



BABYLON

STUDY ASSOCIATION

Concept Semi-Annual Report 2018-2019

Accessible, professional and energetic

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Foreword

This is the half-yearly report of the thirtieth board of Babylon. This report is meant to describe and reflect on the processes that concern managing Babylon, with a focus on the first half of the academic year of 2018-2019.

The aim of the past half year was to start off well and to maintain and improve the image and reputation of Babylon amongst all its stakeholders. While doing this, the long-term and short-term goals, which can be found in the Policy of 2018-2019, were kept in mind. This report describes to what extent the set objectives have been met and how the thirtieth board aims to reach them in the future.

Furthermore, this report will give an insight in the way things are or have been organised. Committees will be elaborated on and successes and things that could have been better will be discussed. The board has thoroughly reflected on the past half year and is devoted to provide its members with an honest and genuine evaluation of their work so far.

Hopefully this report provides a sufficient overview of Babylon's line of work, but naturally, the board welcomes all questions and remarks.

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Suzanne Klein Wolterink | - | Chair |
| Susanne Luijff | - | Secretary |
| Maartje Slot | - | Treasurer |
| Eline Giesbers | - | Commissioner of Internal Affairs |
| Luuk van den Reek | - | Commissioner of External Affairs |
| Dominique Paulissen | - | Commissioner of Activities |

1. Proceedings in long-term goals of Babylon

The thirtieth board has written a Board Policy at the very beginning of the academic year, which has been approved during the General Member Meeting of 3 July 2018. In this report, four long-term goals were described and discussed, namely:

- Strengthen the bond between the association and its members and attract new members
- Strengthen ties with external relations
- Improve the professionalism of Babylon
- Improve and strengthen the image of Babylon

The following paragraphs will briefly reflect on the progression that has been made within these goals and attention will also be paid towards the most important short-term goals that belong to them. It is not possible to describe everything in close detail; this will be done in the annual report.

1.1 Strengthen the bond between Babylon and its members and attract new members

The thirtieth board realised that acquiring new members for the association was very important in the first weeks of the new academic year. Since the thirtieth board consists of five fourth-year students and one pre-master student, they realised that it would take more effort to attract the first-year students, compared to other years. For this reason, the board put much effort in the Orientation Week, in order to gain awareness and already recruit new members. The entire thirtieth board participated in the Orientation Week as a committee member or as a mentor parent. To promote Babylon, the Chair gave a presentation in which she explained the additional value of becoming part of the association and already mentioned and promoted the Committee Market and the lustrum opening party. Besides that, all board members tried to approach as many potential members as possible and kept on promoting the Committee Market and the lustrum opening party, when talking to new students.

This attention for promotion resulted in a very high attendance at the Committee Market. 81 members signed up to become an active member. Nine of them were pre-master students and eleven were internationals. Unfortunately, a few members of the Career Committee decided to quit, because joining a committee was not what they expected it to be. The Commissioner of External Affairs noticed that some members were not as enthusiastic and dedicated as the other members. That is why he gave them the option to remain in the committee, and put in the needed effort, or to leave the committee. At the end, three committee members decided to stop. However, the three members that are still part of the committee are enthusiastic and motivated to organise the Career Event.

1.1.1 Pre-Masters

In the past years, it became clear that pre-master students are sometimes not really interested in becoming a member of Babylon. They always seemed to be more interested in joining study-related activities, rather than informal activities. This year, however, it turned out differently. To promote Babylon among the pre-master students, two board members became mentor parent of the pre-master group during the Orientation Week. This definitely led to awareness among the pre-master students and almost the whole group signed up to become a member of Babylon. Nine of them even became an active member and joined one or even two committees. Besides that, the pre-master students

often show up at *borrels* (informal drinks) and other activities and five of them joined the ski trip. The amount of active pre-master members has never been so high and the thirtieth board is very proud to have reached this.

1.1.2 Internationals

One of the short term goals of the thirtieth board was to strengthen the bond between international members and Babylon. To make the international students feel as welcome as the Dutch students, the thirtieth board started to use English as the main language for all Babylon's communication tools. During the Orientation Week, all the main communication towards the students was in English. Besides that, all the Facebook posts have been written in 'Dutch follows English' instead of 'English follows Dutch' and the Babylon Magazine is fully written in English since this year.

To make all the activities accessible for international students, the thirtieth board arranged English speakers at all activities, like the Congress and the CIS in the Field. Besides that, the thirtieth board decided to give the international students access to all committees. Eleven international members have signed up for a committee. Some international students are very involved and they show up at every *borrel* and a lot of other activities. Besides that, three international students joined the ski trip.

1.1.3 The Babylon Room

The thirtieth board experimented with offering longer open office hours. Since this year, the Babylon Room is open from 10.30pm until 4 pm from Monday until Thursday and from 12pm until 2 pm on Fridays. It turned out that this is quite long and that members do not show up very often at certain times. However, members can always come along when they have questions, if they want to sign up for an activity or if they just want to chill. This contributes to the accessibility of the thirtieth board, which is one of her key words.

Once a month, the thirtieth board provides free lunches on the Babylon Room. This year, due to Babylon's sixth lustrum, the association provides free lunches. As a result, the lunches are well-visited. The lunches often take place the day after the monthly *borrel*. Members really seem to appreciate it that they do not have to worry about their lunch the day after the *borrel* and that they can have some lunch at the Babylon Room. Most of the time, members stay for a while to hang on the couches and to share their stories about the *borrel*. Only the cake lunch was not as well-visited as expected. This was probably because people did not feel like eating a sweet lunch the day after the *borrel*.

1.1.4 Monthly borrels

Traditionally, Babylon organises monthly *borrels* that are meant to maintain and strengthen the bond between the association and its members. The first *borrel* of the year was replaced by the lustrum opening party that was organised by the Lustrum Committee. The board already started promoting the lustrum opening party during the Orientation Week. This, in combination with the creative promotion plan of the Lustrum Committee, led to a very high attendance and the party could be considered as very successful. The success of this party attracted members and encouraged them to attend more *borrels*. The Committee of Informal Activities has organised the other three monthly *borrels*. Especially the New Moon *borrel* in October was very well-visited. There was a discount on buckets with mixed drinks and there were beer pong tables. The other two *borrels* were also well-visited, but less than the first one. People showed up later, which might have been caused by the football matches that were broadcasted on the same day. From now on, when a football match is broadcasted on the same day as the monthly *borrel*, the CIA will ask if

the match can be broadcasted at the Malle Babbe during the *borrel*. The CIA will promote this on Facebook and on Instagram, to attract more people. More information about the CIA and the *borrels* can be found in paragraph 8.4.

1.1.5 Active Member Evening

On 26 November 2018, the first Active Member Evening of this academic year took place at De Waagh. The thirtieth board organised a game night. Five different games were played in rounds of twenty minutes. After the games, a quiz about Babylon took place where the members could earn extra points. Beforehand, teams were made by mixing up members from different committees and nationalities. The winning group won a bottle of champagne and some snacks. The atmosphere was very good and the board received many positive reactions afterwards. Many members decided to stay for quite a while after the event had ended. This indicated that the night could be considered a success.

The next Active Member Evening will take place in April. It has not yet been decided what the activity is going to be, but the thirtieth board is aiming to make it just as exciting as the first one.

1.2 Strengthening ties with external relations

One of the biggest priorities of the Commissioner of External Affairs is to maintain and improve the bond between the association and its external partners. Normally, the Commissioner of External Affairs is responsible for the communication to external partners, but this year, like the year before, there have been some exceptions for practical reasons. Oubaha Beheer prefers to have one contact for organising events and thus, for contractual matters, the Commissioner of Activities has been made responsible for this contact. This was also the case for the communication with the association's supplier of study books, Study Store, as the Commissioner of Internal Affairs is their contact. As for the other external partners the responsibility goes to the Commissioner of External Affairs, sometimes in combination with the Chair.

The communication with external parties was very successful the past half year. Two new collaborations have started with Husk and Fika Nijmegen. Besides that, there is still contact with other companies about future collaborations. The partnership with The Tosti Club Nijmegen has ended. The communication has been very difficult with this company, therefore the thirtieth board decided to end the partnership.

1.3 Improving the professionalism of Babylon

Increasing the level of professionalism is something that the thirtieth board aims to realise in various ways. Being a professional association contributes to the positive image and reputation amongst its stakeholders. Moreover, it also increases (perceived) trustworthiness and reliability. The most important methods that have been used the past half year for improving the professionalism will be discussed.

1.3.1 Maintaining the corporate identity

The board is doing their best to maintain Babylon's corporate identity, by always using the Babylon logo and the same font in documents. Furthermore, the Chair has made a PowerPoint template that the board and every committee can use for Babylon presentations, so that these are recognisable and professional.

In the Policy, the board wrote that they would extend the glossary the twenty-ninth board started of Dutch terms concerning Babylon with the correct translation in English. They would also send this to all the committees, so that they could use it. This list has not been used a lot. The board members did not really find other words to add to the list and they do not think the committees are really using it. Of course, in the first meeting with the committees, it has been made very clear that the operating language within Babylon is British English. In the first few months, the board members sometimes struggled with the difference between American English and British English in for example Facebook posts, but this has definitely improved.

1.3.2 Privacy

The Commissioner of External Affairs is the main person responsible for being up to date with this matter. In the last few months, he has started a document in which he noted the most recent privacy rules and he distributed this to all the board members. They are all up to date about what is asked of the study association concerning privacy. The Commissioner of External Affairs will write a recommendation (plan of action) for the next board on how they should apply the rules.

The thirtieth board finds it very important to protect the privacy of the members. This is why the registration forms for activities with information about the members are always locked away in a cash box and can only be seen by the board members. Furthermore, the board recently purchased a paper shredder. All the privacy-sensitive documents, like the registration forms, will be destroyed by the board itself. In this way, the board does not have to depend on what the university does with the privacy-sensitive documents in the trash.

In light of the privacy laws, the board also had the intention to give every Babylon member a personal password and username to log in to the website to see the photos. Unfortunately, the budget did not allow this.

1.3.3 Social media

The different social media channels of Babylon are all managed by the Secretary. The board has found it very practical that there is one responsible person for all the social media channels. Babylon is active on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. The last two are mostly used for informal posts aimed at members. Twitter is mainly for external relations and LinkedIn is being used for posting interesting vacancies for (former) CIS-students. This division is still perceived as the most logical by the board. More information about the use of social media can be found in paragraph 2.6.

1.3.4 Clothing

The board members of the thirtieth board are all in possession of a board suit, a t-shirt, a vest and one or more Babylon merchandise items. In the Policy Plan, the board has written that they wanted to add blouses to the clothing options. These were meant to be worn during formal activities (workshops, company visits and the Career Event), where members of Babylon would wear their 'normal' clothes. The board wanted this to minimise the distance between the members and the board. The blouses were ordered by the board members on time, but DressMe could not deliver the blouses. Only in December, the blouses could be delivered. Eventually, the board decided to pass on the blouses. Instead of the blouses, the board members wore their t-shirts during the workshop and they will

also wear their t-shirts on the Career Event and the company visit. This is because they think that wearing the suit would be too formal for this kind of activity. However, the thirtieth board will recommend the thirty-first board to introduce the blouses, because it is a good option for events such as the Career Event or company visits.

1.4 Improve and strengthen the image of Babylon

The stakeholders of Babylon are of great importance to the association. Comparable to point 1.3, the professionalism and reputation of the association should be maintained and improved if possible.

1.4.1 Companies and organisations

In September 2018, CIS in the Field took place. On 22 February 2019, the Career Event will take place in De Waagh and in May 2019, the Congress will take place in theatre hall C in the Elinor Ostrom building. Companies and organisations were invited to come and talk on these events. They have been approached in a professional and appealing manner in order to create goodwill and maintain/improve the connection between them and Babylon. The companies and organisations that decided to participate in the CIS in the Field event were welcomed and treated professionally. Every speaker received a Babylon business gift after their talk. This could be a fruit infuser or a Dopper with the Babylon logo. The thirtieth board also used the Babylon socks as a business gift, for those who already received one of the other business gifts. More information about the Career Event and the Congress can be found in paragraph 7.3 and 7.4.

1.4.2 Study and student associations

The thirtieth board believes that regular contact with other associations can be of great value for Babylon. For this reason, proactive behaviour is encouraged. Babylon cooperates with other associations within Nijmegen to organise the Congress. Due to the lustrum, Babylon will not organise the annual prom with other associations as done in previous years. Apart from that, the thirtieth board aims to socialise with other boards. This can be beneficial, as there is the possibility to exchange ideas and experiences, but also ask for a favour every now and then.

The contact with sister associations across the country is also satisfactory. The first 'Sisters Day' took place on 9 December 2018 in Groningen. The second will take place later this year. At this moment, it is not clear yet which study association is going to organise the second one. This because the twenty-ninth board of Babylon passed on the organisation of this day, due to this year's Lustrum. Nevertheless, the thirtieth board heard that they did have to organise this day. At the moment of writing, the organisation of the next Sisters Day will be discussed during the next (online) meeting with the Chairs of every study association. The National Day of Communication will take place in Wageningen.

1.4.3 Members and other students

Preferably, members and other students regard Babylon as an organisation from which they can expect support and where they can ask questions about various subjects. Moreover, their perception of the association should include terms as 'professionalism', 'innovative' and 'unity'. In general, the overall perceived public opinion appears to be good. At the end of the year, a questionnaire will be spread to check whether this public opinion is correctly estimated.

The Committee of Formal Activities, the Career Committee and the Congress Committee try their best to propagate a professional image, as they are the committees who organise the more formal activities. The Committee of Formal Activities wears t-shirts in the original Babylon colours to maintain a professional image. Companies who are approached by the Career and Congress Committee are approached in a formal, polite and professional way. These two committees also wear special formal clothing.

2. General Affairs

2.1 SOFv

Babylon is a member organisation of SOFv (Samenwerkingsoverleg Faculteitsverenigingen, English: Cooperation of Faculty Associations), an organisation that stimulates collaboration and information transfer between study associations at Radboud University. The SOFv general meetings are held every two months. During these meetings, topics that are relevant for study associations are discussed. The thirtieth board of Babylon has sent one or more board members to every SOFv meeting this academic year.

The thirtieth board of Babylon has a good bond with the SOFv board. The SOFv meetings have been proved useful, since a lot of relevant information is shared during these meetings, such as information about the privacy legislature.

2.2 Advisory Board

The advisory board consists of four members from the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth board, namely: Eline van Lent, Sabine van Westerveld, Kai Greijn and Mats van den Nouwland. Kai has been abroad but provided the thirtieth board with feedback. At the start of this academic year, Amber van Gorkom was also part of the Advisory Board. Due to personal matters, she had to withdraw from the Advisory Board. The other four members, however, provide a sufficient amount of feedback.

On this moment, the thirtieth board has had two meetings with the advisory board in order to discuss and receive feedback on the ongoing business within Babylon. The Chair is always present at those meetings and usually two additional board members join her. Furthermore, the advisory board provides feedback on the weekly minutes that are made during the board meetings. These are always thoroughly read and considered.

The contact with the advisory board is pleasant and sufficient. They have proven to be a valuable source of information and advice.

Furthermore, the thirtieth board decided to include the Advisory Board in the articles of association. The purpose, structure, nomination and deposition of the Advisory Board are discussed in a code of conduct, created by the thirtieth board in collaboration with a Babylon member and former board members.

2.3 General Member Meetings

The academic year's first General Member Meeting was held at Café Van Buren on 10 September 2018. During this meeting, the thirtieth board of Babylon presented the new name and logo options and the code of conduct of the Advisory Board. On 24 September 2018, the Financial General Member Meeting took place. The Financial Annual Report was presented and accepted. Also, there was a vote on the new name and logo of the association. The name changed from SV Babylon to Babylon. Finally, a part about the Advisory Board was added to the articles of association.

2.4 Change of the Board

At this point, the recruitment procedures for the successive board have started. The thirtieth board has been lobbying among active members in order to draw attention to the possibility of becoming the thirty-first board of Babylon. Moreover, the board members all made a post and video for Instagram where they described their role and the day-to-day

life as being part of the board of Babylon. On 19 February, the Board Interest Lunch will take place. A member from the twenty-ninth board, Marco, will be present. This is because the thirtieth board consists of only fourth-year students and a pre-master student. In this way, interested second-year members can ask questions about the combination of being a second-year student and a board member. The Board Interest Lunch will be promoted in the best way possible. This will be done by making an Instagram post about every function in the board. This post includes pictures which will show his or her life within Babylon. On top of that, all the board members wrote a personal text about their function and how it is to be a board member. In this way, interested Babylon members will get a clear image of the function pointed out. Also, the board members will do an Instagram takeover and they will make a video in which they let the members know that they are looking for candidates for the thirty-first board. At last, a Facebook event is created, as a reminder for interested members when and where the Board Interest Lunch will take place.

2.4.1 Internationals

In the past years, no international members attended the board of Babylon, because this was not possible for certain position or because there was a certain level of Dutch required. This year, the thirtieth board wanted to change that. At the Sisters Day in Groningen, the thirtieth board of Babylon discussed the topic of international board members with the other boards. There were already some boards present who had international board members, or who wanted to accept internationals in the upcoming academic year. The other international boards emphasised that it is definitely possible for internationals to join the board of a study association. However, some of them said that it could be hard for the Chair to be an international. Also, the Secretary can get Dutch emails, letters, or messages on social media. On top of that, the Commissioner of External Affairs can get in contact with parties who are not ready yet to communicate fully in English. This corresponded with the thirtieth board's ideas about an international board, and what is written in their Policy.

The thirtieth board will give international Babylon members the opportunity to sign up for the following board functions: Treasurer, Commissioner of Internal Affairs and Commissioner of Activities.

However, to apply for the position of Treasurer, the candidate must have a Dutch level of at least B1. This is due to the fact that the Treasurer will have to work with Dutch invoices. Because of the experience of other boards and the current Commissioner of Internal Affairs, the thirtieth board decided that it is possible for an international to fulfil that function without any knowledge of the Dutch language. This because the Commissioner of Internal Affairs is mainly in contact with lecturers, study advisors and other contacts within the university, who all speak English. The function of Commissioner of Activities will also be possible to be fulfilled by an international student. If the Commissioner of Activities needs to get in contact with an external party who has some difficulties with speaking English, the Commissioner of External Affairs can help out.

Finally, the candidates who want to fulfil other board positions have to be familiar with the Dutch language and culture.

2.5 Board Grants

Every year, the board members of Babylon receive Board Grants from the university for their board work. The validation to determine how many Board Grants the board of Babylon will receive, takes place every two years. This year, a validation took place to determine the quantity of the Board Grants for every association in Nijmegen. For the upcoming year, the thirty-first board will be granted 28 Board Grants, where it was 27 for the thirtieth board.

2.6 Social media

The Secretary is, in collaboration with the Chair, responsible for the social media of the association. The board is still content about this task division. The Secretary aims to make a media planning during every weekend for the week that is coming, so that it is clear what needs to be posted when and where. The media planning is also be discussed during the board meetings on Monday. This has been going really well.

The Secretary writes the biggest part of the social media content, but sometimes the other board members and committee members write posts too. It is the job of the Secretary (or the Chair) to check all posts, before posting them on social media. Often, a text is also sent in the group WhatsApp with all the board members, so that everyone can check the post before it goes online. It still happens sometimes that there are flaws in the posts (mostly the English ones), but other board members or Advisory Board members notice these mistakes pretty quickly and they are adjusted right away.

The twenty-ninth board created a private Babylon Facebook group. Also this year, the group is being used to share information and events. The reason for creating this Facebook group is because members did not always get a notification if a message was posted on the public Facebook page. The board members of the thirtieth board have all tried to add as many new Babylon members to this Facebook group as possible. Members of the group can also invite other Babylon members to join the Facebook group. A week before every event, a reminder of the event is posted in the Facebook group. The board perceives the use of the Facebook group as very practical, because there is a better chance that members notice the event and come to the event.

The thirtieth board also uses Instagram a lot. At the moment of writing, the Babylon Instagram page has 458 followers, which is almost double of the amount of followers this time last year. On the Instagram page, the Secretary regularly posts pictures of activities such as monthly lunches or parties, or to wish students good luck on their exams. Besides posting photos on the Instagram timeline, the thirtieth board also uses 'Instagram Story' a lot. They post extra reminders of upcoming activities or important remarks like changed opening hours of the Babylon Room. Furthermore, the board also posts photos in the Instagram Story during activities like *borrels*, in the hope that more members will show up. The board has received positive reactions on using the Instagram Story more often and they think that, in combination with the posts on Facebook and the newsletter, it is very unlikely that members do not notice that an event is planned.

The board is keeping the Twitter and LinkedIn page more up to date than the previous year. Twitter is mainly for external relations and LinkedIn is being used for posting interesting vacancies for (former) CIS-students. On LinkedIn the Secretary regularly posts

vacancies that she receives via email. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs checks if the vacancies are interesting enough for CIS-students and she writes the posts. The Secretary posts the message on LinkedIn. That these vacancies can be found on the LinkedIn page is made clear to members via Facebook posts and Instagram story posts. On the website there is also a link to the LinkedIn page. At this moment, the board does not think that a lot of CIS-students look at the LinkedIn page if they are looking for internships or jobs. Until now, the board did not have a lot of response on the posts. However, if they continue doing it and if they remind students more often to look on the LinkedIn page for vacancies, it could work better in the future.

On Facebook the 'Dutch follows English' principle is used, on Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter all messages are in English. The newsletter is sent in as well Dutch as in English. The board did not have negative reactions on the increasing use of English. Maybe next year, the new board can switch to completely English.

2.7 Website

The Secretary is responsible for the website, which is created using Wordpress. The website is available in both English and in Dutch. The website is an important communication channel for the association. It is mainly used for external parties to understand what Babylon is and what our association stands for. Members mainly use the website to fill out registration forms, to check the upcoming activities, to order merchandise items and to look at the photos from activities.

The thirtieth board is not very happy with the website that is made on Wordpress and is managed by 'Miesart', because the board members can barely change something themselves and if they let Miesart do it, the costs are very high. Furthermore, the website often has errors and the memory of the website is always full. That is why a lot of photos had to be deleted from the website in order to post new photos. For the next board, it might be very interesting to look into the options for a new website.

2.8 LETO

Before, the Faculty of Arts had two committees, which were respectively SOLve, and the Future Committee. To improve the cooperation between the study associations of the faculty of Arts, the umbrella association LETO has been established. The thirtieth board has decided to join LETO, to strengthen the bonds with the other study associations from the Arts Faculty. On top of that, LETO keeps Babylon up to date about faculty-related affairs. LETO organises several activities for all the associations of the Arts Faculty. However, due to the busy schedule of Babylon, our association does not participate in most of the activities.

3. Chair

3.1 General tasks and responsibilities

The main task of the Chair is to carry ultimate responsibility for everything that is organised and published under the name of Babylon. Besides that, she leads and coordinates the board and Babylon in general. Of course, one of the main activities of the Chair is to lead the weekly board meetings. These meetings take place every Monday and other plans of the board members or Babylon are scheduled around it. It has happened that, because of personal circumstances or board-related events, the board meeting had to be rescheduled. When this happened, the Chair made sure that the meeting would take place as close to Monday as possible, so the weekly meetings would not occur shortly after each other. Also, almost all the meetings have been attended by the whole board. When this was not the case, the board member who was not present gave an update by text or through Facetime. The meetings are going well and are quite efficient. A lot is being discussed in a reasonable amount of time. When the board members are having a discussion without getting any further, the Chair is not afraid to step in, close the discussion and go on with the meeting. She could, however, be a little bit more patient sometimes. The agenda for the board meeting is uploaded by the Chair two days or one day before the meeting. This way, the board members have enough time to go through the agenda and prepare themselves for the meeting.

Besides leading board meetings, the Chair is also external representative of Babylon, in cooperation with the Commissioner of External Affairs. When possible and necessary, the Chair will attend meetings with external parties, to make sure that the good contact between Babylon and the external parties is being maintained. However, she does not always feel the need to join, as the Commissioner of External Affairs profoundly carries out his tasks.

Over the past half year, she also had to coordinate the first Active Member Evening and provide speeches. Given the feedback, she can state that this all went really well.

3.2 Lustrum Committee

In order of the sixth lustrum of the association, the Lustrum Committee had been set up by the twenty-ninth board. The theme of the lustrum is: Babylon Beyond Time (Unique Babylonius, Semper Babylonius). Today, this committee consists of nine members, including the board member. Two of the nine members are internationals. One member has been abroad this first semester, but she will probably join the committee again when she returns. During the summer holidays, this committee was very active. Because of a miscalculation of the twenty-ninth board, the Lustrum Committee had to organise 'CIS in the Field', which took place in September. They had to organise this in a short amount of time. Besides that, they also had to organise the opening party of the Lustrum that month. Luckily, everything went really well. The opening party was a great success. The party took place in Café Sjors en Sjimmie and it was really well visited, partly due to the good promotion of the party. CIS in the Field was also a success. Even though everything had to be arranged within a short amount of time, they managed to get eight speakers and 32 members attending. The paintball activity in November was also a really fun activity with 25 participating members. After this, the committee started planning the Lustrum Week and another big event, which is still a secret.

For the Lustrum Week, the committee is busy organising some really fun and also some new activities. They also take into account the promotion of the Lustrum Week and the lustrum itself. For the promotion of the lustrum, they purchased a T-Rex costume. This costume really drew attention to the lustrum at the beginning of the year. However, the costume could have been used more during the first semester. More about the Lustrum Week and the other event will be discussed in the annual report.

3.3 Personal goals

At the beginning of the year, the Chair set six personal goals with regard to her tasks and responsibilities. The goals are:

- 1) Carry out tasks in a correct and professional manner, in order to ensure that the set goals are met;
- 2) Monitor all activities within Babylon, in order to maintain the quality, the image and the professionalism of the association;
- 3) Maintain and strengthen contact with (active) members and striving to intensify the bond between the (active) members and the association;
- 4) Lead and guide the daily board and the coordinators in order to establish a board that functions to the best of their ability;
- 5) Becoming a familiar face for the entire association Babylon;
- 6) Maintain and establish contact with external parties in interest of the bond between the association and the industry, as well as increasing the network of Babylon.

In general, the Chair is proud of the progress she has made in terms of her goals. She is aware of her function as a role model and is keen to send out a professional, yet accessible, image. Furthermore, she monitors all activities within Babylon, to maintain the quality of the association. She does this in collaboration with her fellow board members and the committees. For example, the Chair reads the minutes of the committees every now and then.

In the Orientation Week, the thirtieth board strived to make the new students excited about Babylon. The reactions during and after the Orientation Week showed that the board, the mentor parents and the Orientation Week Committee did a good job promoting our association. In the following weeks, the Chair also presented herself to almost every committee. This was done to wish them good luck and to let the members know that they could always come to her to discuss any matter. This would also contribute to her becoming a familiar face for the entire association Babylon.

4. Secretary

4.1 General tasks and responsibilities

The general tasks of the Secretary are, among others, managing the member administration, the physical and digital mail, updating the boards' shared calendar with the upcoming activities and managing the social media channels of Babylon. Furthermore, a very important task of the Secretary is to write the minutes of board meetings and General Member Meetings and to distribute these minutes. The Secretary is proud of how she handled all these different tasks. Secretary is a very time-consuming function, but she enjoys it a lot. However, sometimes she has some difficulties with distributing the minutes on time. Officially, the minutes of a board meeting should be sent to the other board members and the Advisory Board within 48 hours. This is not always possible because of the many other tasks and her classes. Also, because of the rush, some mistakes in spelling were overlooked and that shows a lack of professionalism. Besides that, she always does her best to fulfil her tasks as well as possible.

Some of the tasks of the Secretary will be further explained below.

4.2 Member file

The thirtieth board uses the programme 'Conscribo' for the member administration, just like previous years. The Secretary is responsible for making sure the Member file in Conscribo contains correct and complete information only.

When students subscribe to become a member of Babylon via the StudyStore site (where they order books), the board only receives the name and the email address of these students. More information is necessary to subscribe the students as a member of Babylon in Conscribo. That is why the Secretary sent an email to all these students with the question if they could send more contact details. Some of them only answered a month to two months later. This is not an efficient way of working, so the board added a link to the StudyStore website so that members can subscribe immediately via Babylon and not with a detour via StudyStore. For more details about this, see section 6.3: 'Book sales'.

After distributing the first issue of this year's Babylon Magazine to the members, some of the copies were returned. This was because the addresses in the Member file were not correct anymore. The Secretary sent an email to these members to make sure their correct addresses are in the Member file.

4.3 Email

The board members all have their own email account in the programme 'Roundcube'. Because of the internationalisation, the email addresses of the board members have changed this year. The email address of the Secretary is now secretary@svbabylon.nl. All emails sent to the old account (secretaris@svbabylon.nl), are being forwarded to the new account. The board has not experienced any problems with this so far.

To send emails to larger groups, the Secretary uses the programme 'Mailchimp'. This programme is also used to design and distribute the newsletter (the 'Babbel'). In Mailchimp, two lists have been made: one for Dutch members and one for international members. The Secretary always makes two versions of the 'Babbel' or other emails: one

in Dutch and one in English. Mailchimp is a very easy programme to use and the Secretary has experienced no problems with this.

4.4 Mail

The mail, sent to Babylon, is delivered in the mailbox on the fourth floor of the Erasmus Building. The Secretary checks the mailbox regularly to pick up the mail and, if necessary, give it to the other board members. The board does not receive a lot of mail in the mailbox. The mail that Babylon has received the last six months has mainly been invitations from other associations for their constitution drinks and mail from the bank. However, the Rabobank has the intention to switch totally to digital mail later this year. Furthermore, a lot of associations only sent an invitation for their constitutions drinks via e-mail. In this way, Babylon will receive less and less physical mail every year.

4.5 Website

The website is an important communication channel for the association. An important change on the website this year was the name of the association. Because of the internationalisation, the name of the association has changed from 'SV Babylon' into 'Babylon'. The Secretary changed this everywhere on the website. However, the web address of the site remains 'svbabylon.nl' because of the lack of good alternatives.

4.6 Babylon Magazine

This year, the distribution of tasks among the board members is a little different. The Babylon Magazine is the responsibility of the Secretary, unlike previous years where the Commissioner of Internal Affairs was editor in chief of the magazine. In the thirtieth board, the Secretary is the coordinator of the Graphic Design Committee and the Publication Committee. Although the function of Secretary is already very time-consuming, and producing the magazine takes quite some time, the Secretary has not experienced a lot of difficulties with this new distribution of tasks among the board members. This is mainly because she did not have many courses to follow this year. If a second-year student is the Secretary, it is probably not possible to have this new task division.

4.7 Publication Committee

The Publication Committee of 2018-2019 exists of five members. One of them, the chair of the committee, is an international student. There is also a pre-master student member of this committee.

From this year, the magazine is completely written in English. The English writing skills of the committee members are sufficient. The committee members always check each other's articles on errors. Furthermore, before the articles are sent to the Graphic Design Committee, the board members also check all the articles. This way, it is unlikely that an error is being missed. The first magazine of this committee has been distributed in January and it was received with positive reactions.

In the beginning of the year, one of the committee members was appointed as the responsible person for the blogs. Sadly, because of all the work that goes into writing the articles for the magazine, the blogs that should regularly be posted on the website have been a bit neglected. However, the committee members have been brainstorming about the blogs and there will be a blog every month from February until June. The Secretary has encouraged the committee members to be creative about the content. If the blogs are

received well, the Secretary will advise her successor to continue with posting the blogs. If not, it might be better to stop with the blogs completely and think of something else to post on the website, because it will only take precious time of the committee members.

4.8 Graphic Design Committee

The Graphic Design Committee of 2018-2019 exists of five members. All of them have the Dutch nationality. Three members already have experience with Photoshop, some of them also had a little experience with InDesign. The two other members did not have experience with design programmes at all.

One of the committee members, Niels, has already been in the Graphic Design Committee last year. He helped the others with how to work with Photoshop. Furthermore, Maartje, the Treasurer of the thirtieth board, has helped the committee members with InDesign. The first magazine has been published in January, and although the two committee members who designed it did not have experience with InDesign, it turned out great. Maartje has helped the Secretary to make sure all the errors in InDesign were solved before it was sent to the publisher.

5. Treasurer

5.1 Finances

A budget for the academic year was made at the start of the academic year 2018-2019. The budget consists of both the general budget and the several committee budgets. As of January 2019, the budget is still in positive results. All committees, except the Prom Committee are financially healthy and there are no committees with significant financial issues. The financial issues from the Prom Committee are not that significant and can be levelled out with other committees. In this chapter, the most important/relevant revenue and expenditure, the contact with committee treasurers, payment methods, the Study Trip Committee and the merchandise will be discussed.

5.1.1 Revenue

Member contribution

The annual contribution is one of Babylon's most important sources of revenue. At the start of November, an email was sent to all members about the collection of the annual contribution. This email stated that the money would be collected from the member's bank account by direct debit. This direct debit was executed successfully, though +/- 15 members reversed the entry. The thirtieth board originally planned to contact all these members about this and re-perform the direct debit, but the board decided against this in the end. The reason for this was that these members were all members since 2008 or 2009 (and thus, they are not Radboud students or active Babylon members anymore). The thirtieth board interpreted their reversion as a desire to not be a member of Babylon anymore and they decided to unsubscribe them as members of the association. Furthermore, the board figured that it would be important to maintain a good relationship with our alumni and that a conflict about the contribution would not benefit this relationship. These members have been contacted and informed about their deregistration.

The direct debit failed for around 25-30 members for several reasons, such as a low balance on their bank account, invalid IBAN numbers and other administrative problems. These members will be contacted at the start of February by email to inform them that a second direct debit will take place in late February.

Contribution of the Department of CIS

The Department of Communication and Information Studies contributes to Babylon every year. This contribution amounts to €1500,- and is meant to help Babylon to organise its largest formal events: the Congress and the Career Event. Originally, the distribution of this amount was €1000,- for the Congress and €500,- for the Career Event. However, the twenty-ninth board of Babylon adjusted this distribution. This means that from the year 2017-2018, the distribution is €750,- for the Congress and €750,- for the Career Event. As of right now, both committees are financially stable and have sufficient money to organise their event.

5.1.2 Expenditure

Babylon Magazine

The twenty-ninth board made a deal with the Department of CIS that they will pay for the shipping costs of the Babylon Magazine, provided that the content of the Babylon Magazine is of decent quality. Furthermore, the twenty-ninth board had chosen a new publisher for printing the Babylon magazine: Bladnl. The collaboration with Bladnl is very successful.

There is no quality difference with the previous publisher. The magazines are already sealed and labelled, which makes sending them very easy. Besides that, there is a price difference of €533,76 per edition compared to the former publisher.

Socks

The thirtieth board has ordered 50 Babylon-branded socks this year, which cost the association €403,54. The socks will be sold as merchandise and will function for some relations as business gifts.

Constitution drink

The constitution drink of the thirtieth board took place at Club van Buren on 5 July 2018. The thirtieth board aimed for a cheaper constitution drink than last year, since the constitution drink only benefits the board and other boards in Nijmegen, instead of the association's members. Because of this, the thirtieth board has limited the amount of free drinks for guests: instead of two free drinks, Babylon gave them one free drink. The costs were estimated to be €1000,-. However, the total costs of the constitution drink amount to €651,40.

5.2 Contact with committee treasurers

At the start of the academic year, a treasurer training took place. Treasurers of the Committee of Informal Activities, the Committee of Formal Activities, the Study Trip Committee, the Education Committee and the Sports Committee were present during this meeting. The training was about how to keep a budget, how to make declarations, payment methods and managing invoices. The training was very short, but it was good to have a face to face meeting with all the treasurers. In addition to the short meeting, it might be an idea to make a treasurer handbook for next year instead of having a training, since all information could easily be clarified in a document. After the training, all committee treasurers have received a starting budget, so they could start off with their committee financials.

5.3 Bookkeeping

The bookkeeping is done on paper (by filling in forms and keeping receipts) and in Conscribo, an online bookkeeping application. All financial administration can be found in both the files at the Babylon Room and in Conscribo. There have not been any problems with the administration this year. Before the Semi-Annual General Member Meeting, the Till Committee will check the Treasurer's administration.

Unfortunately, this book year did not have a smooth start. It turned out that a lot of payments from the twenty-ninth board still needed to be taken care of. This led to a lot of extra work and stress for the current Treasurer. Because of this matter, a change will be made in the Till Committee. Chanel Otterloo, the Treasurer of the twenty-seventh board of Babylon, will take place in the committee for the rest of this year, instead of the Treasurer of the twenty-ninth board. This change has been set up in consultation with the persons involved and the Advisory Board. However, this change will only occur when voted in by the Assembly of Members on the semi-annual General Member Meeting.

5.4 Payment methods

It has been decided that the thirtieth board will work with three payment methods this year. First of all, cash will be used for cheap activities. Secondly, payments by debit card/iZettle are possible for activities that cost more than €5,-. Finally, direct debits are used for the contribution, study trip, ski trip, and activities with online registration.

5.5 Study Trip Committee

This year's study trip will go to Bogota. The trip will last for 10 days and will be from 27 April to 6 May. Forty students (including the board and the Study Trip Committee) and two teachers are joining the trip to form a total of 42 participants.

In the beginning, the committee had some struggles with finding the right location for the study trip this lustrum. At first, the committee wanted to visit a country in Asia. However, this was not possible because of the price or other causes. After the ultimate location had been found, the committee worked really hard to create a nice programme for this trip. As of right now, one company visit has been confirmed: Ariadna, a communication group. The group will get a tour and a presentation about the company. Furthermore, the committee is in contact with the university Del Rosario. On top of that, the embassy was very enthusiastic about our visit and they were also very helpful. The committee aims for a total of five to six formal activities (university visits, embassy visits and company visits). The costs of the study trip are €780,- per person. People who have not yet received the Student Life grant (formerly called the SNUF-grant) only pay €680,-.

This year, Babylon will receive a subsidy from the Faculty of Arts which consists of 5% of the total costs of the study trip. The grants this year are changed and are maintained by SOFv. This year, there is only a difference in subsidy price for inside Europe or outside Europe. As discussed in the Policy Plan, Babylon will receive the variable subsidy from the faculty this year. This variable subsidy is only granted once every two years, and is only granted if the study trip goes to an English-, Spanish-, German- or French-speaking country.

5.6 Almanac Committee

The activities of the Almanac Committee during the first semester were mostly getting used to InDesign and finding new members. Additionally, it was important to approach preceding boards for their input. Moreover, it is a tradition to include the names and pictures of (mostly) all members and relevant lecturers/professors in the Almanac. Because of the new privacy legislation, pictures and names of members can only be used when they have signed a form that gives Babylon the permission to do so. Therefore, some photo sessions were scheduled and every member was asked to give their permission. Receiving the necessary information was, as expected, a challenge. The committee, however, managed to receive almost everything before the Christmas break.

At the end of the first semester, there has to be a draft version of the complete Almanac to make sure that the thirtieth board meets the deadline of 15 April. The first half of the second semester is about finishing the Almanac, so that it can be sold at the end of April.

5.7 Merchandise

The Treasurer is responsible for the Babylon merchandise. At the beginning of the year, the Babylon merchandise was launched and promoted on social media. This year, members can order the merchandise online or at the Babylon Room. If the merchandise is ordered online, the money will be collected by direct debit. If the merchandise is ordered at the Babylon Room, the members can pay by debit card with iZettle or with cash.

The merchandise consists of the following items:

- Babylon baseball jacket, €25,-
- Babylon sweater, €15,-
- Babylon socks, €7,-
- Babylon cap, €7,-
- Babylon Doppo, €10,50
- Babylon fruit infuser, €9,-

6. Commissioner of Internal Affairs

6.1 Consolidate the link between Babylon and the study programme

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs has done her best to improve the contact with the study programme and lecturers. Since the beginning of the year, she has had regular meetings with student advisor Mattie Lagarrigue (during Lucie Botterhuis her pregnancy leave), and later this academic year with Lucie Botterhuis, via whom she timely informed the lecturers of the relevant Babylon activities. To improve and personalise the relationships with lecturers, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs went to the fourth floor multiple times to be among the lecturers in their offices or to invite them personally for Babylon activities. She feels like the contact with the study programme has improved due to the board's presence at activities like the Babylon Pub Quiz, and the presence of Babylon members during the Open Days. This year for the first time, a lecturer was present at the Christmas dinner, which was a nice addition. It might be interesting for following years to invite all lecturers to the Christmas dinner. On top of that, the thirtieth board is organising an activity for all the contributing graduates, previous board members and lecturers.

Also, a Christmas card was delivered to the lecturers and on National Teacher's Day, chocolates were offered to all the lecturers on the fourth floor. Babylon was present at both the Bachelor Graduations and the propaedeutic ceremonies. During the Bachelor Graduations, Babylon was given an important role by giving a speech and handing out flowers to the graduates.

Another step taken to improve the contact with the study programme, is the participation of the Commissioner of Internal Affairs in the Bachelor's Study Programme Committee (OLC) on which will be elaborated next. Also, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs, and members of the Education Committee have helped during the Open Days of CIS. The lecturers and study advisor were very grateful for their help, and really enthusiastic about the Open Days. Afterwards, the second study advisor of that time, Nol Vermeulen, gave a very positive evaluation about the effort which was made by the students and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. The lecturers who were in charge of the Open Days were very pleased with Babylon's help in finding CIS students for the Open Days. The Study Advisor had arranged some gift cards (*VVV-bonnen*) and free lunch for the students who wanted to help, which was a nice addition. This also made it easier for the Commissioner of Internal Affairs and the Education Committee to find and attract students.

6.2 The Study Programme Committee (OLC)

This year, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs decided to join the Study Programme Committee along the lines of other study associations. Firstly, as a signal to the study programme that Babylon actively cares about the quality of the education, which ideally could improve the association's image. And secondly, to get a clearer image of every development in our study programme. Although these two objectives have possibly been reached already, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs should not be the main driving force of the committee, of course. It must be clear that the Commissioner of Internal Affairs is a 'regular' member of this committee and is a member to stay up to date about everything what is going on within the study programme, and does not take place in it specifically as a Babylon (board) member. This year, the committee consists of five lecturers and five students, two of whom stayed abroad the first semester. Sometimes, this was a bit inefficient. Two students had to quit unfortunately, because they decided to end their

studies at CIS. This year, a pre-master student is also part of the Study Programme Committee, which is a nice addition to the committee. This is because pre-master students are sometimes a group which is a bit 'forgotten' in these matters. One way or another, a high level of involvement with the Study Programme Committee is essential for our study association. After this year, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs will advise her successor to join the Study Programme Committee to stay up to date about the study programme, but not to be specifically involved as a Babylon (board) member.

6.3 Book sales

In August, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs collaborated with Frank van Meurs to compose the booklist for CIS. This year, Babylon collaborated with Study Store for the book sale. The contact with Study Store went really smooth, and it was not a problem when changes in their web shop had to be made. Study Store informed Babylon about possible delays and about books which could not be delivered. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs stayed in contact with the lecturers, in case a book replacement was necessary. This year, the board made a change in the registration of new Babylon members via StudyStore. Last year, students could sign up for a Babylon membership via StudyStore, but Babylon did not receive a confirmation of a new member and the new member did not receive one either. It was possible for the Commissioner of Internal Affairs to check for new members via the private page of the website of StudyStore. This was very inconvenient, because this page had to be checked on a daily basis. On top of that, Babylon did not receive any contact details of the new members, such as the account number, which is very important to have. Since the second semester, new members can click on 'I want to become a member' when they order books, and a link is included which leads them to the Babylon website. In this way, they still sign up for a membership via Babylon. That way, all the contact details of the new members are being collected.

6.4 Education Committee

This year's Education Committee consists of six Dutch members, and one international member (from Aruba), who speaks Dutch. The Education Committee has not organised an activity yet, but has done a great job with their other responsibilities which will be discussed later on. Unlike last year, not the Education Committee but the Lustrum committee has organised CIS in the Field. Normally, the Education Committee of last year organises the CIS in the Field event of the next academic year, because this takes place in the beginning of the academic year. Unfortunately, last year the Education Committee did not start with the preparations of this event, so the Lustrum Committee had to organise this event. At this moment, the Education Committee is working on their next event: The Family Day on 12 April 2019. This year it will be made sure that the Education Committee starts in time with the organisation of next year's CIS in the Field.

Aside from Babylon's own activities, the Education Committee is also responsible for the Open Days. The committee members have been very helpful during the Open Days, which was good for the relationship between Babylon and the Study Programme, including its lecturers and study advisors.

On top of that, the committee is responsible for the Student for a Day programme. Guusje, the chair of the Education Committee, has taken responsibility for the Bachelor students in the matching system of current students with potential students. In the beginning, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs herself took the responsibility of the Master students, because she had some contacts with these students. It was quite hard to find suitable

Master students, because they were all doing an internship, and did not have classes yet to take potential students to. The Study Advisor send an email to all potential students who had signed up, to let them know that it takes some time for them to be matched, because of this. Some time ago, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs handed over the Master students to another committee member: Annabel, a pre-master student. From now on, she is responsible for the matching of the students from the Master.

6.5 Committee of Formal Activities

This year's Committee of Formal Activities consists of seven Dutch members. In the first semester, the CFA has organised the Pub Quiz, which was a very fun and interesting night for both lecturers and Babylon members. The CFA is currently very busy with the organisation of the next company visit at Vattenfall, formerly Nuon. The last CFA has had contact with Nuon and the current CFA arranged that a company visit could take place this year. After the company visit, the CFA will focus on the next activity, which will probably be attending a television broadcast.

7. Commissioner of External Affairs

7.1 Sponsors

Some changes have been made in the current sponsor deals. However, all of them are to Babylon's advantage. It was expected that Rabobank wanted to cut down a small portion in the sponsor money, but they did not proceed with that after all. This year, the Rabobank is rearranging their organisation, and therefore it is not certain whether they still need a trainee next year or not. This may affect our deal with Rabobank for the upcoming academic year.

The deal with the Tosticlub Nijmegen has ended, as mentioned before, due to poor communication and the decreased faith in a good outcome. The Tosticlub was not happy with the collaboration last year, since they felt they did not sell as many Babylon Tosti's as promised by the twenty-ninth board. To replace the deal with the Tosticlub, a new collaboration has been set up with Fika Nijmegen. This deal includes a free cup of coffee or tea with your lunch.

The communication with European Leisure Jobs, formerly called Vacansoleil, was more complicated. European Leisure Jobs is a former branch of Vacansoleil, but they are not the same company anymore. This is why getting in touch with them was really difficult. Both the Commissioner of External Affairs of the twenty-ninth and thirtieth board failed to maintain contact with European Leisure Jobs. Therefore, the collaboration between Babylon and European Leisure Jobs has ended.

The deal with De Waagh has been upgraded, as they now offer more money for the activities Babylon will organise in collaboration with them. Also, the communication between De Waagh and Babylon has been going really well. The Commissioner of External Affairs and the Chair have met with the owner of De Waagh several times and had some really good conversations. Besides that, there is also a lot of email contact between the two parties. The bond between De Waagh and Babylon has become stronger, due to the upgraded contract and the good communication.

Since the beginning of this year, there has been a new partner: Totally powered by Husk. Husk is a travel agency which focuses on winter sports, Husk is one of the most powerful and leading companies in this area. There has been made a four-year deal with them. This deal consists of three parts;

- An amount of money, depending on the number of members that will join the ski trip.
- A free keg of beer
- Free gadgets

There has been chosen for a long term deal, because Babylon always organises the ski trip in collaboration with Husk. The deal is really flexible: the more participants join the ski trip, the higher the discount percentage.

7.2 Sponsor training

All sponsor members of the committees have received their sponsor trainings. The training was based on the training of the last two years. The focus was mainly on the correct way of approaching the different types of sponsors. The thirtieth board still finds these trainings really useful. For example, the sponsor member of the Sports Committee made a

successful arrangement with the Coop for the sponsored food packages of the Ski Trip, partly due to the things he learned during this training.

7.3 Career Committee

Unfortunately, there have been some complications with this committee. Due to these complications, there is some delay in the organisation of the Career Event. The committee did not function as the thirtieth board hoped it would. This is why it has been renewed. At this time, the committee consists of only two members and the Commissioner of External Affairs, who has a more active role now. The thirtieth board strived to get everything organised for the event on 22 February. Unfortunately, there were not enough speakers found for the event. Since the quality of this event is really important to Babylon, the thirtieth board has decided to move the event to a different date, 17 April. The event will still take place in De Waagh. The board concedes to the fact that they could have intervened earlier on in the process. However, they are convinced that the Career Event will be a success on 17 April. It is known that the Career Event will be close to the Congress. Therefore, a different approach on promotion will be applied to make the difference between the two events known to the members of the association.

7.4 Congress Committee

This year's Congress will be organised in collaboration with the study association of Communication Science, Mycelium. The location for the plenary sessions of the Congress will be 'C', the theatre hall at the Elinor Ostrom Building. The workshops will also be in the Elinor Ostrom Building. Since both Mycelium and Babylon have their lustrum, the Congress will be bigger and there is more money available to spend on speakers. The theme of the Congress will be broadly applicable, and some famous speakers of big companies will be attending.

At the moment, there is contact between the Commissioner of External Affairs and the study programme itself. The aim is to get the members a compensation for their attendance. This could be in the form of study credits. However, this will not be introduced this year, but it may be an option for next year's Congress.

7.5 General Data Protection Regulation

Since 25 May, the new privacy legislation, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), or in Dutch: de Algemene Verordening Gegevensbescherming (AVG), has been applicable. This means that the same privacy legislation applies throughout the European Union (EU). The Commissioner of External Affairs has made a guideline, which tells the current board and next boards what the rules are and how Babylon can protect her data. In the past weeks, some purchases have been made to improve the data protection. For example, the thirtieth board has purchased a safe to safely store the tills and a paper shredder to dispose of all documents that are not needed anymore.

8. Commissioner of Activities

The main task of the Commissioner Activities is to coordinate her committees. These four committees and their corresponding activities will extensively be discussed.

8.1 Year planning

The Commissioner of Activities was responsible for making the year planning of all activities of Babylon. This year, there are more activities in comparison to other years, because of Babylon's sixth lustrum. Therefore, the Commissioner of Activities strived to find the right balance between informal and formal activities and to plan the right amount of activities. Besides that, the aim was to make an even distribution of activities throughout the year, so that all months offer roughly the same amount of activities (except for the months with exam weeks or holidays). Until now, the attendance of an activity has never been underwhelming, which probably means that the distribution of activities is good. Last academic year, the month November appeared to be slightly too busy. As a result, the attendance of the activities organised in November, was rather low. Therefore, the Commissioner of Activities paid extra attention to the planning of November, to prevent this.

This year, some new activities were introduced for the first time, for instance the karaoke night, organised by the Committee of Informal Activities and paintballing, organised by the Lustrum Committee. Both activities were well-visited and could be considered a success.

8.2 Committee market

Furthermore, the Commissioner of Activities has been responsible for organising the Committee Market. Due to the renovation of the Erasmus Building, the event could not take place in the Erasmus Hall, where it used to take place in previous years. Therefore, the Commissioner of Activities organised the Committee Market in the hall of EOS, which was a good alternative. The Committee Market was very well-visited and resulted in enough applications to fill all committees. 81 members signed up for a committee. Nine of them were pre-master students and eleven were internationals, resulting that eight of the thirteen committees are international now.

8.3 Contact with the Molenstraat

Moreover, the Commissioner of Activities has been responsible for all the contact with the managers of the bars at the Molenstraat and other cafés. She went to all contract evaluations and negotiations, formed the new contracts and arranged deals and locations for activities that take place in the Molenstraat, such as the *borrels*, the BaMyPo- and Inglorious parties and the General Member Meetings. The general contract with the Molenstraat stayed the same. However, the BaMyPo- and the Inglorious contract changed a little bit. The amount of BaMyPo editions has been reduced from six to four per year. Furthermore, not all Inglorious parties will take place at van Buren. The boards of the participating associations decided to organise one edition at El Sombrero, one edition at Drie Gezusters and the edition that takes place during the Orientation Week will still be organised at Van Buren. More information about these changes will follow in paragraph 8.4.

The contact with the Molenstraat goes smoothly. The managers of Van Buren, El Sombrero and Malle Babbe are very easy to contact and they always respond quickly to WhatsApp messages.

8.4 Committee of Informal Activities

The Committee of Informal Activities consists of eight second- and first-year students of Communication and Information Studies. At the time of writing, the committee has already organised three *borrels*, themed: New Moon *Borrel*, Fiesta Loca *Borrel* and It's the Most Wonderful Time for a Beer *Borrel*, of which especially the first one was very successful. Members could play beer pong until midnight and there was a special discount on buckets with mixed drinks, which probably contributed to the high attendance. The other two *borrels* were also well-visited, but less than the first one. People showed up later, which might be due to the football matches that were broadcasted on the same day. To avoid this in the future, the CIA will ask if the football match can be watched at the Malle Babbe. They will promote this via Facebook and Instagram, to attract more people.

Next to the special discounts, members of Babylon are able to enjoy a glass of wine for €2,50, a small beer for €1,00 and a meter of beer for only €10,- on the monthly *borrels*. At the New Moon *Borrel* the communication with the Malle Babbe did not go very well and there were some issues when members wanted to order a meter of beer. This has been evaluated with the Malle Babbe and during the other two *borrels*, there have not been any issues. Furthermore, the committee is allowed to spend €10,- on decorations for each *borrel*.

The contact with the Malle Babbe has been, and still is, very smooth. Since October, there has been a new manager, Iris. She responds very quickly to texts or calls and is willing to help with all the ideas of the committee.

Other than the monthly theme *borrels*, the Committee of Informal Activities is responsible for the organisation of the BaMyPo and Inglorious parties. The amount of BaMyPo editions has been reduced from six to four per year. Regarding the extra lustrum activities, this is very convenient for the year planning. Two members of the Committee of Informal Activities participate in the BaMyPo sub-committee. However, all committee members have been present at the BaMyPo's and helped with the door shifts and decorating. Two of the four editions have taken place already. The first edition was named BaMyPompoen: Halloween Edition, and took place the last Thursday before the first exam period. Though this date was not really convenient, a lot of Babylon members showed up and it was a successful edition. The second edition was called BaMyPhohoho and took place the last Thursday before the Christmas holidays. One week before the party, Tijmen, the manager of El Sombrero called to mention that this night would be very busy, because it was the so called "Black Thursday." Therefore, El Sombrero wanted to increase the entrance fee for non-members to €4,-. The profit from the non-members would be divided between the associations and El Sombrero. However, El Sombrero did not stick to the agreements regarding the discounts on drinks and the division of the profit. Luckily, the associations did get their part of the profit that El Sombrero actually agreed on, at the end. Except these issues, this edition was also very well-visited and successful.

In general, the contact with El Sombrero also goes very smoothly. The manager, Tijmen, always responds to phone calls or texts very quickly and he is always very kind.

This year, not all the Inglorious editions take place at Club van Buren anymore. Instead, one edition took place at Drie Gezusters, one will take place at El Sombrero and the edition during the Orientation Week will still take place at van Buren. The first Inglorious edition was called Inglowrious and took place at Drie Gezusters. Inglowrious took place on a Wednesday instead of on Thursday, which was not a problem at all. A lot of Babylon

members joined the party and it was a great success. However, Drie Gezusters did not stick to the agreements either and eventually refused to provide the free keg. At the end, they fortunately did provide it.

The contact with Drie Gezusters did not go very well, but luckily the next edition will take place at El Sombrero.

Furthermore, the Committee of Informal Activities has organised the Karaoke Night and the Christmas Dinner. The Karaoke Night took place at Partycafé Nooit Meer Naar Huus. They opened up the place and offered special discounts for this activity. A karaoke night has not been organised before by Babylon, but nevertheless it was a great success. The fact that the activity was free, made it more accessible for members.

The location of the Christmas Dinner of this year was, again, De Waagh. The three-course dinner with two drinks included cost €22,50, which was more expensive than other years. Despite of that, 39 members signed up and even a lecturer joined the dinner.

8.5 Sports Committee

The Sports Committee consists of a mixture of six first-year students and one pre-master student of Communication and Information Studies. In the past month, the Sports Committee has been busy organising the annual Ski Trip that took place from 26 January until 2 February. On 1 February, a second-year IBC exam took place, resulting that the second-year IBC students could not attend the Ski Trip. However, due to good promotion, all the available spots were filled within one day. Fortunately, Babylon was able to book more spots and at the end the amount of registrations was 44, which is higher than ever.

The Commissioner of External Affairs has made a sponsor deal with travel organisation Totally powered by Husk. Because more than 40 people signed up for the trip, Babylon received €10,- per participant in return. Besides that, they sponsored Babylon a free keg of beer, because more than half of the participants hired their ski equipment. In return, Babylon had to place the logo of Totally on all promotion material regarding the Ski Trip and they had to hang up the flag of Totally on two monthly *borrels*. Furthermore, Bascafé sponsored all costs of the sweaters. In return for this, the Sports Committee needed to organise a Pre Ski *Borrel* and an After Ski *Borrel*. The Sports Committee contacted the Coop at the Burghardt van den Berghstraat to ask for sponsoring of the food packages for the Ski Trip. They agreed immediately and asked promotion for the reopening of the store in return. Because there were some issues with this Coop last year, the Commissioner of Activities formed a contract with all the agreements.

The Ski Trip took place from 26 January until 2 February. A group of 44 members joined this trip to Valloire. Even though the second-year IBC students could not join the trip because of an exam, the group was bigger than ever. On Sunday 27 January, very early in the morning, the group arrived in Valloire, even before the reception opened up. Luckily, the lobby was very big and there were couches where everyone could rest. There were only six people that bought a ski pass for the first day and the rest of the group did not. Because everyone could only enter their rooms at 5pm, this day was very long and a lot of people were bored. Therefore, it is recommended to stimulate more people to buy a ski pass for the first day. The Sports Committee organised different activities every evening such as sledding, a pub crawl, a "room pub crawl", and the final theme party named 'Snow pants or no pants'. During the sledding, the weather was very bad and people had to pay €7,- which was very expensive. Nevertheless, people seemed to have a lot of fun at this activity. During the room pub crawl, people from different rooms were mixed up in small groups so

everyone could meet new people. Especially this activity seemed to be very popular and the committee heard many positive reactions afterwards.

The location and apartment were chosen and booked by the previous Sports Committee to reduce the costs of the Ski Trip. However, this year's trip was more expensive than last year's trip. Nevertheless, the fact that the trip was already booked, did take away the stress to find a location immediately after the Sports Committee had been formed. Therefore, the Sports Committee decided to give next year's Sports Committee a few options, of which they can choose.

The ski area was very large and pretty. For both beginners and advanced skiers there were enough different slopes of their level. The accommodation was also very nice. The rooms were quite big. The only disadvantage was that the accommodation was pretty far from the city centre, where all the bars were. Furthermore, a lot of people in the accommodation complained about the noise, especially during the room pub crawl and a lot of rooms received a few warnings. The rooms were made aware of these complaints and they made sure it would not happen again. At the end of the week, everyone got their deposit back.

Overall the Ski Trip was a success and both the committee and the board received a lot of positive reactions afterwards. Furthermore, everyone returned home safely. One girl fell the first day and broke her collarbone, but luckily she could fly back to the Netherlands and reclaim a big part of the costs. She is doing fine now.

This year, Babylon will also participate in the Batavierenrace in collaboration with study association Mycelium. The Batavierenrace will take place from 10 until 12 May. Two members of the Sports Committee participate in the Batavierenrace Committee. Both Babylon and Mycelium contribute an amount of €120,- to reduce the costs for the participants. At the time of writing, the registrations of the Batavierenrace did not open yet. Last year, the registrations opened a lot earlier, but Babylon and Mycelium both agreed on starting the promotion of the Batavierenrace a bit later, because people will be more willing to sign up when the event is nearer.

8.6 Orientation Week Committee

Last year's Orientation Week was slightly different than previous Orientation Weeks. Instead of the various Orientation Weekends, there was one Weekend Festival, organised by the Radboud University, at which all student and study associations could organise different activities. Babylon organised an obstacle run and real-life Mario kart. Both activities were well-visited by both Babylon members and non-members. The Campus Cantus that used to take place on Tuesday, was moved to the weekend. As a result, the committee had to look for another activity that could replace the Campus Cantus. The Orientation Week Committee arranged an activity at Ovum Novum. The participants had dinner there and went laser gaming at Laser Quest. After this, there was a party at Ovum Novum. The committee heard many positive reactions afterwards. However, this activity was more expensive than the Campus Cantus, and therefore the price of the Orientation Week had to be increased from €42,- to €45,-. However, this was worth the extra costs, since dinner was also included in this activity.

The first-year students of this year are very active. This is probably due to the very enthusiastic mentor parents that promoted Babylon very well during last year's Orientation Week. Besides that, the whole board participated in the Orientation Week as a mentor parent or as a committee member. They tried to approach as many potential new members as possible and emphasised the additional value of becoming a member.

The Orientation Week Committee of 2018-2019 consists of eight first-year, second-year and third-year students. The Orientation Week will take place from the 18 until 25 August. This year, the Weekend Festival that has been organised for the first time last year, will take place again. At the time of writing, the Orientation Week Committee is thinking of possible activities to organise for the Festival Weekend and determining the week programme. This year, study associations are not allowed to organise activities on the last Sunday anymore. This rule has been made because every year new students complain that the programme is too busy. Therefore, the bowling that used to take place on the last Sunday, will be moved to the first Monday, before the Inglorious party starts. Furthermore, the Orientation Week Committee is busy approaching possible sponsors.

8.7 Prom Committee

This year, the prom will be a Babylon-only prom for the first time in many years. Because of Babylon's sixth lustrum, the Prom Committee went looking for another, more spectacular, location than De Waagh. The prom will take place on 20 February at Stadsvilla Sonsbeek in Arnhem. Furthermore, a DJ and a photographer are hired. 150 tickets are available. The price for members will be €42,50 and €45,- for non-members. These prices include the transport to the location, access to the prom and unlimited access to beer, wine, sodas, vodka and gin. Some members complained that €42,50 is too expensive, compared to other years. However, both the thirtieth board and the committee wanted the prom to be very special, because of Babylon's sixth lustrum. Therefore, they did not want to organise another prom at de Waagh. Another option the committee found was Fort Lent in Nijmegen, but a prom at this location would also cost €38,- per person. The other options the committee looked into, were quite far from Nijmegen, which was also inconvenient. Therefore, Villa Sonsbeek was chosen to be the best option. Actually, the price for members was estimated on €40,-, but due to miscommunication with the bus company, the price of the tickets had to be increased. Although the tickets are quite expensive, 112 tickets have been sold at the moment of writing.