessible as possible. Therefore, the GMA's will be held at a cafe when possible. There will also be no entrance fee, to ensure that as many members as possible have the opportunity to attend.

In line with last year's planning, the board plans to organise three GMA's. This so that there will be less on the agenda to do at the end of the year, and to keep Gerardus members informed of what is going on within the association throughout the school year.

If it were to happen that, at the extra GMA, there are not enough members present to vote, the GMA changes to an informational moment and no new GMA will be scheduled.

9. Committees

The board of Gerardus wants to stimulate the different committees into organizing activities in the upcoming academic year. Part of this will be the possibility of organizing an activity during the borrels, where the board will provide the location. To make sure every committee will be active during the academic year, we expect the Greencie, Accie and Ficie to organize at least one activity each semester, thus at least two activities for the whole academic year, but preferably more. The Almanakcie obviously does not organize activities so we do not expect this from them, and the Travelcie will organize activities close to their big trip, which always happens in the second semester, so they will also be excused from this expectation. If any of the committees have trouble organizing an activity, the board is always happy to help in any way they can. The board will also make a yearly planning, which is shared with all the committees, to make sure activities are spaced out nicely throughout the year.

10. Bank account

The fee that the board pays to the current bank (ING) encompasses a considerable part of the annual budget that the association has to spend. It is a shame that so much of our members' contribution is spent on bank-fees. Therefore, this year the treasurer will look into the possibility of switching to either ASN bank or Triodos bank. The board finds it important that any new bank can offer a cheaper fee than ING, and that the new bank is sustainable.

11. Employability

Employability is a mandatory and important part of the activities organized by Gerardus. Preparing students for the work field will be one of the main focuses of this years' board. To ensure students know what they can expect when they finish their studies the board will work closely with the student assessor and will organize different activities surrounding employability. An example of one of the activities that we wish to organize this year is a research day, where alumni are able to present their thesis to their friends, family and anyone else interested. Along with alumni presentations we aspire to invite a lecturer and an organization. This activity will be organized along with our assessor and with the help of the faculty.

12. Boardroom

Last year, the Gerardus board made sure the boardroom was open one day each week to walk in, ask questions, and have a chat. Although not very many people made use of this opportunity, the current board thinks it is a nice way to allow members to ask questions when they have them. Therefore, the board will open the boardroom once a month for people to walk in. Dates and times will be determined at the beginning of the academic year and will always be mentioned in the newsletter.

13. Communication

13.1 Newsletter

Gerardus feels it is important to keep their members updated on what is going on with the association, along with entusing other students to maybe participate in one of the activities Gerardus organizes. This will be done through the weekly newsletter. Next to that, last year the board of Gerardus introduced an alumni newsletter which was sent every block, to update alumni students of what Gerardus was up to and to keep them involved. This year the board will continue to send these alumni newsletters.

13.2 Outreach

This year we would like to pay more attention to the visibility and representation of both our faculty and our studies. We intend for other students, people who might be interested in studying at our faculty, and for people outside the academic world to get a better idea of what studying Religious Studies and Theology actually looks like. For example we aim to attend wider university events to communicate with other students, and focus further on our social media outreach as a board. We have allocated funds to this cause for prospective activities regarding outreach over the academic year.