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STUDENT FACTION XVI

PSB! NEWSLETTER



Introduction

Dear reader,

We are thrilled that you are joining us for the first newsletter of this academic year! In this edition, we'll bring you up to speed on the latest developments within the faculty and give you a preview of what's coming next.
We value your feedback. If there's anything about this block that isn't going as smoothly as it could, or if you have ideas for improvement, don't hesitate to reach out and share your thoughts.

Warm regards,

PSB! Faction XVI

Why This Newsletter?
We believe clear and regular communication is key to building a strong connection with students. In our policy plan, we committed to increasing our visibility and keeping you informed.
This newsletter is our tool to do just that: sharing some updates on faculty developments, our ongoing projects, and important points from the faculty council meetings. Our goal is to keep you in the loop and make sure your voice is heard.

Developments in the Faculty

Update Academic Year Planning 2026–2027
Recently, students of our faculty received a message about the new academic year planning for 2026–2027, stating that the teaching blocks would be shortened from seven to six weeks, optional for lecturers in 2026–2027, but definite in 2027–2028. During the faculty council meeting with the faculty board, the council expressed concerns about the speed of this process and the lack of formal consent rights for the council.

Following these concerns, a discussion took place between the faculty council and the faculty board, which led to the agreement that the plan will first be further developed before any decisions are made. PSB believes that a major change like this should benefit both students and staff. Hasty decisions do not contribute to that. Both the quality of education and the mental health of students and staff must be safeguarded.
Continue on the next page...





The faculty board's consideration to shorten the teaching blocks is intended to reduce workload for both students and lecturers. Students would then have more space for personal planning and rest.
However, PSB fears that if the transition to six-week blocks happens too hastily, it will be difficult for lecturers to adjust their courses appropriately. This concern is reinforced by the fact that lecturers were initially informed at very short notice that their courses needed to be adapted. As a result, there is a risk that courses may not be properly adjusted, forcing students to complete the workload of seven weeks in six weeks, while also having fewer contact hours. According to PSB, this could actually lead to increased workload and negatively affect mental health, rather than being a positive development. On paper, an extra "free" week sounds like a promising idea for mental wellbeing, but it only works if it is carefully and properly implemented.
In the coming period, we will continue to advocate for this during faculty council meetings to ensure that, if the change goes ahead, it has a positive impact on everyone involved! For now, no final adjustments have been made to the academic year planning for 2026–2027. Further steps in the development of the plan will follow in the coming period.

About us

Partij Studenten Belangen (PSB) is currently the largest sitting party in the Faculty Council of Behavioural and Social Sciences of the University of Groningen. Since 2010, PSB has actively represented the interests of all students in this council. The participation of the staff and students of the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences (BSS) is arranged through the Faculty Council. At the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences (BSS), this council consists of nine elected members representing the staff and nine elected members representing the students.

Explaining our projects: BEHAVE

Every block, PSB organizes a meeting with all faculty representative bodies, including the study associations, programme committees, student assessor, and university council parties. This is called BEHAVE. We discuss important topics like the visibility of faculty organs, course evaluations, and the possible faculty mergers. These meetings help us gather valuable input to better represent student interests in the faculty council. By working together, we ensure that the student perspective is always at the forefront.



psb.bss
PSB-Partij Student Belangen
psb.gmw@rug.nl