

Election program 2019

SHAPE

Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience

SH A PE

Election program SHAPE

SHAPE, founded in 2018, has a fresh view OF the university. Every representative of SHAPE is actively involved with the developments within the university. Therefore, our representatives have much **knowledge** about the course of events within your faculty. We can **make a difference** by keeping close ties to fellow students, study associations, other student representatives within and outside FPN. **Vote SHAPE, to shape our university.**

Education improvements

The education within FPN is constantly in development. Unfortunately, the students are sometimes forgotten in this development. SHAPE has a good view of these developments and can introduce ideas and opinions of students. Because of this, realistic goals can be set and **together** with all the stakeholders within the university, these goals can be achieved.

From last year onward, the Dutch government has given extra money to the universities to improve education. To spend this money, every faculty has to obey to the '**Quality Agreements**' that are set by the university. For FPN it is important that the agreements that have been made, are observed. Therefore, SHAPE will closely supervise to make sure that this money benefits the students.

Furthermore, SHAPE has the opinion that **lectures need to be recorded** as much as possible. If a Lecturer does not approve the recording of her/his lecture, the course coordinator has to look for an alternative. This alternative can be for example a Youtube clip or a lecture from previous years.

Maastricht University is known for its PBL system. The core idea of the PBL system is very good, but the strength of this system depends partly on **the quality of tutors**. In our opinion, tutors deserve better training that makes sure they are better prepared for the tutorial. Furthermore, tutors should not only be selected by their academic performance, but also communication skills need to be taken into account. In the end, this will increase the quality of the PBL meetings.

Next to that, we would like to look into the idea of each individual student indicating their **preferred time of PBL tutorials**. This can be taken into account when the allocations for tutorial groups are made and therefore improve the quality of the tutorials.

Employability

With the eye on the future SHAPE wants to improve the employability of FPN students. We want to do this by making students more aware of the opportunities they have. For example, doing an internship or working as a research assistant. In addition to that, we want to encourage staff

members to use a central platform for recruitment for these positions. By using a central platform, students get the chance to explore their options, providing important information such as availability and contact details.

Furthermore, to assist and make psychology students more aware of their possibilities on the job market SHAPE is in favour of a special **career counsellor** within FPN. This career counsellor cannot only help students with their career choice but also with their choice for a masters' programme.

Campus feeling

FPN is a faculty that shares a building with many other studies. The student population of Randwyck is therefore very diverse. Therefore, it would be valuable if there was a space in which students can **integrate** with each other in an informal way to create a unity feeling. Moreover, it is not only important that students can meet in an informal way, this place can also encourage more informal interaction between students and staff. Because of this, SHAPE is a supporter of the **university pub** at Randwyck.

In addition to the large, diverse population, it would be wise to have a meditation room at the UNS40. Having a meditation room within the faculty provides students with a chance to take informal time within their day to help with relaxation and stress.

The faculty needs to be more transparent about some of its facilities. It's important that the students know who to go to or call, regarding immediate concerns (examples first aid, acute mental stress and getting locked in the building). This transparency is important as many students are misinformed or entirely uninformed.

Facilities

It is important that the university creates an optimal environment to study. However, it turns out that during exam periods, the **Randwyck Library is too full**. In addition, it seems as if students are not fully aware of all the possible study spots at FPN. To solve these problems, SHAPE wants to improve the distribution of students over the possible study spots. We want to do this via communication and awareness. Furthermore, when the current amount of spots do not meet the demand, we will look into possibilities to extend the number of study places. One of these possibilities could be **extended opening hours** for the library during the exam periods.

Around lunchtime, the **Mensa** flows over by students and staff. There are not enough seating places for those who are having a break. SHAPE wants to create multifunctional seating places and wants to increase the number of water taps, microwaves and electricity points. In addition, SHAPE would like to add more **green** to the Mensa, to improve the appearance.

Other facilities that are important to SHAPE are the amount, location, and quality of the **lockers**. Right now, there are not enough lockers and a lot of lockers are defect.

The faculty should also look into sustainable options with the use of plastic utensils and recycling paper.

Catering

The food in the Mensa has become more expensive every year, while the quality of the food has been the same. In 2020, the contract with the current caterer, Albron, expires. SHAPE will be actively involved with the choice of the new caterer. This way, we want to keep the food **affordable for students** and we want a broad range in choice to make sure vegetarians, vegans, and other individuals with a diet restriction also have something to choose.

Internationalisation

We would like to encourage a **change in the exchange process**. In our opinion, deciding whether people are invited to the first round of choices to go abroad or the second should not depend whether that student had a **single resit** in the first one and a half years of her/his studies. This system leads to an unwanted division of the cohort.

SHAPE also want to encourage formal and informal **cultural events**. For instance, having planned trips to other universities or having event across borders would provide the students with more knowledge and cultural integration.

Examination

Nowadays, the examination in the bachelor mostly consists of **multiple-choice questions**. SHAPE wants to keep that method, but also wants to increase the overall methods of examinations in the bachelor. This leads to a more mixed-method examination, that is also more in line with the spirit of PBL.

Furthermore, SHAPE thinks it is important that writing skills are more developed within the bachelor. To develop these writing skills, it is important that good feedback is given on the written papers. Therefore, SHAPE wants to establish that every written paper receives good feedback.

Student well-being

Students often suffer from **stress and burnouts**. Unfortunately, many of these students do not seek help for these problems. SHAPE thinks therefore that it is important that confidential

advisors and **student psychologists** are not only more accessible but also that students are more aware of these options.

Moreover, other students are in need of more study related guidance. Unfortunately, the waiting periods for the study advisors, the FPN Academic Advisers, are too long right now. SHAPE wants to shorten these waiting periods.

Of course, it would be even better to prevent these problems. Because of this, FPN and the university should pay more attention to the **well-being** of students. Because of this, the **well-being week** should get more attention. Furthermore, well-being of students has to be more implemented in the current curriculum. For instance, this could be done by making it part of the mentor programme in the bachelor, masters, research masters, and forensic master.

Next to the long-term well-being of a student, the short-term well-being is maybe more important. In case of an emergency, students should be aware of where they can get help within the university compounds. Therefore, the **first aid responders** have to be more visible for students and staff members.

Visibility and student input

Being a representative does not only mean that you have to voice your opinion, but it also means that you have to **listen** to those who you represent. Next year, our representatives are going to look into possibilities to keep contact with other students and their opinions. For instance, we want to do this by organizing events in which students can give their opinion. This way, SHAPE ensures that the voices of all students within FPN is heard.

In addition, SHAPE wants to increase the **visibility** of the achievements in the Faculty Council. This way, students can see what happens within FPN and can form an opinion about this. To make this happen, SHAPE is in favour of creating a spot in which students can address their questions, improvements and ideas for FPN and the university. If you have such a question, improvement or idea: do not hesitate to contact one of your candidates!

In conclusion

From next year onwards, SHAPE is going to engage in the policy of FPN. Our candidates will have a critical eye to make sure that the opinions of students are heard. In addition, SHAPE wants to create more transparency about the accomplishments and improvements at FPN and act on the inputs and suggestions of students.