

EUDAIMONIA

**NFK Election Team
2018-2019**



This publication comes from the upcoming praesidium for the Nieuwe
Filosofische Kring 2018-2019

Election Team 'Eudaimonia'

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Contents

Editorial	2
Vision	2
What is NFK?	2
What is the Praesidium and what will change?	2
Educational vision	3
High Praesidium	5
Praeses	5
Treasurers	5
Function coordinators	5
Functions	6
Culture	6
Education	6
DeWijzer	7
Course Services	7
Faculty Bar	8
Party	8
PR	8
Webmaster	9
Social	9
Sports	9
Election week activities	10

Editorial

To make sure that everything at the university runs smoothly, there needs to be more than only academic staff. Following tradition, students form an organization to provide each other in their needs. At the HIW, the Nieuwe Filosofische Kring (New Philosophical Association) takes up this responsibility.

Continue on in this booklet and get to know the upcoming election team 'Eudaimonia', a team full of enthusiastic and engaged philosophy students. The name 'Eudaimonia' was chosen (after a long discussion) because it refers to two important elements in every student's life: firstly our roots – with very intellectual Greek terms as names for philosophical election team –, secondly it reflects our primordial purpose: to make sure that all philosophy students reach the highest possible level of happiness. To show the world that we are capable of doing so, we are organizing multiple activities this week. And we hope that you will all vote for us!

However, with the students at the HIW it is not all 'happiness', because not everything is going as it should. Someone who walks through the gate of the institute would not expect it, but these are turbulent times. The social cohesion at our faculty of philosophy is – to use a dramatic word – fissured, and that results in a lack of togetherness, which is unpleasant and not what we want. It is time for a period of fraternization, and exactly that is one of the main goals of our election team 'Eudaimonia'!

Don't forget to vote for us! <https://nfk.stemt/org/>

The editors, 7th of May 2018

Vision

What is NFK?

NFK is the student association for philosophy students at the KU Leuven. All students of the Dutch and English program who follow more than 15 ECTS at the HIW are automatically a member of the association. In addition, NFK is always there for all former philosophy students. Of course NFK is also available for all future students and other interested parties.

What is the Praesidium and what will change?

In essence (a daring term), the praesidium is an organizer of activities and an **organ for representation**. The goal of the praesidium, however, is not only to entertain the group of students at the HIW, but to *create* just that group (Derrida could write a book about it). Everyone should feel welcome at the institute and should ideally also feel part of a community, *the* community that is the HIW. That is why we decided to abolish the '*international*' function. After all, what does that term imply? That there is a separate function for our international students, which organizes activities only for these students; that they have their own, segregated activities. This is a hyperbole of course, but the point is that, especially after the past year, we have to stop compartmentalizing students. The best way to create a unified community is to include students in the organization of events and to make them feel that the praesidium and NFK are not 'closed communities'.

Thus a new (but also old) function has been set up: '*social*'. This function will serve as a broader version of the '*welcoming team*' function (which is therefore included in *social*). Where the *welcoming team* mainly focused on incoming students (and therefore also had a huge reduction in work as the year progressed and students started fitting in), *social* will have a much broader

approach. Organizing more accessible activities on the HIW, ensuring more interaction between students and organizing the 'mental health week' will also be part of the range of tasks; all this in addition to the classic first year weekend and other *welcoming* tasks, of course.

Another big change in the structure is in the high praesidium. Until this year the high praesidium consisted of only a praeses, the treasurer(s) and the vice(s). From now on, a different system will be used: the high praesidium consists of the praeses, the treasurer(s) and a group of **function coordinators**, who have a greater responsibility than in recent years. This rather big high praesidium will ensure a much improved spread of the workload and responsibility and will ultimately drastically reduce the fragility of the entire praesidium. This group of coordinators will also form the day-to-day management; weekly praesidium meetings will no longer require everyone to show up, only the function coordinators are required (every month there is a 'general PV', in which the whole praesidium is expected).

A last major change is the greater emphasis that will be placed on **workgroups**. To date, workgroups in the praesidium were only accessible to praesidium members. That will change. Workgroups will be set up more often (not only for the largest activities) and will be open to all students. This ensures that also less permanent engagement is facilitated at NFK and hopefully it will also change the image of NFK as a 'closed group'. The workgroups are not just set up by praesidium members: 'normal' students can propose activities as well, through a better promoted system of 'NFK-facilitates', where students can make a proposal for an event at the Praesidium (for example in a hearing, or by mail).

Finally, it remains to be said that unfortunately once again only one international student is part of the election team, despite many attempts to involve other international students. That is why it is very important for the coming year to not only entertain and represent the group of students, but also to form them into this group. If we as NFK can create a different kind of image of ourselves and student representation at the KU Leuven in general, through **greater openness** in the broadest sense of the word (the working group structure and NFK Facilitates are the best examples in that respect), hopefully we will count on more engagement in the future, also from the international students. At the start of the next academic year, we will also try to recruit new students for a position at NFK, to make the discrepancy somewhat less poignant.

Educational vision

The education representation at the HIW is a fundamental part of NFK. Although there is no formal link between NFK and education representation, there is a strong interwovenness and tradition of union. If, after all, educational representatives are part of the praesidium, a **broader flow of knowledge and interest** in educational topics can be achieved. The education representatives in the praesidium can also organize education-oriented activities and conferences, with the facilities that NFK can offer. The praeses of NFK is usually also FO-chairman and thus the chairman of the education representation of the students at the faculty. This means that there is an unambiguous point of contact for the faculty, a clear communication partner for other student associations and a central figure of representation for the students.

Regarding the less structural matters: education at the institute will have to do with much less experience next year. Nonetheless, a healthy portion of enthusiasm and youthful inquisitiveness will fill this gap. Moreover, all new representatives will obviously be able to count on good preparations behind the scenes. They can also naturally count on the more substantial experience of the praeses and the collective knowledge of the educational veterans in the POC (permanent educational committee). There are many time-tested practices that will certainly stay in use next year. For example, an **open meeting** will continue to be held before each POC, which, logically, remains open to every student (the 'education bureau'). There will also be a meeting for each general meeting (AV) of the student council, which will also

be open to all students of the institute. This openness will be further increased by a few minor changes. For example, attempts will be made to provide for **small translations of the Stura documents**, so that international students can also discuss matters that ultimately concern them as well. Also, by inviting other student representatives (most notably those in the POC) to the pre-AV for Stura, and by inviting 'normal' students more actively and personally, broader input can be given to these meetings. This is certainly not a sneer to our predecessors (who have together brought us where we are today), but rather an enthusiasm to build on the same tendencies and a, perhaps naive, hope to bring about improvement.



top row from left to right: **Michiel S, Felien, Alma, Jade, Anouchka, Dries, Luca, Walt, Tom, Rik, Thibault** and **Elise**

bottom row from left to right: **Margot, Joëlle, Robin, Marie, Felix, Dennis, Simon, Abheer, Kasper** and **Michiel G**

High Praesidium

Praeses

Rik

Next year, **Rik**, the merriest Dutchman of the institute, will be taking the philosophy students under his wing. He is rather hard to miss with his big smile, Gouda-blonde hair and friendly height. He constantly worries about the well-being of his fellow students and is always prepared to help them. This makes him the perfect candidate to be praeses. The considerable experience he has gained in the praesidium this year will undoubtedly help him in this position. Through his work in the education department he is up to date with the recent developments in the university landscape. And as an editor for DeWijzer he has honed his writing skills to match those of a true politician.



Treasurers

Michiel S and Luca



Just because NFK is a nonprofit organization does not mean that there is no money involved. That's why **Michiel S.** and **Luca** will use their economic genius to make sure our finances run smoothly. There is no reason to doubt that these two gentlemen are the perfect fit for this position. The stories about "Michiel and the faculty bar's cash register" are infamous, and Luca is an expert at financing thanks to his work as the NFK party-organizer this year. Together they will carefully guard the key to our treasure chest, day and night. No thief will even come close to this precious key. This duo is exceptionally responsible and will surely fulfill their important duty with great success.

Function coordinators

Anouchka, Luca, Dennis, Robin, Felien and Michiel S

Besides Rik as the upcoming praeses and Luca and Michiel S as treasurers, the high praesidium also consists of a couple of function praesides or function coordinators, who coordinate the workings of their team and communicate with each other. **Felien** coordinates the new 'social team', since **Dennis** is the entire 'sports team', he will coordinate himself, **Robin** is responsible for the 'PR-team', **Anouchka** manages the 'team culture' and **Luca** the 'team party'.

Functions

Culture

Dries, Thibault, Felien, Anouchka and Vaes

Wonderful **Anouchka** and her team will make sure that you get your fair share of culture in the coming year. We are not surprised that she chose this function because she is already working for NFK as the director of our play: “The Picture of Dorian Grey.” She also is an aspiring poet, we can only dream of hearing some of her beautiful verses at one of the enlightening events that she will be organizing next year. **Dries** is the perfect fit to be in the culture team. Because of his irresistible looks, he is playing the leading role in the NFK play. He’s an expert of every cultural discipline. Simon, aka **Vaes**, is always welcome anywhere in the institute. With the help of his curly haircut, dry humor and contagious laugh he will create an excellent environment in the Culture Team. Next we have **Thibault**: we only need to think of his famous beret to know that he is a man of culture who likes to eat cheese and drink fine wine. Last but

not least there is **Felien**, the Calliope of the group. She can’t wait to make next year a culture feast for every single philosopher at the HIW.



Anouchka speaking: “The purpose of our ‘team culture’ is to make philosophy students experience culture together. We can accomplish this goal in many very different ways! This year, we’ve noticed that movie nights have been popular, so we’ll certainly proceed this nice tradition next year. We’ll also keep an eye out for inspiring expositions and all those other cultural events that Leuven has to offer!”

Education

Joëlle, Michie S and Margot

Joëlle is enormously driven in everything she does. Next year she will be representing the students at the POC and the student council of the KUL. She will make sure that the quality of education at the HIW will increase by twofold. The same goes for **Margot**, after all those years of student council-work in high school she can’t wait to put her experience to good use. **Michiel** already has a year of experience so he will be assisting these two young ladies as a mentor to steer them in the right direction.



DeWijzer

Kasper, Margot and Vaes

These three partners in crime will provide you with your much needed philosophical news and creativity. They will network extensively to make sure that the DeWijzer reaches its fullest potential. **Margot** likes to write poetry in her free time and more than once this year she also wrote about famous people's favorite poems for the Veto (Leuven's independent student's magazine, in Dutch unfortunately). Many years from now, people will reminisce about how – thanks to her –



the next Van Ostaijen was first published in DeWijzer. **Kasper** already worked for our magazine this year and just can't get enough of it. With his broad but critical view he will enthuse DeWijzer's readers so that they get thirsty for more. **Vaes** completes this editorial team. Behind the counter of the faculty bar he will get inside information about the lives of our eccentric philosophers so always know what is going on, and report about it in DeWijzer.

Kasper speaking: "NFK has had a magazine for a long time but that does not mean that we have never sailed turbulent waters. To put things into perspective: last year there have only been published two numbers. This year we're on three and the fourth is in the making. I'm happy to see this revival because DeWijzer is just too good to let it decay. It forms a platform for *all* philosophy students where they can be creative: they can publish their writings, philosophize, draw, show photographs etc. In my view, DeWijzer is first of all a medium of the future and the past on which philosophy students can capture and share their ideas of the present. Secondly, I want to use DeWijzer to further connect all students by promoting the use of English language, so not only Dutch students can enjoy the magazine. Lastly, I see DeWijzer as a place where student are free to experiment without any formal consequences. Those who wish to break free from the boundaries of academic writing are welcome to unleash their creativity with us!"



Course Services

Alma and Michiel G

Michiel and **Alma** form an excellent duo together: Friendly, fond of laughing and gregarious. The ideal candidates for our CuDi! Next year, they will be helping you with all your handbooks, compulsory readings, student notes and life-saving summaries. When you are there don't forget to have nice chat, you definitely want these two on your good side if you're looking for a nice discount.

Faculty Bar

Elise, Thibault, Abheer, Vaes and Felix

Vaes is a party animal. There is no doubt that he will be asking you to dance, and you can't say no to those puppy eyes. **Felix** will enchant you with his tapping-skills. Discover a new beer (or a home-made lemonade) on each Tuesday and take your chance to see this hunk in person.



Thibault and **Elise** are true musical experts. They know the perfect records that will fill our philosophical dancefloor. They also know how to create an intellectual atmosphere. Take a seat, discuss the theories of your favorite philosopher, or just make some small talk with your fellow students. **Abheer**, aka The Shotmaster, is a convivial young man who will party with you until the sun rises. Abheer speaking: "SHOTS?! too much alcohol makes you wanna pee, don't do it on the streets. PEACE!"

Party

Abheer, Jade, Marie, Dennis and Luca

Long, brown hair and big brown eyes, **Marie** has the looks of an ultimate dancing queen. Just her laugh is already a party! Be sure to take enough rest this summer because next year will be a party year like no other. With **Jade**, every night is a party when you have moves like her. **Luca** is known as the Sultan of Swing, and **Dennis** will only play the best records, thanks to his experience at RadioScorpio. Finally, **Abheer** has some wild ideas that will spice up our parties and make them the best of all Leuven!



PR

Robin, Michiel G and Walt

Walt, **Michiel** and **Robin** will be proving their worth as PR-masterminds. Be wary of all the messages in your mailbox, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. Expect nothing less than colorful posts and alluring banners. Be prepared to be fall for Robins charms and red lips. Be prepared to be persuaded by Michiel's mighty, manly beard. Be prepared to be captivated by Walt's irresistible charms.



Robin speaking: The purpose of ‘team PR’ is to make sure that all philosophy students are up to date when it comes to what is happening at NFK. When this is not the case, many students will not feel involved, and when you see it like that, PR is essential for the cohesiveness of a student organization like NFK. Today however, a difficulty emerges: in today’s world, social media play a significant role in promoting events and sharing information. But social media platforms are often very chaotic places, and because of this chaos it is often hard to be able to reach everyone, even though most of us are all active on these platforms. That’s why we will still make announcements during the breaks between classes, and why we will also hang up posters here in the institute.”

Webmaster

Tom

The Cybergod has descended from mount Olympus to assist us with our technological troubles. He will be taking care of our website with the help of his collection of lifehacks, memes and shortcuts. He will also provide us with tech advice wherever we need it. He’s a prodigy in the technological field, just like Bill Gates. Hopefully he will actually, unlike Bill, finish his studies?

Social

Walt, Abheer, Felien en Dennis

The five most convivial people of the whole institute. With their inviting eyes, warm smiles, friendly postures and engaging small talk, they’re looking to improve the social cohesion of the HIW. Together, they will make everyone feel at home between the blooming wisteria, old buildings and romantic trees. Undergrad, Grad or doctoral student, Belgian, Dutch or International, boy, girl or any gender in between: team social will take care of every single one of you.

Felien speaking: “The function ‘social’ has made a come-back, but in comparison to the past this name can be interpreted more broadly. Our team not only fulfils what the welcoming team did the last two years, we also put our focus on what ‘team international’ was originally meant for, and we try to assist the whole praesidium in ‘internationalization’. Doing this, we try to increase the cohesiveness between the students. At the request of the institute, team social will organize a Mental Health Week, and we will also take care of the welcoming weekend and activities in the lounge. It’s quite a job, but we’re looking forward to it!”

Sports

Dennis

This young, athletic Limburger will supervise our philosophical sports program. He is known as a man with real guts, but is he willing to prove it? His ambition for Dad-jokes and Basketball will help him lead our NFK sports team to victory in every discipline. The prizes will be ours! Besides these ambitious goals, **Dennis** also wants to keep all the philosophers of the institute healthy and provide them with some activities to actively relax.



Election week activities

On MONDAY the **7th of May, 9pm**, we are holding a **Movie Night** at the HIW, **room C**. You can come and enjoy the film *Hannah Arendt*, for free! Before the film starts, Guido Niccolò Barbi will give an introduction to the life and work of Hannah Arendt, starting at **8.30pm**

On TUESDAY the **8th of May at 11am**, upcoming praeses Rik and the upcoming education representatives will be giving the **vision presentation**. During this presentation, we present our vision and afterwards there will be the possibility to ask questions and delve into discussion. The location has not been confirmed yet, but most likely it will take place somewhere at the HIW, more specifically the **Kardinaal Mercierzaal**. And even then, it's not that big in here, so you'll find us!

The same day but in the afternoon from **4pm to 6pm** you can join our sports team and go to **the sportkot** to enjoy some **running and playing soccer**, or just to enjoy the weather! We're meeting on the grass field behind the Football field. You can check the Facebook event for the exact location!

We finish the day with our weekly **faculty bar** in **M-Café**. We are organizing a **chess tournament** and you can also bring some board games of your own, so we can make it a cozy night! The doors open at **9pm**, the tournament starts at 10.30pm. If you want to participate you just need to register there.

On WEDNESDAY the **9th of May** we are holding a **Garden Party** in the **garden of the HIW**! Starting at **noon**, you can come and enjoy the sun and atmosphere, we will provide drinks and you can participate in the game 'musical chairs', where if you win, you get a smartwatch, so make sure to join!

That evening we will **debate** in the **Kardinaal Mercierzaal** about the tension between religion and politics. We start at **9pm**, and there will be free drinks!

On THURSDAY the **10th of May**, we will do what hasn't been long with NFK for a (too long) time: a cantus! With Rik and Michiel S leading us, we will sing Celtic songs during this **Celtic Cantus**! It takes place in **Café Ambiorix** (where else?!), the doors open at **8pm**, Io Vivat: 8.30pm.

On FRIDAY the **11th of May** we have our usual **breadmeal** in the **lounge of the HIW** from **12 to 2pm**, this time also with **pancakes**, and all that only for one and a half euros, holy crêpe!

Don't forget to vote for us! <https://nfk.stem/org/>

Election Team Eudaimonia