THE FUTURE OF MACHIAVELLI

2019



Made by:

MEMBERS OF MACHIAVELLI 55TH BOARD MACHIAVELLI

Future of Machiavelli

Hereby the 55th Board of Studievereniging Machiavelli presents you the Future of Machiavelli Report. This years edition is already the third edition of the Future of Machiavelli. However, our association keeps on changing and it is therefore that it remains important to reflect on the associations policies regarding those changes. We thank all respondents and all those attending the event the Future of Machiavelli. The report has been written in february 2019.

General

This years survey has been filled in by 45 respondents, which is unfortunately less than last year. However, the division of respondents regarding year layer has not changed. This is not very surprising giving the fact that first years have been the most active Machiavellians in recent times. The amount of respondents in comparison to the amount of members makes it important to not overgeneralize the results.

Before jumping into the specifics it is important to look at the question second question of the survey: 'Do you find Machiavelli a valuable addition to the political science life?' An overwhelming majority sees Machiavelli as a valuable addition, which is most important. The amount of events that is being organized is in general seen as perfectly fine. During the theme discussion that followed after discussing the results to this particular question however, the following became clear. Although the amount of events is not seen as too much, the way of promoting does make it feel like too much. The frequency people get invited for events on Facebook is sometimes too high. At the beginning of the year a policy goal for the 55th board was to diversify in its ways of promoting. The insight the attending members gave us in this, motivates us to intensify the work regarding this. However, based on the results it is obvious that Facebook remains the most important promotion channel. Something striking is the importance of face to face promotion. In a trend of stagnating reach of social media posts, it is important to know face to face promotion is just as effective.

The comments support what has been mentioned above: The amount of events is regarded alright, and is even described as perfect. However, the way the events are promoted sometimes give people a pressured feeling. One respondent comments Machiavelli should cater more to master students this year efforts have been done to involve master students in the association. Think of lecture talks, and an only master students borrel. However, because many master students are strongly orientating on the labour market the best way to cater to master students is most likely via for example inhouse days.

The connection between board and members is of great importance in our association. The board of Machiavelli is like a business card, it is important that board members make members feel welcome at all times. Both for fun, and for more serious matters. Therefore it is essential for board members to position themselves as open and approachable. Although the numeric results are positive regarding the approachability of the board the comments are therefore something to take very serious. It is of course not surprising the board of Machiavelli sticks together as a team based on the fact the board works together day in and out. But this in no way should make members get the feeling of the board being a clique that is hard to approach. An important way of connecting with members is by having an accessible board room. Unfortunately we see that compared to last year

the feeling of accessibility has dropped. We think this in large part is due to the moving of the board room location. From the central hall, to a more remote place in our university. This had some advantages: For example because the new office is bigger, and the fact that it is more remote freed us from noise complaints. However, the big disadvantage is that the less central place also leads to the Machiavelli room being less of a central hub to stop by between lectures for a coffee and chill. However, the comments show us that it's not just that. The Machiavelli room often has too much of an office vibe which makes people feel as if they are disturbing the board from their work. This is an important wake up call, members go first. In January we organised an event called 'The Roast of Machiavelli, tosti party'. The aim of this event was to increase the visibility of our board room, the show up in the end however was too high for it to be hosted inside the board room. Despite that however, we experienced events like this are incredibly valued amongst members. We therefore recommend future boards to host more of these events with a low threshold. Events that are easy to join attract most members and therefore help best in creating more cohesion.

As of now what becomes clear from the responses is that the cohesion between Dutch and International students, and first and older years students is not as we would like it. With the knowledge we gained earlier, and with that what we were told again during the presentation of the results, this division is not really one between dutch and international students. Moreover it is seen as a division between the two tracks. The Dutch and international students in the international track seem to mingle very well. However, students between Dutch and international trak live a rather separated life. Now of course, like some respondents, one could argue that Machiavelli should not feel responsible to take on this challenge. However, in our view it is Machiavelli's core task to connect students of all backgrounds with each other. It is therefore important to look in to the organizing of activities that stimulate this intercultural connection. The department of Political Science also attaches great value to cohesion amongst all students. It is for that reason that contact with the department will be deepened to see how to share efforts in this. A possible way of having more cohesion is by increasing the amount of hours both tracks get taught together.

Regarding the bad cohesion between year layers we see the following. Year in year out the largest group of active members within Machiavelli exists out of first years. Machiavelli provides the opportunity for them to meet up, and build up sustainable friendships. For older years this can unfold in two ways: Either they keep seeing Machiavelli as their base to meet, or they meet up outside of Machiavelli. As has been said members state it is questionable to what extent Machiavelli can really tilt this, and whether there is a need to. Besides that, the trips and weekends already provide an excellent base for those willing to cohese. Other than that catering to older members can best be done with career orientation opportunities.

The last question out of the general part of the survey is an important one to highlight. A big priority for the current board is to fight for free Dutch courses for our international members. However, this year already the idea rised to not just leave it at that. As soon as Dutch courses are there we would like to work, or would like future boards to work, on expanding the range of activities in which Machiavelli operates. A possible way of doing so is by organizing courses: For example in languages, or arts. This way members have the benefit of profiting from lower rates than for usual courses.

Machiavelli on the other hand provides an extra way of binding students, and partially a different type of students together.

Positively the large majority of the respondents is well aware of what a lustrum year is. However, at the end of this academic year this awareness should be raised to 100%. This is not unrealistic considering the fact the large majority of lustrum activities is scheduled in 2019.

Education

One of the core reasons for the foundation of Machiavelli was to safe guard the quality of education of the programs our association covers. To do so it is of utter importance that members know what Machiavelli can mean for them in this sense, and what the role of the education coordinator is within the Machiavelli board. Therefore it is good to see that most respondents know what the role of the education committee is. However, when asked the respondents don't know where to adress education related questions, this is in line with one of the next questions in which the role of the education coordinator is asked about. The results clearly show that the position of the education coordinator has to be highlighted more. A possible cause of the unclarity might be that members don't know what to direct to the program committee, and what to the education coordinator. It is important that the division of tasks is not only clear to the outside world, but that this division is also well known inside, only that way both organs can function to the best of their abilities. An important wish is that Machiavelli focusses more on offering career orienting events. Of course the yearly masterclasses have been organized, carrying the new name of Career Event: Unlock your Future. However, the wish to have more inhouse days is expressed during the future of Machiavelli. This is something that does indeed deserve a higher priority.

Political activities

Being a Study Association for Political Science students, the organizing of political activities is one of the core tasks of Machiavelli. It is for that reason This section in the survey is of big importance. When looked at the average one can see that members find Machiavelli at this point does not organize enough Political Activities. The attendees of the Future of Machiavelli event underline this, but also debate on it. In comparison with for example Social Activities, political activities do not always get enough attention. In the following discussion the following becomes clear amongst the participants. It is not necessarily the rate of Political Activities that is too low, but the promotion is regarded as not enough. The amount of people attending Political Activities is in general not that high when compared to the amount of people attending social events. Organizing a lot more political activities could therefore decrease the average attendance rate as the regular visitors will make choices in which one to attend, rather than attend all of the extra events as well. This said the focus should be on balancing promotion, by giving political activities more priority in promotion policy the amount of participants could increase.

An outcome we as board found surprising was that to the question whether Political Activities are experienced as accessible. However, the event helped us understand this better. The accessibility should be interpreted not as for example the locations limiting people to attend. Accessibility in this case aims at the fact most speakers are Dutch. Although they speak in English their point of reference when explaining situations is in general the Netherlands. What is a big name for Dutch students, such

as Wouter Bos, is a totally unknown name for most international students. This is something that of course we are aware of, but this being stressed by the members stresses the importance. The focus for Political Events for the future should thus be concentrated on the following. A more balanced promotion, with a fine eye of the biography of speakers.

An often heard critique on the UvA in general, but also towards Machiavelli, is that it has a left orientation. Therefore we asked whether members found the political spectrum is well represented at political events. We see in the results that not all members see this balance in the spectrum at our events. This is something consecutive boards have been aware of, and so is the 55th. When organizing events the aim is usually for it to be not just informing, but also provocative enough for a debate. In this debate key is the representation of all aspects in the specific case. A danger however is the coloured past we as association had. Because of its former left-progressive orientation, a lot of known former members are active in political parties, or organizations, occupied with what could be framed as left-wing ideas. It is important for future reference to be aware of this fact, and to not choose the way of least resistance.

Social Activities

Social Activities are key to our association. They provide the cohesion in the association that keeps it ticking. People often visit educational and political events with the friends they made at social events. The aim this year was to diversify in the range of Social Activities, to more sports and cultural activities. We however see from the results that not all members see the increased amount of sportive and cultural events as sufficient yet. Especially sportive events can have a positive impact on the integration amongst students, at the time of writing this report we for example went kickboxing and the preparations for Machialympics are in full swing. The only comment brought forward in the Future of Machiavelli event is to have a stronger competition element in the sportive events. More general, the opinions on the locations and prices of social events are rather positive, giving the impression the social events are considered accessible.

The weekly borrel on wednesday takes place in Woody's after having 8 very well visited borrels in de Heeren van Aemstel. It's very clear that a lot of respondents are not satisfied with the current borrel location of Woody's, and with the music being played the balance between English and Dutch music being an important component in this. An opinion which is voiced multiple times is that the borrel has turned too much into a party. Members from older years remember borrels to have a quiet start, gradually growing more into a party. The atmosphere as well as the music are not seen as suitable for a build up like this. Although the results were an immediate call to action, we already learnt that this remains a point of attention. The borrel is one of the corner stones of our association it is therefore very important that the content of borrels, is being discussed and whether the location is suitable for what members want the borrel to be like. The ideas brought forward during the future of Machiavelli provide interesting solutions to making borrels even more likable, aside from adapting the music and volume. For example a half year Borrel prins as a prelude to the yearly proclaimed Borrel King, combining borrels more with events so that borrels are busy earlier, and even thinking off changing the day in the week on which borrels are organized.

Another opinion often voiced in the Future of Machiavelli is that Woody's is not suitable as borrel location for busy borrels. However, not every borrel is as busy and this is sometimes even hard to predict.

International

The trips organized by Machiavelli are of great value for several reasons. They provide a great way to get to know fellow Machiavellians of different year layers, get to know the political climate of a new country, and of course are in general a relatively cheap way to discover the world. The trip destinations are seen as attractive, but not as affordable by everyone. Of course the costs of Machiavelli trips have been, and are, priority when organizing them so that as much possible members are able to join. Seeing the costs of trips are still considered too high by a number of people shows that also for the future the costs of trips should have an important place in the organization of them. However, trips will always come at a cost. During the Future of Machiavelli the idea of compensating members' individual costs with Machiavelli money, and therefore making trips more affordable is something numerous boards have thought about. However, this has so far not been done as there is a limit on how much people can join a trip. There for doing this will inevitably lead to Machiavelli money being allocated for a relatively small group of members, able to pay for the non compensated part.

General Assembly

The General Assembly (GA) is the most influential organ within the association both for members to express their opinion and make their own ideas into policy, but also for the board of Machiavelli to get things done. All major changes to the association have to be presented to the GA, and to be voted in. It is therefore of great importance for the association that members know what the GA is and that every Machiavellian is aware of the importance of attending GA's. First step in this is of course that members know what a GA is. Therefore it is of course good that the majority of respondents know what the GA is. Secondly is that members know when the GA is, and thus good promotion. This is seen as way less positive and is a call to action to make more work of the promotion. The first two GA's of this year have been promoted with video's in which the content as well as the functioning of the GA has been explained. The turn out at both of these GA's was not bad, but left us far from satisfied. For the third GA of this academic year, also known as the nomination GA, the 55th board will look into how to make GA's more attractive. The findings will be presented at this GA. It is important to work together with other associations in finding ideas and solutions to make GA's more visited. For those reading this section we hope to have stressed the importance of GA's and count on your attendance at future GA's. Starting with the nomination GA of June 2019.

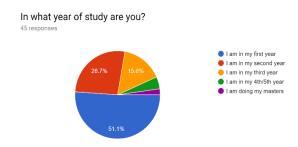
Over recent times we have seen that the members at GA's are less critical, or feel less enticed to express their criticism. We encourage everyone reading this to be critical, critical members keep the board sharp, and leads to better policies. However, this criticism is something that should be promoted for future GA's.

The presidium is the organ that leads the GA's, keeps an eye on the time and makes sure all attending members get the chance to speak out their opinion. Having such an important task, the presidium and its tasks should be more widely known. This deserves more attention.

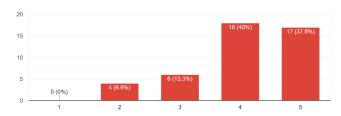
Committees

Only 15 of the respondents are partaking in a committee. Therefore for this section the warning of not overgeneralizing the results should be taken into extra account. The committees changed in structure, each committee in its own way. The responses give the impression that changes are being of value. Important to see is that most members feel taken serious inside the committees, and see the workload as not too much. With that knowledge however, a good follow-up question would have been if the workload is maybe seen as too low. Especially when being linked to the question regarding motivation to take an active role inside the committees. It is important that although the committees are structured in a way that should invite people to take an active role, this role is also stimulated in different ways.

General

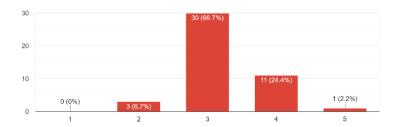


Do you find Machiavelli a valuable addition to the political science life?



What do you think of the amount of events Machiavelli is organizing?

45 responses



I think there would be a lot to gain if you catered to Master's students more.

I think that Machiavelli could organize even more lectures and trips that are related to political science. sometimes im kind of overwhelmed by the amount of events i get notified for on facebook and i feel like i want to attend everything but i just cant. but as long as other people do come i guess there are not too many events

Great amount of events

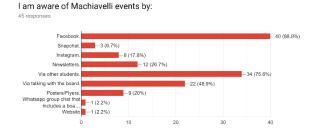
Perfect!

I like the amount because I can go to most of the happenings without really compromising my study I think that it is great that Machiavelli organizes all those events but sometime it's just too much and I think that if it was a little less more people would attend. For example next week, on tuesday there is the Machiavelli dine event, on wednesday the borrel and on thursday the prom.

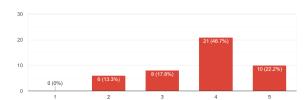
Sometimes it is a bit much, especially in/around exams weeks and considering the fact that there is a borrel every week as well which you want to be well visited.

Perfect

I like the diversity



How would you rate the atmosphere within the association



The barrier between the board and regular members should be reduced.

I have not participated in any of the events, so I would not know.

I do not know that many people yet but everyone I met was very open and chill. very chill and pleasing

The board sometimes can come off a little bit as a clique - difficult to connect if you're not an active member

I love the 'gezellige' atmosphere at the events

thijs is awesome

I think the cohesion could be better, as an older student I don't feel very welcome anymore within the association.

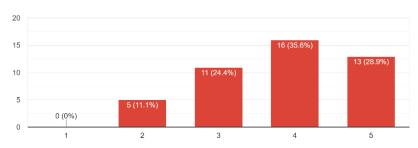
omdat ik nu een tweedejaars ben, merk ik dat ik me er minder tot voel aangetrokken. Natuurlijk blijft er altijd een harde kern van ouderejaars komen, maar in mijn hoofd is het vooral de eerstejaars die de meeste vruchten plukken van de sociale evenementen van Machiavelli

The relation between the first years and second years is going quite okay in my opinion (ofcourse some effort is needed to get to know people from other years)

The focus is a lot on first years! Especially since the internationalization.

How approachable is the board





Always willing to give some info when met in elevator

I have not had any contact with the board, so I would not know.

access is very low-key, you can just walk into the board room or talk to one of the board members easily at borrels, they are also involved with 1st year students

you can always talk to a board member :)

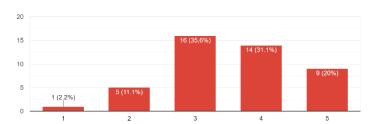
I think it depends largely whether you know the people on the board. But if you had something important to say I think they make themselves accessible enough to everyone.

The board is very approachable, mainly because you see them at every borrel, other event.

I personally don't feel that approachability, but that could just be me

How accessible is the board room.

45 response



It feels like walking into a private party. My friends feel like it is reserved for board only. its tucked in the far corner of the building which makes it an actual trip to get there, instead of the previous location which was always on route to other things so you could easily stop by and say hi. Havent been to the new one yet!

I have never looked for the boardroom...

I don't get there often

The board room should have a bigger presence and be promoted more

het is toch wel een stuk minder toegankelijk geworden doordat het net iets verder weg zit. vroeger liep ik vaak langs als ik even niets te doen had, dat doe ik nu toch minder snel omdat het niet letterlijk op je route zit, waar het vorige kantoor dat wel had.

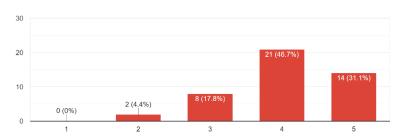
But i dont think everybody knows that is always open for members and you dont just pass by the boardroom if you dont know where it is.

It became a bit less accessible since the moving of the board year, pure due to location in the BC building.

You could be a little bit clearer on the opening hours. Sometimes the first door in the hallway is closed, while you are actually open. Feels a bit weird to come to the board room then.

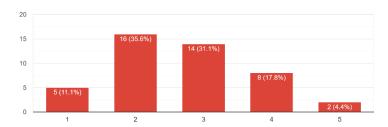
Machiavelli should offer me opportunities to get in touch with the labour market.

45 responses



The cohesion between Dutch and international students is.

45 response



More events with the intent of intergrating both tracks shall be organized.

There are too much international students.

Especially during the trip I joined there was no difference between Dutch and International students which I think is very nice.

i feel like it's getting better now that we have the same lectures, but of course most 'groups' have already formed before that. im not sure how this could be improved could be better:)

I'm in the third year and we're all Dutch, and I think that mixing with internationals when you follow the same courses is easier so the cohesion is better among first and second year students.

Naturally, you get along mostly with the people from your tutorial group. But the trips and other events help to bond with people from other groups.

This is not only a problem within Machiavelli, but the program as a whole

ik denk dat er over het algemeen relatief weinig contact is, maar ik zeg niet dat dit de schuld is van het bestuur. Ik denk dat dit een redelijk natuurlijke gang van zaken is.

we are separated from each other because we do not have a lot of occasions to interact

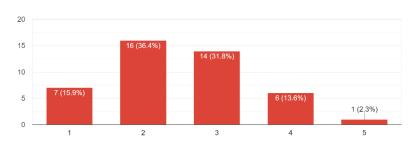
it is as good as it should be, you cant force cohesion and should therefore not try to.

Because of the seperate tracks people are not mixing well. There is a difference in culture

I feel like the Dutch students are more of a group on their own, and the fact that almost every single member of the board is Dutch doesn't really help.

The cohesion between the several years is





During that trip a also met a few older students which were also very open and friendly.

on the first trip of this year the cohesion between the students from different years was pretty good, so i still talk to some of them but besides that there is not much opportunity to meet other year's students always room for improvement

I feel like there is not really much interaction

The events are mostly visited by first years.

I used to be an active member, but as if now I have no idea who is in the first year

vind ik ook matig, maar het positieve punt is wel dat in de gevallen dat dit wel zo is is het voor mij bijna exclusief door het bestuur dus dat is wel een functie die jullie hebben.

If someone puts some effort in getting to know the other students it is quite easy at events etc non existent

The focus is so much on first years, that only the super active people engage with eachother. All the slightly active/less active people are seperated.

I am aware of what a Lustrum year is.

13.3%

13.3%

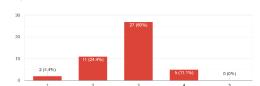
If Machiavelli would organize courses in languages, arts etcetera I would be

45 responses

20
15
10
5
4 (8.9%)
0
1 2 (4.4%)
1 2 3 4 5

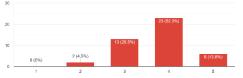
Political Activities

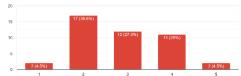
The number of political events is



The topics of political events are diverse and relatable

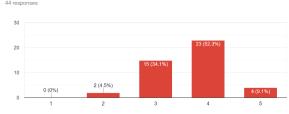
The political spectrum (left-right, conservative-progressive) is well represented. 44 responses

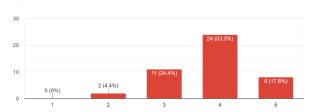




The locations of political events are good.

The speakers at political events are interesting

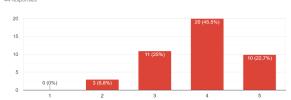




The promotion of political events is good

20 15 10 5 3 (6.7%) 1 2 3 4 5

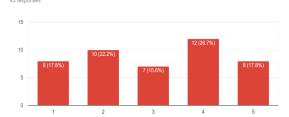
political events are accessible



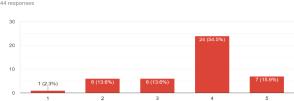
- love them, keep them coming
- Love em!
- Political activities should be promoted more on other platforms, I never see anything of a political event on for example the website or in the hallways. Besides that, I felt like there could be more diversity in the topics being discussed (based on this year only)
- It's fun and informal

Social Activities.

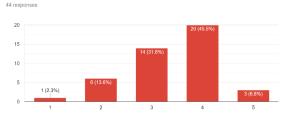
I often go to Social Activities



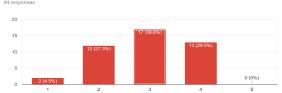
The quality of social events is good.



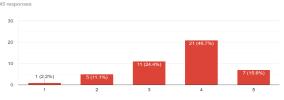
The locations of social events are good



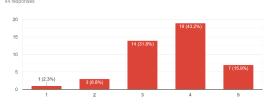
In addition to parties/weekends the offer of cultural/sports activities is high enough.



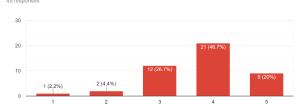
The promotion of social events is good



The number of social events is enough



The tickets of social events are priced reasonably



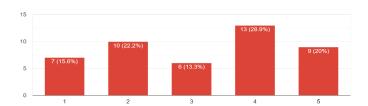
I would like to see more sportive events.

i like them a lot but i do feel like mostly the same people attend the social events

Would love more opportunities to really go out a night

I always see the promotion of social events, so compliments on that. I really hope there will be another cultural activity soon, since I don't really like other social events (but that's just me and has nothing to do with the social events in general)

I like coming to the weekly borrel



I liked it better when the borrels were at the Havelaar and more of my friends used to go.

Too much internationals

There is not enough people my age or in my phase of studying.

I miss an option to stay outside with more people longer during the new location of the borrels. Before it was easier and nicer to talk to people.

Always the same people there. First years stay in groups.

Te veel party, leuker als een borrel ook nog echt een borrel blijft. Later op de avond mag er best een feestje van worden gemaakt.

There's not enough cohesion among members

the place could get a little crowded

As a third year and a semi active member I just don't know that many people anymore.

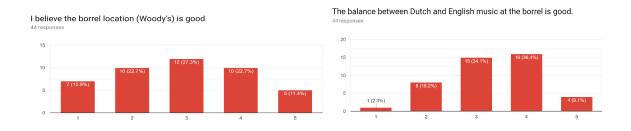
Don't really feel connected anymore and been there way too often already in other years

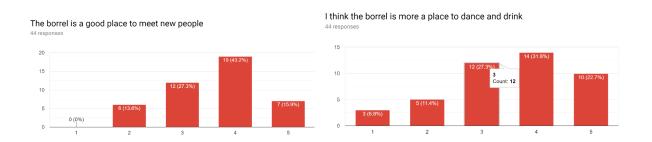
te veel juniors, te weinig seniors

I like the new location, but I very much dislike the DJ. It gives a high school party feeling, not really a student borrel feeling. Also, 1 TOILET IS NOT ENOUGH DURING BUSY BORRELS:

The atmosphere of the location is not good. It feels more like a party than a borrel. People don't really sit and talk and play games, but mostly get incredibly drunk while taking shots and dancing. I'd rather have a normal borrel.

I used to go all the time when they were at De Heeren van Amstel. Now I don't like going anymore, and only because of the venue.





I think the borrel is a valuable addition to our association 44 responses 20 15 10 20 (45.5%)

Before, it was easier to meet new people. The new location is sometimes too crowded in my opinion. very fun, but i dont like woody's very much (super narrow)

keep them coming

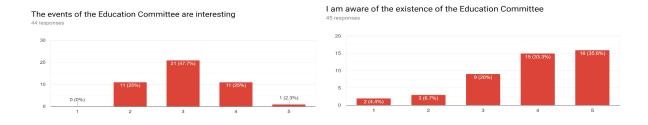
LOVE EM!

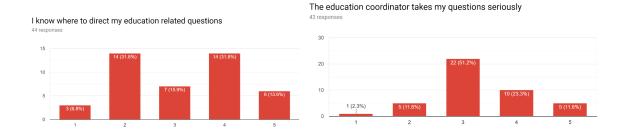
I greatly enjoyed going to the borrels in the previous years and im sure they're still fun

I don't go very often as a second year but I know they were really valuable to me last year as a way to meet people and feel connected to others in the year

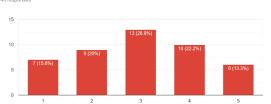
It shouldnt be a place to jut dance and drink, but that is kinda what is happening now

Education

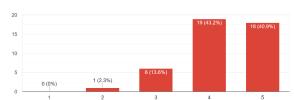




The role of the Education Coordinator is clear to me

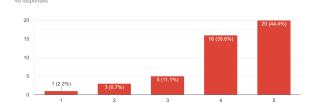


I find it important that Machiavelli organizes network- and career events

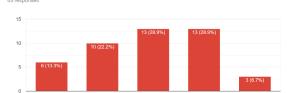


International

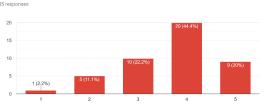
The destinations of Machiavelli trips are attractive



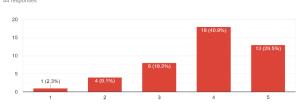
I find the prices of trips too high



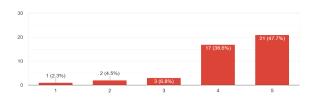
The promotion of Machiavelli trips is good.



The amount of trips is enough



I find political activities on trips a valuable addition



the wilder the location, the better

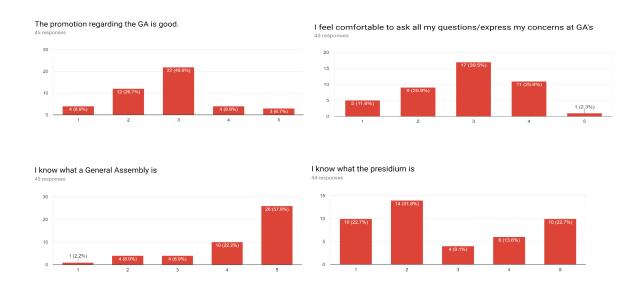
it gives a student a cheap way to explore the world and I absolutely love them!!

the parliment in brussels was nice

Really enjoyed Sofia, but the task of the committee (promotion wise and during the trip) could be more clear. Maybe introduce the committee during the promotion?

The trips are what I love most about Machiavelli and I believe it is a very valuable thing

General Assembly



I have not attended one of Machiavelli

attended the first one of this year which was interesting but im not sure if i would go again.

Feels a bit scary sometimes

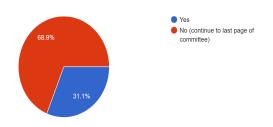
I give a low score to the GA promotion, since I feel like there already could have been more promotion regarding the upcoming GA this year. It is very important a lot of members show up, so do make sure this is a priority when it is time to promote this

I think it was a shame the last GA wasn't at the Doelenzaal and wasn't well visited. I hope that more people will attend the next GA, because it is very important to have good discussions with a reasonable amount of people.

Committees

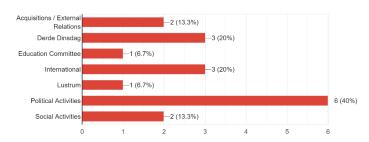
Are you taking part in a committee?

45 responses



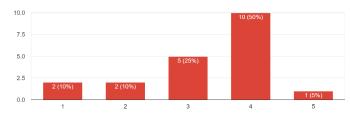
In which committee are you partaking?

15 responses



In general I think the committee meetings are well organized

0 response



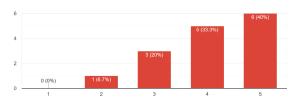
Regarding de Derde Dinsdag, there has only been one meeting and the deadlines that were set there were way too ambitious. It would have been nice to have an agenda as well

Like the new SAC structure

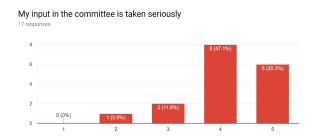
I did not have that much meetings this year

It was easy to join the committee

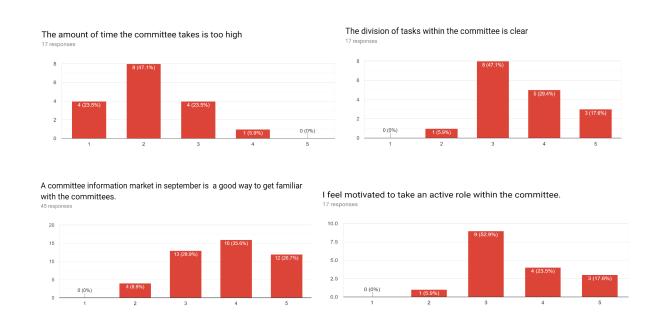
15 response



I wanted to join the Almanac committee but I haven't seen anything being promoted yet
Maybe do another sign up possibility? That the members who arent active can quit and new members
can sign up



for the last event the committee was small so it was easy to actively participate, which was nice



there is not a lot of education related events so i dont feel like im very active or needed

Before the committee market there should have been an explanation about what machiavelli is and
does and what first years can do within the committee