

Discussion Hour Buitengewoon Dispuutslid

TLDR Discussion Questions:

- Should Thor disallow people who could become an ordinary member to become a buitengewoondispuutslid?
- Should a “master student price” be introduced such that master students are not forced to pay 25 euros, but (for example) 10 euros instead?
- Should the master association (and gezelligheidsdisputen) board members be required to be a Thor member?

Initial Context

This discussion concerns the following. In the HR, there is a separate “member” (though not in the name of the law) called “Buitengewoon dispuutslid” which translates to extraordinary master association member. Extraordinary in this sense means they do not meet the normal requirements for Thor membership (just like regular extraordinary members). Extraordinary members are supposed to be rare exceptions who are allowed to stay at Thor and must be explicitly approved and re-evaluated every year. This is because extraordinary members do not fit the goals of Thor, which is explicitly for Faculty EE students; extraordinary members are either PhD’s or from another faculty.

The worry for buitengewoondispuutsleden comes largely from recent times since Mimir was founded. Mimir, which targets the AI&ES master's, has around 120 members, of whom likely more than 60 are buitengewoondispuutsleden. What makes this problematic is that AI&ES master students are part of the faculty EE and thus could become ordinary members. In this way, the buitengewoondispuutsleden, which are supposed to be a rare exception is being used against their intended purpose.

The discussion is now as follows:

Should Thor disallow people who could become an ordinary member to become a buitengewoondispuutslid?

The pros and cons of this are:

Pros:

- AI&ES Mimir members should be able to represent themselves at Thor GMMs, which would allow this;
- It could bring more (master) students to Thor;
- It would mean that the HR is no longer being misused.

Cons:

- The cost for becoming Thor member (25 euros) is very steep for master students, which would likely affect Mimir membership numbers;
- You are “forcing” people who want nothing to do with Thor to become a Thor Member just to become a master association member.

Master student member price

From this discussion, one of the ideas is to introduce a “master student price” for Thor membership. This is mostly in the context that if you would require people who could be normal member, but applies in general as well. The idea was that a master's is a 2-year program, 25 euros is calculated as 5 euros for 5 years, so 10 euros would be a logical one-off price. Also note that the extraordinary member price is 5 euros per year. This would lower the economic barrier to entry for Thor for master's students.

Mandatory (extra)-ordinary Thor membership for dispuut board members

A second point was requiring dispuuts board members (both master association and gezelligheidsdisputen) to be an ordinary or extraordinary member of Thor. The dispuuten are a part of Thor and can harm Thor's financials and reputation. Then, having people on the board who never agreed to the terms and conditions of becoming a member could possibly not be held accountable for their actions by the board.

Dispuuts board members should also be able to represent their association at Thor GMMs. It would also help with some technical issues, like not having a Thor website account.