

Minutes Student Council Pharmacy (SCP/STOF-) meeting

Date and time: February 14th from 16:00h till 17:00h

Location: 3111.0212

Attendees: Jesse Mulder, Thirsa Lohuis (online), Myrthe Boerrigter, Emma Dorenbos, Stijn Rijnders, Jimin Lim, Kai Timmer, Wies van Bakel, Emma van Rijn, Anieke Hofhuis, Manon Wilpshaar, Boy van Basten, Frank dekker, Monique Smith, Thirsa Lohuis (online), Lisa van Wier (online), Simon Oraha (online), Renske Vonk (online), Mirjan van Timmeren (online).

1. Opening

Jesse Mulder opens the meeting at 16:04h.

2. Setting the agenda

No changes have been made.

3. Minutes of the SCP-meeting held on December 13th, 2022

	Who?	What?
Bsc. Pharmacy year 1		
1	SCP-committee	Check if the year representatives of Bsc. Pharmacy Year 1 has contacted dr. S. Schmidt for feedback about her lectures.
2	Year representatives (Jill Plesman and Stijn Rijnders)	Contact dr. T.K. Gebretekale for feedback about her lectures.
Bsc. Pharmacy year 2		
3	Kai Timmer (former year representative of Bsc. Year 2)/ SCP-committee	Contact dr. ir. I.A.M. de Graaf to set up a student panel for the course Metabolism and Toxicology.
Msc. Pharmacy year 1		
4	SCP-committee	Check if Herman Woerdenbag and the Programme Committee have discussed the complaints about the Dutch PowerPoint presentations during an English-spoken lecture and vice versa in the evaluation of the course Innovative Therapeutics.
Msc. Pharmacy year 3		
5	Study advisors	Better communication about the schedule and notify any delays by email.
Msc. MPS year 1		
6	Year representative (Julian Cornelissen)	Contact prof. dr. G.J. Poelarends about the proposal to have feedback on the outline earlier.

1. *Stijn Rijnders* says that he has contacted dr. S. Schmidt for feedback about her lectures. Unfortunately, she never responded. *Jesse Mulder* says it is best to send a reminder to her.

3. *Kai Timmer* says he had contacted dr. ir. I.A.M. de Graaf but he is curious about what will be done with this now. *Jesse Mulder* says that dr. ir. I.A.M. de Graaf has indicated that she now has enough participants for a student panel.

4. *Jesse Mulder* says that Herman Woerdenbag has responded via email. He says that there were indeed lectures in English during the course Innovative Therapeutics, those from dr. M. Borghesan. She took over the lectures from prof. Haisma who retired last year. Dr. M. Borghesan is Italian, and her Dutch is limited. She will also give the lectures in the coming academic year, again in English. The idea is that the 'successor' of Haisma, a tenure track in the CPB base unit will give the lectures in the future but currently there is no candidate yet. The evaluation of the course has been discussed in the Program Committee, including the rebuttal of dr. M. Borghesan, who is the coordinator of the course.

4. Announcements of the SCP

1. Change format of the SCP-meeting

Jesse Mulder says that during a meeting of the Program Board, it was discussed that the teachers believe that the design of an SCP-meeting can be revised. In short, it came down to that, among other things, there is long talk about one complaint from a single student from a certain year instead of tackling the whole issue. *Manon Wilpshaar* explains that for three years there is always one student member for each Programme Board and since this year there is a plan that the student should create some kind of sounding board. But as the SCP already exists in the case of Pharmacy, there is no need for a new instance. They did brainstorm about a new format for the SCP-meetings, lately the meetings were not as effective as they could have been because usually just a few problems for a certain course are discussed. In the new format, some bigger issues such as the well-being of students, are never discussed. So, the idea is to change the format and pick a theme for every SCP-meeting and to discuss this with all the year representatives and other interested people. There should still be time left for small problems, but the focus should be more on bigger things. *Frank Dekker* says it is important to keep discussing the small problems to prevent them from becoming big problems. On the other hand, he thinks it is a good idea to talk about bigger issues. *Jesse* says that some time ago the SCP-committee organised a brainstorming session regarding the internships, this could have been done at a theme meeting for example, because it has gained a lot of new insights. *Anieke Hofhuis* wonders whether the SCP-committee itself comes up with themes or whether students can also contribute something. *Jesse* says that especially year representatives can bring up bigger issues if they notice something is going on. *Boy van Basten* emphasises that you must be careful which topics you will let filter through to the theme meeting, because otherwise, you may risk that relatively minor problems get blown out of proportion because all of a sudden they become a theme. *Jesse* agrees and says he does not want students to think they can't share their problems with the SCP. *Boy* says it might also be very useful not necessarily to think just in terms of problems but also in terms of opportunities or just gathering input from students. This is not necessarily reflected all that well in the current curriculum, but it might be very useful information to feed towards, for example, the program of the academic advisors' program. *Jesse* agrees and says it is also a means of bringing a more positive vibe to the SCP-meetings. *Emma van Rijn* is wondering what the task of the year representatives is in this. *Jesse* indicates that surveys will probably be distributed among students who are treated anonymously. *Kai Timmer* wonders about time management since an hour is scheduled and a discussion can take longer. *Jesse* says that the number of complaints should be looked at. If this number is small, the discussion can be more extensive. If the discussion takes too long, it can always be moved to another meeting if necessary. *Manon* thinks you should just try it out for the next meeting and revise how it went and maybe adjust something to the format if needed. Also, regarding time management, just try it and see what works best. *Jesse* is wondering if someone has a good idea for a theme for the next meeting. *Stijn Rijnders* says he got a lot of complaints from first-year students who still need to get used to university. *Manon* thinks it is worth discussing it and you might also invite the study advisors. The study advisors guide the mentors so if the older year students can explain what the difficulties were during the first year, they might adjust their mentor program to that. *Stijn* proposes to set up a survey with a couple of questions for the first-year students. *Frank* thinks you can maybe ask other study programs, Chemistry for example, if they recognize this and maybe they can guide you a little. *Emma Dorenbos* suggests posting it on P.S. socials as well to ensure members can contribute themes.

2. New year representative year 1

Jesse Mulder says that Jill Plesman, year representative of Bsc. Pharmacy Year 1 has stopped with Pharmacy and therefore had to stop as year representative. That is why they had to look for a new Year Representative. Jimin Lim is the new year representative and will from now on represent year 1 together with *Stijn Rijnders*.

5. Announcements of the year representatives

a. Bsc. Pharmacy Year 1

1. English language during the study

Jimin Lim has, as an international student, some complaints. The group chat of the year is a great platform because questions about the exam are being discussed and when there is a change in the schedule it is said there. But the problem is that most of it happens in Dutch. Almost all international students don't get the new info. Some of the international students have asked several times in the group chat if everyone can speak English but that didn't happen. *Boy van Basten* thinks it might be a good idea, at least as an intermediary solution, to appoint a few students who can translate the most important messages to English so that international students receive at least the most important information. *Stijn Rijnders* indicates that the information from the board and schedule changes are in English, but the problem is more the information students are discussing about a course. *Emma van Rijn* asks if it is maybe an idea to make a group chat with the internationals and one or two Dutch students who can translate the information. *Boy* thinks you are separating the students and that is something you might want to avoid. It is very difficult because these group chats are not sanctioned by the program itself or any of the committees' staff members involved. So, you can't force students to speak English. He thinks the best you can do is offer some suggestions, but you can't enforce any change in that.

Jimin Lim points out that language is also a problem during practicals. Some of the teaching assistants were speaking Dutch, and when students were discussing whatever is important in the lab course they were discussing this in Dutch. So, some of the international students felt quite excluded. *Boy van Basten* mentions this is an issue that has been addressed before, for example in the course Instrumental Analysis. It is really difficult to enforce when students are among themselves, but teaching assistants are part of the staff so they ought to talk in English. If they do not, it is best to immediately address this with the practical coordinator responsible for the course.

Stijn Rijnders says he did get one general complaint regarding the course Professionalism in Pharmacy. There are some mandatory activities at which students should be present, but not all activities are in English. He was wondering if international students might get higher priority in the draw for the English activities. *Boy van Basten* says that every activity put on the list was supposed to be in English but unfortunately that changed last minute. *Myrthe Boerrigter* says it is hard because a lot of activities are in collaboration with a sponsor and they are focused on pharmacists in public pharmacies and hospital pharmacies, and Dutch people. So, that is why they want to promote themselves in Dutch. She asked them many times if it was possible in English but if they don't want it, it is clear. *Emma van Rijn* asks if the board can see who an international student is. *Emma Dorenbos* says they can't but it is maybe a solution that when a student sends an email they can maybe take that into account. In addition, the upcoming activities are mainly from pharmaceutical companies and they generally have no problem keeping their activity in English. *Boy* emphasises that students are also free to attend a lecture at another study association, for example Chemistry, if that seems interesting. ISCOMS also is a good symposium, then students just send an email to *Boy van Basten* so that he can double-check for the registration.

b. Bsc. Pharmacy Year 2

Guusje Jansen and *Chantal van Den Berg* (not present, passed on via WhatsApp) have nothing to mention.

c. Bsc. Pharmacy Year 3

1. Organic Chemistry Practical

Kai Timmer says that the planning of the course was quite illogical. There was a practical course of two weeks that lasted till the 22nd of December. This was followed by the course Infectious Diseases and Oncology, which had the exam on the 26th of January, and the exam of the course Organic Chemistry

Practical was on the 30th of January. Because the exam for the course Infectious Diseases and Oncology was on Friday and the exam for the course Organic Chemistry Practical was on Monday, there was a lot of confusion. *Mirjan van Timmeren* says this problem is known and it is weird that the exam is not within the three weeks of the course. She will bring this point to the meeting with the program director, the study advisors, and the coordinator of the course. *Boy van Basten* is very much confused by the fact that the course has an exam in the first place. He wants to add that he finds it utterly bizarre that we are now filling up practicals with an exam just to fill the schedule and he thinks we could use that time much more wisely than this. He says the knowledge is already examined in the courses Molecular and Reactivity and Organic and Biosynthesis, so he is wondering what the additional value of another exam is when it should be about practical skills. *Mirjan* says it has been scheduled like this during corona times where the practice was changed because the practical initially did not have an exam and this has not changed back. *Kai* answers that this year the whole theory part and also parts of the practical work are completely revised, so he is quite surprised that they didn't revise the whole course. He is wondering why they take the whole planning of the course into account if they revise everything. *Mirjan* again says she will discuss it.

d. Msc. Pharmacy Year 1

Emma van Rijn and *Wies van Bakel* have nothing to mention.

e. Msc. Pharmacy Year 2

Anieke Hofhuis has nothing to mention.

f. Msc. Pharmacy Year 3

Lisa van Wier has nothing to mention.

g. Msc. MPS Year 1

Julian Cornelissen (not present, passed on via WhatsApp) has nothing to mention.

h. Msc. MPS Year 2

Bas Baartmans (not present, passed on via WhatsApp) has nothing to mention.

6. Announcements of the departments

a. Program Committee (Opleidingscommissie)

No one was present – no comments.

b. Advisory Council (Raad van Advies)

Myrthe Boerrigter has nothing to mention.

c. Programme Board (former: Cluster Board Pharmacy)

Manon Wilpshaar has nothing to mention.

d. Faculty Council

No one was present – no comments.

e. Faculty Board

Eva Degen (not present, passed on via email) says that there will be new coffee machines next to the Medical Library (CMB) where students can get coffee for 60 cents, just like in the UB. Furthermore, there now is more space in the break rooms, so she hopes the problem of not having enough seating during breaks has improved. Also, the first gender-neutral toilet arrived at the faculty a few months ago. They are looking at the possibilities of placing more gender-neutral toilets in the building, which they hope will make it easier for students to reach.

f. University Council

No one was present – no comments.

g. Bètastuf

No one was present – no comments.

7. Table round

Stijn Rijnders says he will try to set up a questionnaire for the first-year students but asks if people could maybe think of questions themselves that could be beneficial to the first years. *Mirjan van Timmeren* let know that she can help with sharing the most common problems students come with. *Frank Dekker* thinks maybe it is a good idea to ask about the participation in the activities of P.S. in the questionnaire, because that might help to build a social network which can also help when you are looking at mental health. *Stijn* says he doesn't know if this gives a realistic view, because then you also need other student associations into consideration. *Jesse Mulder* indicates that the year representatives of year 1 should contact the SCP-committee if they have contacted the study advisors and prepared a questionnaire.

Monique Smith introduces herself as the new program coordinator of Pharmacy.

8. Closing

Jesse Mulder closes the meeting at 16:57h.

Action points

	Who?	What?
Bsc. Pharmacy year 1		
1	Year representatives (Stijn Rijnders)	Send a reminder to dr. T.K. Gebretekale for feedback about her lectures.
2	Year representatives (Stijn Rijnders and Jimin Lim)	Contact the study advisors about the most common problem of first-years and make a questionnaire for the first-years.
Bsc. Pharmacy year 3		
3	Study advisors	Discuss the exam of the course Organic Chemistry Practical in the meeting with the program director, the study advisors, and the coordinator of the course.
Others		
	Board	Promote the theme meeting on the socials of P.S. and ask students to give their input on the theme.