

Minutes General Member Meeting: Change of the Board – Tuesday 10 September

Speaker: Suzanne Klein Wolterink

Note taker: Susanne Luijff

Present: Mats, Ina

Agenda

1. Opening
2. Announcements
3. Agenda
4. Approval minutes 03-09-2018
5. Change of the articles of association
6. Advisory Board
7. Vote: Advisory Board
8. Additional changes and costs
9. Name change
10. Vote: name
11. Logo change
12. Vote: logo
13. Closing

Opening

Suzanne opens the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Approval minutes 03-09-2018

The minutes of the 'General Member Meeting: Change of the Board' from 3 July are posted yesterday on the website. It is not likely that anyone has read it yet on such short notice. Therefore, the approval of these minutes will be asked again during the Financial General Member Meeting on 24 September.

Change of the articles of association

The thirtieth board wants to add a part about the Advisory Board to the articles of association. Furthermore, they want to add to the articles of association that, from next year on, it is possible for an active Babylon member to join the Advisory Board.

Advisory Board

The changes in the articles of association will contain the following:

What does the Advisory Board consist of?

- Advisory Board must consist of at least three people;
- There is a place for six former board members;
- When there are at least four former board members taking place in the Advisory board, there will be an extra position open for an active member.

Mats: Me and Marco have a question about this. What if there are three former board members of the twenty-ninth board and three of your board interested in becoming a member of the Advisory board next year, then there will be six Advisory Board members. But there is also an active member who wants to join. How will this be handled?

Suzanne: In that case there will be seven Advisory Board members. But there must be at least four former board members in the Advisory Board, before an active member is

allowed to join. This will not be added to the articles of association but to the internal regulations document. That is because the internal regulations can more easily be changed. Changing the articles of association will cost 450 euros.

Mats: Why can't an active Babylon member join the Advisory Board if there are only three or less former board members in the Advisory Board?

Suzanne: This is because of the balance. The number of former board members should be dominant in proportion to active members.

Luuk: Yes, but on the other hand, we want enough Advisory Board members. So, if we only have three former board members who want to join, and an active member is also interested, then we should let them enter, right?

Suzanne: Yes, it is true. We will adjust this: there is always one spot for an active member in the Advisory Board, regardless how many former board members are in it.

Mats: When would you like to start with the internal regulations document? Because right now, we do not really have one.

Suzanne: Well, first we must vote about the changes of the articles of association. We have already prepared a text for in the articles of association. So, if the changes will be accepted, this can be added immediately. After that, we will start with the internal regulations.

When can someone be qualified for the extra position?

- The person must have played an active and important role within Babylon.
- Former board members
 - The current and former board will assign former board members to become part of the Advisory Board.

When can you assign someone to become part of the Advisory Board?

- Active Member
 - When the requirements are met, an active member can become part of the Advisory Board. The person must go through a solicitation procedure. When the current board has found someone from whom they think will be a great addition to the Advisory Board, they will introduce him or her to the current Advisory Board. They will vote whether the member can become part of the next Advisory Board or not.

When can someone be dismissed from the Advisory Board?

- Advisory Board members can resign, but there is a notice period of one month. This notice period has changed, because before, the board said there would be a notice period of three months. But after revision, that is probably too long. Also, this will not be added to the articles of association, but to the internal regulations. Just as the fact that there should be a minimal number of meetings between the board and the Advisory Board.
- Advisory Board members can be fired when they repeatedly do not give decent advice or no advice at all.

Vote: Advisory Board

Because there are not enough members present at the meeting, it is not possible to vote about the change of the articles of association. The official vote will take place 24 September during the Financial General Member Meeting.

Additional changes and costs

- If the name changes, the name of the Facebook page must change also. In the Netherlands, that is not always possible. But if you change the IP-address of a computer to an American IP-address, then you can change the name of the Facebook. The board members have already tried this, and it is indeed possible this way. This change will not cost us any money.
- On Instagram, it is always possible to change the name.
- The change of the articles of association will cost 450 euros and will be paid from the remaining money from last year.
- If the name changes, then it is quite logical that the domain name *svbabylon.nl* changes also. If the domain name changes, the e-mail addresses change along. Unfortunately, *babylon.nl* is not available anymore. Other options are:
 - o *Babylon-sa.nl*
 - o *Babylonsa.nl*
 - o *Babylonstudyassociation.nl*
 - o Keep the current domain name *svbabylon.nl*

Suzanne: *Babylonstudyassociation.nl* is quite long, but it is professional.

Mats: You do not want to keep the current domain name?

Suzanne: We are open to that. But my preference is *babylonstudyassociation.nl*.

Mats: But that will also be your e-mail address then.

Maartje: Indeed, then my e-mail address would be *treasurer@babylonstudyassociation.nl*, and that is really long.

Dominique: I think *svbabylon.nl* looks the most professional. But in a few years, no one gets why it is 'sv' anymore.

Ina: is *Babylon.com* not possible anymore?

Suzanne: No, nothing with only 'Babylon' is available anymore.

Mats: I would like to give a side note: it might be good to upload the minutes of this meeting as soon as possible, so members can read it before the next General Member Meeting on 24 September. That said, I think *babylon-sa.nl* and *babylonsa.nl* are the best options, but they still are not ideal. None of the options are ideal.

Suzanne: I think *svbabylon.nl* is okay, but it is weird if everything else will be in English, but not our website and e-mail addresses.

Dominique: We could ask the international students what they think of the domain name as it is right now? If they understand the 'sv' and if it bothers them that it is in Dutch.

Luuk: Maybe *babylonnijmegen.nl* or *babylon1989.nl* is possible?

Mats: For companies and external parties, it is more ideal to keep 'sv' because they know what it stands for. And of course, the Dutch students understand it too.

Luuk: It costs only 30 euros to change the domain name, so it could also be changed in a few years if they really want to and the association is even more international than right now.

Maartje: Yes, but maybe we should already buy a domain name, because in a few years, these options could be gone as well.

Suzanne: But still, no option we have right now is ideal.

Ina: How do other international study association handle this?

Suzanne: Some have 'sv' in front of their name, like *svipsofacto.nl*, and some only have the name without an indication of 'study association', like *synergy.nl*. The best option we have right now is to ask international students what they think of it.

- Other costs are the purchase of new stickers and a new flag. These costs will not be very high.

Name change

1. *Babylon*

Pro's:

- Already our unofficial name;

Con's:

- Not clear that we are a study association and not a student association.

2. *Babylon Study Association*

Pro's:

- There would be the possibility to refer to 'Babylon';
- It is in English;

Con's:

- It is a long name.

3. *Keep SV Babylon*

Pro's:

- Consistency
- No extra costs for the change of the name.

Con's:

- It is in Dutch

Vote: name

Because there are not enough members present at the meeting, it is not possible to vote about the change of the name. The official vote will take place 24 September during the Financial General Member Meeting.

Logo change

Option 1:



Pro's:

- It is a clear logo (not too much text)
- It is in English
- There are no changes necessary in the future if the name of the study changes again.

Con's:

- Not clear from which study we are

Option 2:



Pro's:

- The name of the study is in the logo;
- It is in English.

Con's:

- If the name of the study changes again, then the logo will have to change also.

Option 3: Keep the current logo



Pro's:

- Consistency;

Con's:

- It is in Dutch;
- If the name of the study changes again, then the logo will have to change also.

A side note: If the logo changes, the merchandise would not have to change, because on the product only 'Babylon' is printed and not the whole logo.

Mats: Another con of the third option, so the option to keep the current logo, is that the name of the study is barely readable.

Suzanne: Yes, that is true!

Vote: logo

Because there are not enough members present at the meeting, there is not enough input from member to vote about the logo. For the change of the logo, it is officially not necessary to vote, because it is not in the articles of association. However, the thirtieth board wants to know which logo the members of Babylon prefer. Therefore, another vote about the logo will take place 24 September during the Financial General Member Meeting.

Mats: I heard that some people thought there were a lot of flaws in the document on the website containing the extra information about the Additional General Member Meeting. Personally, I did not see that many flaws. But, you should definitely check messages and documents very closely before posting or sending them. Sometimes, Facebook posts also contain some mistakes. Other people probably will not notice, but as a former board member, I am very precise about this.

Suzanne: Yes, we will put more effort in checking posts. About the document on the website, we have already improved it. This new version is uploaded on the website.

Suzanne: Any other remarks or questions? Ina, what do you think about the logos?

Ina: I personally would choose for option 2, because then it is clear to what study the association belongs.

Luuk: That is true, but the problem is that the name of our study has changed a lot during the past years. So, that is a great disadvantage.

Ina: I understand, that is quite a problem, yes.

Mats: What do you think about the Advisory Board?

Dominique: We really appreciate the advice that we receive after every meeting. It is not too strict, but just critical enough.

Suzanne: Yes, some feedback of you make us think in a different way, so that is good.

Mats: At this moment, there are only four Advisory Board members, because Amber has resigned. Would it be an option to ask another member of the twenty-ninth board to join the Advisory Board?

Suzanne: Yes, that would for sure be an option. More advice is always welcome.

Dominique: But the other three are studying abroad right now. So, what do they think about joining the Advisory Board?

Mats: Marco and Ivo are very concerned with SV Babylon, mostly Marco. So, you could at least ask him.

Suzanne: Yes, we could do that. Another former board member would be appreciated.

Closing

Suzanne closes the meeting 7.35 pm.