

## **Minutes Semi-Annual General Member Meeting – Monday 18 February**

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Speaker: Suzanne Klein Wolterink

Minute taker: Susanne Luijff

Present: Govend Salih, Max Ploemen, Marco Avilez, Iris Faassen, Janne Rutten, Kai Greijn, Quirijn Somers, Tessa Stolte, Hilde Ruitenbergh, Guusje van der Linden, Maarten Brandwijk, Tijs de Groot, Mats van den Nouwland, Ivo van Lier, Valerie Pichel, Joachim Miedema, Renske Bours, Lotte Bikker, Thijs Buisman, Floris Griep, Eline van Lent, Sabine van Westerveld, Lisa Berhitu

Total number of people present: 29 persons

Total number of people allowed to vote: 25 persons

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### **Agenda**

1. Opening
2. Setting the agenda
3. Announcements

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4. Approval Minutes 24/09/2018
5. Till Committee
6. Vote Till Committee
7. Presentation Regulations Advisory Board
8. Vote Regulations Advisory Board
9. Presentation Semi-Annual Report '18-'19
10. Vote Semi-Annual Report '18-'19
11. Financial status
12. W.C.T.M.
13. Closing

### **Opening**

Suzanne opens the meeting at 7.10pm.

### **Setting the agenda**

The board wants to add 'Announcements' to the agenda as point number 3.

### **Announcements**

Suzanne: "Contributing graduates cannot vote, this is written in the articles of associations."

Furthermore, the board itself will withhold themselves from voting.

### **Authorisations:**

- Renske needs to leave early so, when she leaves she authorises Marco.

*Floris enters the room.*

### **Approval Minutes 24/09/2018**

Total number of voters = 24

Vote in favour: 18

Vote against: 0

Blanc vote: 0

Withhold: 6

### **Till Committee**

This year, the board stumbled upon some cases that were not really handled the right way, concerning the finances. Because of this, the board thinks it is fairer if another member joins the Till Committee this year, instead of the Treasurer of the previous board. Chanel Otterloo was the Treasurer of the twenty-eight board; she has been in de Till Committee before. We are now going to vote for Chanel joining the Till Committee.

### **Vote Till Committee**

Total number of voters = 24

Quorum = 13

Vote in favour: 18

Vote against: 0

Blanc vote: 0

Withhold: 6

Chanel is now officially a member of the Till Committee.

### **Presentation Regulations Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board is a sort of 'committee' that read the minutes from every board meeting and gives the board advice when they consider it necessary. They read the minutes of every board meeting and give feedback. Until now, there was nothing about the obligation of having an Advisory Board in the articles of association of Babylon. The thirtieth board wants to add this obligation to the articles of association. Furthermore, they have set up a document with Internal Regulations considering the Advisory Board.

Suzanne presents shortly the content of the Internal Regulations about the Advisory Board.

#### **Regulations Advisory Board**

##### **Article 1**

##### **Clause 1. Purpose, tasks and competencies:**

- a) The purpose of the Advisory Board is to assist the different bodies of the association, so that the quality and policy of the association will be maintained;
- b) The Advisory Board will gather with the current board when one of the two parties finds this needed;
- c) The Advisory Board can give solicited and unsolicited advice to the Assembly of Members and the board;
- d) The Advisory Board will give advice to the Assembly of Members at every General Member Meeting.

**Article 2**

**Clause 1. Structure:**

- a) The Advisory Board must consist of at least three people;
- b) The Advisory Board may consist of a maximum of six people;
- c) Members of the current board cannot be a member of the current Advisory Board;
- d) The members must have played an active role within Babylon.

**Clause 2. Application procedure:**

- a) A candidate must announce him or herself to the board and send in a motivation letter;
- b) The board will present the candidate to the Assembly of Members without giving advice;
- c) Former board members must apply one time for the Advisory Board after their board year.

**Clause 3. Nomination:**

- a) Members of the Advisory Board are nominated by the Assembly of Members for a period of one year;
- b) A vote will take place on each candidate;
- c) At least three candidates must be voted in.

**Clause 4. Discharge:**

- a) Advisory Board members can resign, but there is a notice period of one month;
- b) A member of the Advisory Board can be discharged by the Assembly of Members when he or she has completed the period of one year, at the request of the member or when this is wished for by the Assembly of Members;
- c) A member of the Advisory Board will be discharged when he or she does not give decent advice or no advice at all;
- d) One can be a member of the Advisory Board for a maximum of two (successive) years.

*Suzanne:* Does anyone have remarks?

*Marco:* There is nothing in the internal regulations about the fact that former board members are obliged to apply once for the Advisory Board, whether this the year consecutive to their board year or the year after that. Isn't it an obligation or why isn't it included?

*Suzanne:* It is indeed obliged a former board member to apply once for the Advisory Board. It is well known among board members that they have to apply for the Advisory Board the year after their board year or the year after that. We assume board members feel this responsibility so we do not want to make it a very official reason.

*Thijs Buisman enters the room.*

## **Vote Regulations Advisory Board**

Total number of voters = 25

Vote in favour: 17

Vote against: 0

Blanco: 2

Withhold: 6

The regulations have been accepted by the GMM.

## **Presentation Semi-Annual Report '18-'19**

### **8.1 Proceedings in long-term goals of Babylon**

#### **8.1.1. Strengthen the bond between Babylon and its members and attract new members**

- **Attracting & bonding (new) members**

- Orientation Week

The board realised that acquiring new members for the association was very important in the first weeks of the new academic year, which is why they put a lot of effort in the Orientation Week. This week is very important to recruit new members. The entire board participated during this week, whether it was as a mentor parent of first-year students, pre-master students or as a committee member. Furthermore, all the other mentor parents also have promoted Babylon very well. To promote Babylon, Suzanne gave a presentation about the study association and what the additional value is. The board also promoted the Committee market and the Lustrum Opening Party during the Orientation Week, to make sure there already was awareness for that.

- Committee Market

After 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.

- **Pre-Masters**

In the past year, it seemed that pre-master students were not interested in becoming a member of Babylon. Mostly because they were not interested in joining the parties and other informal activities. However, more often they were interested in participating in formal and study-related activities. This year, it turned out to be different. Suzanne and Susanne were mentor parents of the pre-master students during the Orientation Week and made them enthusiastic about becoming a member of Babylon. Nine of them became an active member and joined one or even two committees. Besides that, pre-master students often show up at *borrels* and other activities like the ski trip. The amount of active pre-master members has never been so high and the board is very proud to have reached this.

- **Internationals**

Last year, the twenty-ninth board already made big steps to make the association more accessible for internationals. The thirtieth board continued doing this. From this year on, the Babylon Magazine is completely in English. Furthermore, the Facebook posts are not

"English follows Dutch" anymore but "Dutch follows English". Besides that, the board arranged English speakers at all activities, like the Career Event and CIS in the Field. Some international students show up at borrels and other activities like the ski trip. The board does their best to make everyone speak English at activities where internationals are present, but it turns out it is pretty hard to make a big group of Dutch students speak English. For example, two internationals joined the ski trip, but every time people talked in Dutch in the groups chat on WhatsApp. However, the two international students said that they didn't find it very annoying or anything.

- **The Babylon Room**

This year, the board experimented with offering longer open office hours of the Babylon Room. The Babylon Room is open from Monday to Thursday from 10.30am until 4pm and on Friday from 12 until 2 pm. It is never really crowded at the Babylon Room, but we have experienced that members find it very convenient that they can come at any time and not only during the lunch break.

Once a month, the board provides lunches on the Babylon Room. Due to Babylon's sixth lustrum, these lunches are free this year. Therefore, the lunches are very well visited. The lunch often takes place after the monthly *borrel*.

*Kai*: I assume that you will continue the extended opening hours of the Babylon Room for the rest of the year? I think you should add that to the report.

*Suzanne*: Yes, we will continue the extended opening hours, indeed. We will add it to the report.

*Joachim*: You say that more internationals and pre-masters have joined Babylon compared to last year, but I do not see numbers anywhere. Maybe you can make a chart where we can see the numbers of last year and of this year. That makes it more concrete.

*Suzanne*: That is a good one.

*Mats*: You were able to extend the opening hours of the Babylon Room because you do not have many classes. Next year, the board might consist of second or third years, have you thought about what happens then with the opening hours?

*Suzanne*: It really depends on the new board, for now it is just a luxury that we are able to have these extended opening hours.

*Mats*: It is not very good for the consistency.

*Maartje*: That is true, but we think that opening hours from 12.30 until 2 pm are too short.

*Marco*: The remark about the internationals, will it be included in the script of the Ski Trip?

*Dominique*: We are working on it, but it will definitely be included.

- **Monthly Borrels**

Babylon organises monthly *borrels* that are meant to maintain and strengthen the bond between the association and its members. Most of the *borrels* had a high attendance and were a great success. Dominique will tell more about the *borrels* later.

- **Active Member Evening**

The first Active Member Evening was on 26 November. The board organised a game night at De Waagh. After the games, there was a quiz about Babylon. Teams were made by

mixing up member from different committees and nationalities. The board received many positive reactions on this Active Member Evening. The next AME will be in April.

*Mats:* In this paragraph, I also expected to read something about the new committee game you introduced this year. I am very curious how you experienced this game so far.

*Suzanne:* You are right; we should add this to the report. This year, we give committees weekly challenges. They have to complete these challenges with their own committee or in collaboration with other committees. They have to be the quickest or the most original. Every week, the committees can see who won the challenge of the week at the Babylon Room. Occasionally, we update them about which three committees score the highest in total. For the Orientation Week, these challenges are less convenient because this committee begins later in the year. This way, they probably already missed some of the challenges.

### **8.1.2. Strengthen ties with external relations**

Luuk presents the second long-term goal: Strengthen ties with external relations.

- **Maintain and improve the bond with partners**

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.

- **Oubaha Beheer**

Normally, the Commissioner of External Affairs is responsible for the communication to external partners, but Dominique manages the contact with Oubaha Beheer this year (just like the Commissioner of Activities last year). This is because Oubaha Beheer prefers to have one contact for organising events.

- **Study Store**

The contact with Study Store also isn't managed by Luuk but by the Commissioner of Internal Affairs, Eline.

- **New collaborations**

The communication with external parties was very successful the past half year. Two new collaborations have started.

- Totally powered by Husk for the Ski Trip. The board will tell more about that later.
- Fika Nijmegen for a sticker deal.

- **Ended collaborations**

Unfortunately, some collaborations ended this year.

- European Leisure Jobs: We provided interns for them in exchange for money. However, they do not react on any email or phone call so the board decided to end this collaboration.
- Tosti Club: With Tosti Club, the contact has also been very difficult and they were not happy with the deal. Therefore, this collaboration has ended as well.

There is still contact with other companies about future collaborations. Luuk cannot tell much about that yet.

### **8.1.3. Improve the professionalism of Babylon**

Suzanne takes the floor again.

- **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 (Verdana 10) 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.

- **Privacy**

Luuk is the main person responsible for being up to date about privacy regulations. He started a document in which he noted the most recent privacy rules and he distributed this to the other board members. Luuk will write a recommendation (plan of action) for the next board on how they should apply the rules.

The board finds it very important that the privacy of the members is protected. Registration forms of activities are always locked away in a cash box and can only be seen by board members. Furthermore, the board recently purchased a paper shredder. The board also wanted to give every Babylon member a personal password and username to log in to the website to see the photos, but unfortunately, the budget did not allow this.

*Marco:* Why the paper shredder? There is a special container for privacy-sensitive documents at the university, right?

*Luuk:* I have had contact with the university about this container. They have a contract with Sita, but we cannot see what is in it. Because they cannot give us 100% certainty about where the documents go and how they are being destroyed, we decided to purchase a paper shredder. Fortunately, it was only €7,50.

*Marco:* What are the rules about the pictures of the borrels? First-year students have accepted the privacy regulations when they signed up as a Babylon member, but all the others members did not.

*Suzanne:* We have tried to make more people accept the privacy rules but this did not really work out. It is now a matter of time until everyone has given permission. In three years, all the students have accepted the privacy regulations.

*Luuk:* For now, we have an intermediate step. When people are a member of Babylon, they automatically give permission that we take pictures from them and upload these, the moment they cross the doorstep of a Babylon activity.

*Marco:* Maybe you can also put in the privacy regulations how people can delete pictures.

*Lotte:* Yes, because when I google my name, I get to see pictures of the *borrels*.

*Maartje:* This should not be the case anymore. I googled myself and no photos appeared.

*Lotte:* The photos are older. It does not mean that you are on the photo, but these are just random photos from Babylon members, because these are linked.

*Suzanne:* For the next board, we would like to recommend making a new website and making sure everyone gets their own credentials to log in to the website. We did not succeed in this because the budget did not allow it.

*Marco:* Our website is `https://`, it is protected and we pay for it. But now, there is a code error and the website isn't protected anymore. This is a fault by Miesart.

*Maartje:* Yes, I had contact with Miesart about that, but I didn't really understand what I had to do. I had to install some Plug. Maybe we could do it together sometime.

- **Social Media**

Babylon is active on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram. The last two are mostly used for informal posts aimed at member. Twitter is mainly for external relations and LinkedIn is being used for posting interesting vacancies for (former) CIS students.

- **Clothing**

The board members of the board are all in possession of a board suit, a t-shirt, a vest and one or more Babylon merchandise items. The board actually wanted to add blouses to the clothing options. These were meant to be worn during formal activities where members would wear their 'normal' clothes. The board ordered the blouses on time, but DressMe could not deliver the blouses on time. Eventually, the board decided to pass on the blouses.

*Lotte:* I thought it was a good idea to add blouses to the clothing option. In the report is written that you will wear the t-shirt to the Career Event, but that is one of the bigger formal events of Babylon, so it is better to dress more formal.

*Suzanne:* Yes, we were thinking about wearing the t-shirt with the jacket of the board suit. We also wore this during the company visit.

*Marco:* What will the committee wear?

*Suzanne:* We will discuss the committee later, because the Career Committee is a difficult case right now.

*Mats:* I wanted to say to you that I noticed writing in English was a bit hard for you in the beginning, but it is much better now.

*Suzanne:* Yes, it is good that the Advisory Board corrects us sometimes, because we all did not choose English as a language and therefore we sometimes overlook mistakes in texts.

*Marco:* Will the Advisory Board check the report?

*Suzanne:* Yes.

#### **8.1.4. Improve and strengthen the image of Babylon**

- **Companies and organisations**

Companies and organisations were invited to come talk to events like CIS in the Field, the Career Event and the Congress. They were approached in a professional manner. We also gave them a business gift as a thank you. For some speakers we chose Babylon socks, because they were former Babylon members for example, for other speakers we chose to give them a fruit infuser or a Dopper with the Babylon logo.

*Mats:* In 1.4.1, it is written that the Career Event takes place at 22 February, but that needs to be changed because it is rescheduled.

- **Study and student associations**

The thirtieth board has very good contact with multiple other associations, mostly the sister associations. A sister association is another communication study association in the Netherlands. These contacts are very practical because they can help each other out, for example with the internationalisation.

*Mats:* Eline asks the question if you are organising the Congress with more associations.

*Suzanne:* Only with Mycelium.



*Mats:* Maybe you could describe this a little better in the report.

*Lotte:* Sabine asks how the contact is with the other study associations from the arts faculty.

*Suzanne:* We are very motivated to maintain good contact with these associations. Since this year, LETO exists, an umbrella association. We are a little ahead of all the other association, so it is mainly us helping them. We can help them for example with the internationalisation and we are very happy to do that. Because our year planning was already so full due to the lustrum, we couldn't organise any activities with LETO. It might be good for next year to put more effort in that.

*Lotte:* So, you would say that the contact with the other associations has improved because of the umbrella association?

*Suzanne:* Yes, we think so. Otherwise, it would have been more difficult to have good contact.

Normally, Babylon organises the prom with other study associations, but this year it is different because of the lustrum year. However, the board has enough contact with other associations during the constitution drinks.

- **Members and other students**

Preferably, the board wants members and other students to see Babylon as an organisation from which they can expect support and where they can ask questions about various aspects. Until now, they have received positive reactions, but the board has the intention to distribute an end-of-the-year survey, so that they can receive feedback from the members.

## **8.2. General Affairs**

- **SOFv**

Babylon is a member of the umbrella association SOFv. The SOFv general meetings are held every two months. During these meetings, topics that are relevant for study associations are discussed. SOFv also organises theme nights and workshops. The board has good contact with the board from SOFv; they sometimes visit the Babylon Room.

- **Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board consists of four members from the twenty-eight and the twenty-ninth board. They give the board advice when needed and the board can ask them for help. The contact between the board and the Advisory Board is very pleasant and sufficient.

*Lotte:* I have a remark from Sabine. She says that you have to ask for help in time, before it is too late. Do not try to keep certain things a 'secret'.

*Suzanne:* I wouldn't say that we keep things a 'secret', because we wouldn't do that. Sometimes we are a stubborn board and we want to find a solution ourselves. We admit and realise that we can be a little more open towards the Advisory Board sometimes.

- **Change of the board**

At this point, the recruitment for the successive board has started. The board has been lobbying among active members in order to draw attention to the possibility of becoming the thirty-first board of Babylon. The board promotes it on Facebook and Instagram, but also by organising a free board interest lunch.

- Internationals

In the past years, no international members attended the boards of Babylon. At a Sisters Day in Groningen, the thirtieth board discussed the topic of international board members. The international boards emphasised that it is definitely possible for internationals to join the board of a study association. However, the Chair, the Secretary and the Commissioner of External Affairs are positions that can be very hard for an international. That is why the thirtieth board has given the opportunity to internationals to apply for the following board functions:

- Treasurer (at least Dutch level B1)
- Commissioner of Internal Affairs
- Commissioner of Activities

*Mats:* Did you consider the consequences for this decision? Did you think about everything that is still in Dutch within Babylon?

*Suzanne:* We have to translate everything in English, indeed. The upcoming half year it is our task to figure out what the consequences are. We can also discuss this with our sister associations.

*Lotte:* Do you know how it is in other associations within the university itself? Are more boards dealing with this?

*Maartje:* More associations are dealing with internationalisation. Some boards already have international board members. For Babylon, it could also be very good to have an international board member, because we are usually ahead of most associations when it comes to internationalisation.

*Lotte:* I also think it is very good for Babylon to be ahead. I would discuss with SOFv that they have to become international, because now, everything is still in Dutch.

*Luuk:* They are working on that. They cannot do everything in English just yet, but they are trying to fix that. The minutes of the meetings are already being translated in English so international board members are also up to date.

*Marco:* Did you also had contact with the Molenstraat about an international Commissioner of Activities?

*Dominique:* Yes, they said they wouldn't have a problem with that because they already have contact with other international board members.

*Mats:* Will you make the video that is mentioned in the report? For recruiting new board members?

*Suzanne:* Yes, we will still make that video but it will be posted a little later than planned.

*Lotte:* I have a question from Sabine about the report, she asks if you can be a little more explicit about the new board scholarships, because now it looks like you get more money than previous years.

*Suzanne:* Yes, we will do that!

- **Social media / Website**

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 at what social media platform. This could be the Facebook page, the Facebook group, Instagram, Twitter or LinkedIn.

This year, Instagram is being used even more than last year, because this social media channel has the biggest reach. The board uses Instagram Story a lot since this year and

they have received very positive reactions on that. The board also recommended using Insta Story more often to their sister associations.

*Mats:* Eline and I both think that you use Instagram very well this year.

*Kai:* I totally agree.

Twitter and LinkedIn are used for communication that is more formal. The board is keeping these platforms more up to date than the previous years. On LinkedIn, the Secretary regularly posts vacancies that she receives via email. At this moment, the board does not think that many CIS students look at the LinkedIn page, but if it the board continues updating the LinkedIn, it would work better in the future.

*Marco:* Do you think that being active on Twitter is useful?

*Maartje:* We are not sure, but it is always good to be active on social media.

*Kai:* I think it is very good to use LinkedIn more. Maybe a group can be made with current and former Babylon members. There already is a group for Babylon alumni, but I believe that does not work very well...

*Eline G:* Yes, I requested to be a member of this group in the beginning of the academic year, but I only have been accepted this month.

*Kai:* Yes, it might be better for Babylon to take this in our own hands.

*Mats:* You have the intention to advise the thirty-first board to make a new website, but this should be ready the moment when they become the board. How are you going to do this?

*Suzanne:* Yes, we will make a start with the website, we already have a design. We want to make sure that the website is ready and will be put online after the board has changed.

*Valerie:* I have a remark about the social media. I have noticed that the banners from Facebook events are not in line with the corporate identity of Babylon, only formal documents. Why is that?

*Dominique:* We want to give the Graphic Design committee the chance to use their creativity for the Facebook banners. I wouldn't limit them by having a standard template.

*Valerie:* But I think it could be good to have rules for the banners of formal events.

*Kai:* I think it is a possibility to have guidelines for the banners of formal events. But for events like *borrels*, the committee members should be totally free.

- **LETO**

The board already discussed LETO.

### **8.3. Chair**

*Lisa enters the room.*

- General tasks and responsibilities of the Chair
  - Coordinating the board
  - Leading the board meetings
  - Giving speeches

*Mats:* In the report, the speeches are mentioned very shortly, but the importance of these speeches is pretty big. Therefore, I should specify it a bit more.

*Suzanne:* Okay, I will specify it.

- **Lustrum Committee**

The Lustrum Committee started in September with CIS in the Field, which actually shouldn't be their responsibility. The organisation of this event was a little stressful, but eventually it all worked out very well. Also, the Lustrum Opening Party in September was a great success.

*Mats:* At CIS in the Field, only 32 members were present. The years before, more than 50 members were present. How is that possible?

*Suzanne:* I thought 40 members were present.

*Mats:* But why is this? Was it because of the committee?

*Suzanne:* I do not think the committee is to blame, but more the promotion of the event. September was already a pretty busy month with GMM's and the Opening Party. Plus, more members had signed up but last minute, they weren't able to come.

The Lustrum Committee organised a Paintball activity, that has never been done before and it was a lot of fun.

For the Lustrum Week, the committee is busy organising some really fun and some new activities. Normally, all the activities together cost around 40 euros, but now it will only cost 35 euros (with the Lustrum Pass, it will cost 32,50 euros). For the promotion of the lustrum, the committee purchased a T-rex costume. However, the costume could have been used more during the first semester.

*Lotte:* I think the lustrum theme is very good, but you could have used it more. For example, the themes of the *borrels* could have corresponded with the lustrum theme.

*Dominique:* Last year, I was also in the Lustrum Committee, and we were so focussed on the theme that at one moment, we were totally stuck. That is why we wanted to make a clear difference between lustrum activities and 'normal' activities.

*Valerie:* I haven't seen any promotion for the Lustrum Week.

*Suzanne:* We will start with that tomorrow.

*Valerie:* Isn't that a little late?

*Suzanne:* Normally, activities are announced two weeks before they take place, now it is three weeks before.

*Valerie:* Yes, but maybe you could have mentioned before the date of the Lustrum Week, so people can make sure they have time that week.

*Ivo:* I should focus more on the lustrum theme, because I didn't really notice there even was a theme.

*Lisa:* Maybe you should not see the theme as a restriction, but as an opportunity.

After the Lustrum Week, the committee will start with the organisation of another big lustrum event.

**Personal goals of the Chair:**

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.

#### **8.4. Secretary**

- **General tasks**

Officially, the minutes should be distributed to the other board members and to the Advisory Board within 48 hours. Susanne hasn't always managed to do that. When she had classes and deadlines for assignments, it wasn't always possible to send them within 48 hours.

- **Mail and e-mail**

*Sabine and Eline enter the room.*

The board does not receive a lot of mail in the mailbox on the fourth floor of the Erasmus building. The mail that Babylon has received the last six months has mainly been Christmas cards or invitations for constitution drinks from other associations and mail from the bank. However, the Rabobank has the intention to switch totally to digital mail later this year. Furthermore, more and more associations sent their Christmas cards and invitations via e-mail. In this way, Babylon will receive less and less physical mail every year.

The board members all have their own email account in the programme 'Roundcube'. Because of the internationalisation, the email addresses of the board members and the committees have changed this year. For example, the email address of the Secretary is now [secretary@svbabylon.nl](mailto:secretary@svbabylon.nl). All emails sent to the old account ([secretaris@svbabylon.nl](mailto: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, Susanne uses the programme 'Mailchimp'. Amber, the Secretary of last year has started to use this programme and Susanne still uses it now. This programme is also used to design and distribute the *Babbel*. In Mailchimp, two lists have been made: one for Dutch members and one for international members. Susanne 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 she has experienced no problems with this.

- **Publication Committee**

This year, the Babylon Magazine is the responsibility of the Secretary; therefore, Susanne is the coordinator of the Publication Committee and the Graphic Design Committee.

*Lotte:* How are you going to promote this during the board interest lunch?

*Susanne:* We are not going to promote the committees. We will make clear that people should apply on the board position they like the most, and not the committees that might belong to the positions.

*Sabine:* But there might be people who apply because they want to be in charge of the magazine.

*Susanne:* Yes, for me that was also the reason I applied for Commissioner of Internal Affairs, but the position of Secretary fits me way better, so that shouldn't be the motivation.

*Sabine:* As long as you are clear about that, it is fine.

*Ivo:* How is the balance between the work pressure from the Secretary and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs? Does the Secretary have more work?

*Susanne:* In general, I do have more work than Eline, I think. However, for me, the amount of work is very constant and for Eline there are more peaks: some moments are very busy and others very not.

The Publication Committee exists of five committee members; one of them is an international. From the beginning of the year, the Babylon Magazine is written completely in English. 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. Another responsibility of the Publication Committee are posting blogs on the website.

In the beginning of the year, a committee member has appointed to take care of the blogs, but because of all the work that goes into writing the articles for the magazine, the blogs have been a bit neglected. Just like last year, the blog articles are somehow not a priority. Of course, that is not really an excuse.

*Sabine:* Only last year, posting blog articles was a problem, in our year it was not.

*Kai:* During the training period, we talked about the content of the blogs. Do you have a new plan for the blogs or will they remain the same?

*Susanne:* We will still post the blogs on the website, the subjects are study and career related and we will promote the posts on Instagram and Facebook. We also want to use more visual images to make the blogs more interesting.

*Sabine:* Maybe you can already think about a new concept and discuss it with the committee.

*Susanne:* Yes, I already told the committee that they could be creative if it concerns the blogs. They could also use vlogs for example.

*Marco:* I do advise to keep the subjects of the blogs study or career related. That is much more appealing for members.

*Suzanne:* Yes, that is also what we wanted.

*Lotte:* It could be good to make the blogs more informative, for example, the difference between the two master programmes of CIS. Maybe it can help in their choice.

*Ivo:* Maybe also something about the experience of studying abroad.

*Marco:* Yes, and not what it is like to party in Spain but all the things you need to take care of before you go, when you are there and when you are back.

- **Graphic Design Committee**

The Graphic Design Committee exists of five Dutch members. Some committee members already had experience with InDesign or Photoshop, some did not have any experience. Niels was also in the committee last year, so he provided the Photoshop training for the rest of the members. Board member Maartje gave InDesign training for the designers of

the Babylon Magazine. Every magazine, Maartje and Susanne do the last check together and fix the last mistakes in design or text.

*Eline:* Do you use the style handbook?

*Susanne:* Yes, in general, we use it. I only didn't know that a fluorescent font wasn't allowed.

*Sabine:* It is not that it isn't allowed, but it just isn't professional. You can also update the style handbook, it is dynamic.

*Lotte:* Because of the new name for the association, I noticed that everything is a different name. The website is still 'svbabylon' and on Instagram and Twitter, you are called 'babylonnijmegen'. If there will be a new website, what name will you give it?

*Susanne:* We also wanted another name for the website, but the domain names we wanted were taken. For Twitter and Instagram, just 'babylon' wasn't possible.

*Suzanne:* For the website, the domain name 'Babylonnijmegen' was available, but this is a long name. It will also be in the email addresses, so that would be too long. That is why we chose to keep 'svbabylon'.

*Marco:* I would like to give you a compliment for how you handled the communication with Erasmus students. Previously, there were problems that Erasmus students weren't up to date, but I came back and knew exactly what was going on.

*Sabine:* I also want to give you a compliment, because you have a very busy position and many tasks but you're doing a good job.

*Eline:* I think so too, and you are doing a great job with the Babylon Instagram.

*Susanne:* Thanks for the compliments! And for the Instagram, I really enjoy creating stories and posts, so that is why I have put a lot of effort in that.

## **8.5. Treasurer**

- **Budget**

A budget for the academic year 2018-2019 was made at the start of the year. 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 the 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 committee budgets.

Right now, the result of the budget is +784 euros. However, not everything is included yet.

*Maartje:* Are there any questions concerning the budget or specific sums?

*Kai:* I see that on the budget, 300 euros unexpected costs are counted for. However, there is also a result of 600 euros. This way, it seems that the 600 euros result is still a 'reserve'.

*Maartje:* In this way, it does seem that way. However, you always have to include unexpected costs. The money from the result, we can invest in other activities or, at the end of the year, what is left of the committee budgets, we can invest in the website. You do not want the result of your budget to be negative.

*Kai:* I just get the feeling that we have been too careful with spending money in the past years, while we have enough budget and we could use it in good ways.

*Marco:* I would find another name for 'result', because as an association, you are not allowed to make profit.

*Ivo:* That has been a discussion for years, but you can't name it differently because it actually is a 'result'. As an association, you also need to have a buffer.

*Sabine:* 600 euros is not that much. Did you already use the 300 euros from the unexpected costs?

*Maartje:* Recently, we bought a safe and a hard disk, we could use the money from the unexpected costs for that. However, you do not know if a committee suddenly needs more money.

*Sabine:* Okay, you do not need to know it right now, but make sure that at the end of the year, you explain where that money has been invested in.

*Lotte:* It is still a budget and it is not final. You can still manage to finish with 0 euros as a result, by putting things differently on the budget. Right now, that is not possible yet.

*Kai:* Either way, I am happy that we do not have to worry about being financially healthy.

*Mats:* In the budget, I found a few mistakes.

*Maartje:* Yes, I am sorry, that is the old version of the budget.

The result from the Prom budget is 400 euros negative. This could have been handled better, a mistake was made. This negative result comes from the miscalculation concerning the security and the bus organisation. The bus organisation suddenly asked 300 euro extra than what they said before. However, this negative result can be solved by the positive results from other committee budgets.

The result from the Ski Trip budget is positive.

*Lotte:* For the prom tickets, members had to pay the additional costs for paying with a debit card themselves. iZettle has been introduced to solve the problem of having too much cash as an association. However, by making paying by debit card more expensive than cash, you encourage them to pay the tickets with cash. Therefore, you could have better let Babylon pay the extra costs. Last year, these costs have also been sponsored by Babylon.

*Suzanne:* We find it strange to apply this rule to just one activity, and not for all the others.

*Lotte:* Yes, then you should sponsor these costs for all the bigger events. Otherwise, you should use direct debit transactions more or find another way, because it is not good to have so much cash.

*Maartje:* No, that is true, but that is why we have a safe. Moreover, it is pretty expensive to pay all these extra costs. Furthermore, the result of the budget of the prom was already negative.

*Mats:* You said that a few direct debit transactions for the member contribution have been refused or failed, but what are you going to do when you won't succeed again in February?

*Maartje:* I have checked who these people are, and most of them were born in 1980 or earlier. For others, if it won't work, and I try to email or call them.

*Sabine:* If you won't succeed, you can always unsubscribe them if they do not pay the membership fee.

*Mats:* When people unsubscribe, is this also linked to the Babylon Magazine?

*Maartje:* Yes.



## Study Trip Committee

42 members and 2 lecturers will participate in the Study Trip. Many activities are already planned. They will visit the embassy, the university and a few companies. The contact with these different parties is very good.

For the Study Trip this year, it has costs a lot of effort, time and discussion before there was a good location. But in the end, the destination will be: Bogotá in Colombia. The trip will begin on 27 April and will end on Monday 6 May. Some people from the study have expressed their concerns about the destination. However, Maartje and the committee have given all the arguments they have and they will make sure there is a form that all participants have to sign in advance. Via that form, they will accept that Babylon or the university have no responsibility if they break the rules.

*Sabine:* I do not read anything about these concerns in the report. That is definitely something you should write in the report, but also in the script of the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. You should write about the process, so everyone know how it you solved this problem.

*Maartje:* We did include it in the script of the Study Trip, but if you think it also should be in the report, I will add it.

*Marco:* Yes, I agree that it should be in here, because you are obliged to mention this to members. And what you are going to add should be extensive.

*Maartje:* I understand, but there is not very much to tell. We sent an email to Van Mulken about why this destination has been chosen and we visited the legal department to discuss what we should add to the form for the people that will participate in the trip. The university is just not happy about it because they might be held responsible if something happens.

*Marco:* Yes and Colombia is not very safe, of course.

*Luuk:* Rio de Janeiro was at least just as dangerous as Colombia and that also was okay. The legal advisor was also totally fine with it.

*Marco:* I just want to read in the report what steps you took.

*Suzanne:* We asked Van Mulken multiple times to have a conversation, but she has no time for us.

*Marco:* I don't want to disapprove of anything, but it reassures if Van Mulken is also okay with your choice.

*Lotte:* Also, write down in the script of the Commissioner of Internal Affairs if she does not respond anymore.

*Kai:* She has power, so you should try to get along with her.

*Ivo:* I wanted to say that it is a very awesome destination, but not very safe. So how are you going to ensure the safety of the members?

*Maartje:* On one of the first days, we will visit the Dutch Embassy. They will give a presentation about what is safe in Bogotá and what you should not do. For activities where we cannot walk to, private busses will take us there. However, most activities are close to the hostel, so we can walk there. Anyhow, we will never go with the public transport. Furthermore, we will participate in a pub-crawl, but we will go with an organisation so they will ensure our safety.

*Eline v L:* What are the consequences if people do not follow the rules?

*Maartje:* We can think of consequences like people cannot participate in the pub-crawl or other activities. However, if they really misbehave, they just have to go home as soon as

possible.

*Sabine:* Yes, you should indeed say that you will send them home if they misbehave, that will give more pressure.

*Maartje:* Yes, but the punishments should be in proportion with what they have done.

*Sabine:* You should be very clear what the boundaries are.

*Lotte:* Make sure you discuss it thoroughly before you go on trip, things like who is going to solve issues or emergencies. And who will accompany the person to the airport if a he/she needs to return to the Netherlands earlier than expected?

*Ivo:* I wanted to give the same advice, but also I would give the lecturers some responsibility. They probably have more authority than the board or the committee members.

### **Almanac Committee**

The committee is working on the last things considering the design. The Almanac will be sold for only €2,50.

*Lotte:* How many people attended the photo sessions for the face pages?

*Maartje:* Not very many. Mostly first-year students. We want to add another photo session for third-year students.

*Sabine:* Maybe you can do this photo session at another time, not during the day, so people who are interning are also able to come.

*Maartje:* Yes, that is a good one. Also, at one of the lunches after a *borrel*, many people came for the photo session.

*Lotte:* Maybe it is good to put in the annual report how many members are on the face pages.

*Mats:* In the report is written that the committee managed to 'almost receive everything'. That is a bit vague.

*Maartje:* We are still waiting for a few pictures of committees and a few other last things, but it is not much.

### **Merchandise**

The extra lustrum merchandise item this year are the Babylon socks. They are being sold, but not as much as the board would have hoped. Mostly, the Babylon sweaters are very popular. The board also raffled one sweater off for the RAGweek lottery during the Babylon borrel. Actions like these help stimulating the sale of the merchandise items. The board has some sweaters hanging in the Babylon Room as 'show models', but merchandise items are only being ordered if they are requested.

*Mats:* The paragraph about the lustrum socks is placed somewhere else in the report, but I think it is better to put it in this 'merchandise' paragraph. How many socks are sold until now?

*Maartje:* I have not counted that yet, I will add this in the annual report.

*Mats:* We have changed the Babylon merchandise a lot last year, I think it is good to reflect on that.

*Maartje:* The sale of the sweaters is good, but not the jackets. We also haven't sold any fruit infusers this year.

*Lotte:* The fruit infuser is a business gift and not a merchandise item.

*Suzanne:* Other associations are also copying the sweater.

*Maartje:* Maybe in the summer we can sell more caps, mainly during the Orientation Week.

### **Till Committee**

Besides the Treasurer, only the Till Committee has insight in the finances of the association. Therefore, the thirtieth board think it is good if the Till Committee gives their opinion about how healthy Babylon is financially and what the status is of the general budget at the Financial General Member Meetings and before the Change of the Board. They can also say if things are looking bad for the budget and if they are worried. The board also thinks that it is very important that the Treasurer will not step down if the finances are not okay. If they cannot be presented during the GMM, they should write an advice that can be read out loud during the GMM.

*Mats:* You have budgeted 1000 euros for the Constitution drink, but you didn't need this eventually. Think about how your consecutive board can estimate this.

*Maartje:* We wanted to offer the people one coin per person. It is always a surprise how many people actually show up. We are one of the first constitution drinks, so it can be very busy because of that, but some students still have exams so it really depends.

*Suzanne:* I think we can budget less for the coins.

*Luuk:* But it is better to have too much coins that to not have enough.

*Sabine:* I think so too, maybe next year more board members show up.

## **8.6. Commissioner of Internal Affairs**

### **Consolidate the link between Babylon and the Study Programme**

- Contact with multiple study advisors
- Presence of lecturers at activities
- Christmas Dinner
- Positive evaluation about the Open days

This year, the study experienced four different study advisors. Eline had good contact with all of them. The newest study advisor is Julia Pick, Lucie introduced her to Babylon. She is also joining the Study Trip.

At the Pub quiz, four lecturers were present. The committee received positive reactions, despite the technical problems at the beginning.

*Sabine:* How it is written in the report, it seems that last year, the contact with the lecturers wasn't very good.

*Eline:* I meant that it could always be better.

*Kai:* I did not interpreted it the way Sabine did.

During the Christmas dinner, one lecturer was present. This was Lieke Verheijen. Maybe it is nice to invite more lecturers to the Christmas dinner.

In addition, 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 they were enthusiastic about the Open Days. Afterwards, the second study advisor of that time, Nol Vermeulen, gave a very positive evaluation about the effort that was made by the students and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs.

*Tessa:* Why was a lecturer present at the Christmas dinner this year, and normally not?

*Suzanne:* Lieke Verheijen just became a member of Babylon and she was very enthusiastic. She really wanted to come and we thought that was a fun idea. She also tried more lecturers to come but it was too last minute for them. We normally do not promote the Christmas dinner among teachers.

*Thijs:* Lieke also wanted to convince other lecturers to become a Babylon member, what is the status of that?

*Susanne:* Sadly, no new teachers have become a member.

### **The Study Programme Committee (OLC)**

This year, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs decided to join the Study Programme Committee. 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. Secondly, to get a clearer image of every development in our study programme. 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.

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.

*Marco:* First, I would like to thank you for all your effort. You participate more actively than you actually should. What I find a little contradictory is that you say you want to keep a low profile, but you did choose to be a general member and not a 'shadow member'. An active member should be active and a shadow member should keep a low profile. This is not very clear for your consecretor: what role should he or she take in this Study Programme Committee?

*Eline G:* I had more time this year, because the Babylon Magazine is the responsibility of the Secretary now. Therefore, I could be more active in the Study Programme Committee.

*Marco:* Last year, there was a lot of critique that the Commissioner of Internal Affairs should not be a full member.

*Mats:* How is it arranged with the compensation and certificate for a shadow member?

*Marco:* You do not receive a compensation or certificate, but it also means that you aren't active.

*Mats:* Yes, but Eline is active.

*Marco:* You get to hear what is going on in the study and you can use that for Babylon. You listen more than you actually do for the committee.

*Ivo:* I think for now, it is fine Eline is full member. Not many Babylon members are in the committee.

*Eline G:* I also don't think I am being treated differently because I am a board member.

*Ivo:* I don't think that either.

*Marco:* But it should be clear if you are a full and active member or if you keep a low profile, because now you are not very clear about that.

*Kai:* I do not think that there is a conflict of interest at this moment, as was feared for last year.

### **Book sale**

This year, Babylon collaborated with Study Store for the book sale. The contact with Study Store went really smooth. 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.

### **Education Committee**

This year's Education Committee consists of six Dutch members, and one international member, who speaks Dutch. The Education Committee has not organised an activity yet, but has done a great job with their other responsibilities. Unlike last year, not the Education Committee but the Lustrum committee has organised CIS in the Field.

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.

The committee is also responsible for the Student for a Day programme. 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: a pre-master student. From now on, she is responsible for the matching of the students from the Master.

*Mats:* How did the committee experience it that they didn't have to organise something so far?

*Kai:* It is the same as all the previous years, because CIS in the Field is organised by the committee from the year before.

*Sabine:* There is a gap; maybe you could fill that gap with other activities.

*Eline G:* We did organise study afternoons. Bu yes, it might be good for next year to see if something can be organised in the first six months of the academic year.

*Lotte:* Maybe you can postpone CIS in the Field, to the beginning of November perhaps. This way, the new committee can help organise this evening. The former committee should still make a beginning and already make contacts with alumni, but the new committee could finish it.

*Mats:* Students are mainly in the beginning of the year thinking about what the study is, and what their future looks like if they finish this study. That is why CIS in the Field takes place so early in the academic year.

*Tessa:* In the beginning of the year I heard something about the university wanting to stop the Dutch track C&O, do you know more about that?

*Eline G:* I didn't hear anything about that yet, so I don't think it will happen very soon. But in the future, it will probably only be the IBC track.

*Marco:* C&O has always been a small group.

*Ivo:* The Study Programme Committee said that cancelling the C&O track is not on the agenda.

*Marco:* I do not think they will do that very soon.

*Thijs:* I wanted to say something about the study afternoons. For the last exam period, you tried to organise a general study afternoon, so not specifically related to any course. That did not really work out, so I would recommend keeping these study afternoons course related.

*Suzanne:* Yes, that is true. We heard from our sister association that a general study afternoon did work for them, but for us apparently not. Therefore, we will keep it course related from now on.

### **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.

*Eline vL:* So, the CFA organises only two activities this year? That's not much...

*Eline G:* After the company visit, the CFA will focus on the next activity, which will probably be attending a television broadcast.

*Eline vL:* The formal activities follow up very shortly after each other.

*Eline G:* A visit to a television broadcast is not very formal, so that will not be a problem, I guess.

*Lotte:* Are you planning to start to look for company visits that can happen next academic year?

*Eline G:* Yes, I think that it is very practical if we already have contact with a few companies so the first steps are made when a new committee begins in September.

*Mats:* Yes, you could already try to arrange something for the first semester.

*Suzanne:* We received the feedback that November was always a very busy month, so that is why we didn't organise the company visit in the first semester. Now, we experienced that it was not that busy after all, so next year, it will not be a problem to organise it in November.

## **8.7. Commissioner of External Affairs**

### **Sponsors**

- **New or renewed collaborations**

- Rabobank: Maartje is now an intern at Rabobank, because no other intern could be found. 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.

*Kai:* Is it in the contract that we receive money for providing interns?

*Luuk:* No, it is not in the contract but I noticed that we still have this sponsor deal because we provide interns for them every year.

*Marco:* Did you ask the Rabobank to speak at the Congress and the Career Event?

*Luuk:* Yes, we did, but because of the reorganisation, they are too busy to send a speaker.

*Maartje:* I think interns will still be necessary next year, so for now, there is no problem yet.

*Thijs:* Did you already look for a sponsor to replace Rabobank, if they quit with the sponsor deal?

*Luuk:* Not yet, I want to wait with that because it would give a weird signal to the Rabobank if we suddenly started looking for another main sponsor. If I hear via Maartje that they are planning to cut the sponsor deal, I will immediately react, of course.

- De Waagh

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 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.

*Marco:* First, the contract with De Waagh was a combination contract with Bascafé and De Fuik. How is that arranged now?

*Luuk:* For us, they split the contract in three different parts. We do not have a contract anymore with De Fuik, only with De Waagh and Bascafé.

*Lisa:* Did the contract change in a positive or negative way?

*Luuk:* We now receive a fixed amount, instead of a variable amount. This fixed amount is higher, so it definitely is changed in a positive way. Harm from De Waagh is very happy about the collaboration with Babylon.

- Totally powered by Husk

Since the beginning of this year, there has been a new partner: Totally powered by Husk. Husk is a travel agency that 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 flexible: the more participants join the ski trip, the higher the discount percentage. This year, more than 40 people joined the ski trip, so the discount percentage is high.

*Lisa:* Do the members have to pay less because of this deal?

*Luuk:* This deal was made after the ski trip was booked.

*Lisa:* So, for now, there is no advantage for the members?

*Dominique:* We get the free keg and a dinner for 10 euros instead of 20 euros.

- Ended collaborations
  - European Leisure Jobs: 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 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.
  - Tosti Club: 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 Tosties 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.

*Lisa:* How bad is it that you do not have that money anymore?

*Luuk:* Tosti Club only sponsored us 75 euros.

*Lisa:* And VacanceSoleil?

*Luuk:* Yes, that was much more.

*Lisa:* Can't you arrange something to still get the sponsor money from last year? Maybe with legal proceedings?

*Luuk:* The contracts always have loopholes, so if they do not want to pay the money, they will always find something in the contract. The costs are probably too high for that.

*Lisa:* Maybe you can contact JFV, they might want to set up a letter for you.

*Luuk:* We could try it.

*Lotte:* There were more study associations who had a contract with them, right?

*Marco:* Ouisí also has a contract with ELJ.

*Luuk:* I will ask them how the contact with the company is.



- **Committees**

- Career Committee

The Career Event has been moved to 17 April.

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 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.

*Eline vL:* Did you consider trying to find other members for the committee?

*Luuk:* We did think about it, but we fear it might be too late. I waited too long to make a decision about the committee. I think it is a good choice to move the event to another date, and then it might work out with these three committee members.

*Suzanne:* Also, the board will help to find speakers.

*Marco:* Do you know why it did not work out with the committee?

*Luuk:* The ones who quit were all first year internationals. I asked why they wanted to quit, it was because they underestimated the work pressure from the university, but also from the committee.

*Marco:* So, you aren't looking for new committee members now?

*Luuk:* We are always open for new committee members. We also tried to arrange something with the CFA; maybe some committee members could help organising the Career Event.

*Sabine:* I think you found a good solution, but as the Advisory Board, we only heard recently that things were not going according to plan. Next time, ask our help earlier, because we could have helped finding speakers for example.

*Luuk:* We did mention it every meeting that it was not going really well in the committee, but I always had faith that it would work out anyway.

*Guusje:* Do you think it is practical to have internationals in the Career Committee? Because they do not really have contacts here.

*Marco:* Last year, there were also internationals in the committee, and that went really well, so I do think it is possible for the internationals to be a member of this committee.

*Luuk:* I agree.

*Sabine:* Maybe their expectations were not realistic. You should pay more attention to that during the committee market.

*Lotte:* Lecturers might also be able to help with finding speakers.

*Luuk:* Yes, we also asked Cecile Reulen.

*Marco:* Career Event and Congress are close to each other now, how are you going to promote these two events?

*Luuk:* The Congress is an event that focuses on one specific theme that considers communication. The Career Event is to get to know different possibilities for your career.

*Ivo:* How many speakers do you have for the Career Event right now?

*Luuk:* By changing the date, we now have one speaker.

- 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. Now, 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.

*Mats:* You said you wanted to compensate the attendance of students at the Congress. They wanted to arrange that last year, but it didn't work out. This year, it didn't work out again.

*Luuk:* It wasn't clear how they wanted to do this. The theme of the Congress needs to fit within a course. This year, the theme was not related to a course yet. Mycelium already arranged that it is possible next year to compensate students for their attendance at the Congress.

*Marco:* Last year, after the Congress, the idea for compensation came up. Therefore, it is logical that it is not arranged for this year.

*Luuk:* I don't want the lecturers to have too much power over the programme of the Congress.

*Ivo:* I wonder if it is realistic to relate the Congress to a course. It is a Babylon Congress and not a CIS Congress. In addition, if you compensate students with study point, you have to make the tickets for the Congress free.

*Luuk:* I also don't want students to only come to the Congress because they are compensated with study points for it.

*Suzanne:* It is not yet clear, but we will work on it.

## **GDPR**

Since 25 May, the new privacy legislation, the General Data Protection Regulation has been applicable. This means that the same privacy legislation applies throughout the European Union. 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.

## **8.8. Commissioner of Activities**

### **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. 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, Dominique 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.

*Sabine:* You say that you tried to find the right balance between formal and informal activities. However, that didn't work out, because there are less formal activities this year. I would like to see a reflection on this. The lustrum year consists of many parties of course, but what do you recommend to the next board

*Dominique:* I got the advice from the previous Commissioner of Activities that I should not plan too many activities in a short amount of time. I think I succeeded in this.

### **Committee market**

The board already discussed the committee market.

### **Contact with the Molenstraat**

Dominique 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.

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.

## Committee of Informal Activities

- *New Moon Borrel* 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.
- *Fiesta Loca Borrel*
- *It's The Most Wonderful Time For A Beer Borrel*: 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.
- *Karaoke*: the CIA has organised a Karaoke Night. 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.
- *Christmas Dinner*: The dinner was a bit more expensive than last year, but there were still 39 members present.

*Kai*: I would like to mention something about the report in general. You often wrote things like 'has not been organised before' and 'higher than ever'. If your association exists for 30 years, you do not know if a karaoke night has already been organised. I would avoid exaggerations like these.

*Lotte*: Why are the 'borrels' still named 'borrels'?

*Dominique*: The board discussed very often in the beginning of the year.

*Luuk*: I understand that we are an international association, but on the other side, it is the Dutch culture to call this a 'borrel'. There is also no correct translation for this word.

*Lotte*: Yes, but for new members you could start calling it 'monthly drink' and this will eventually be normal for everyone to not call it a 'borrel' anymore.

*Maartje*: These international students come to the Netherlands to study; they are also here for the Dutch culture. I don't think this word needs to be in English.

*Dominique*: I think this is a discussion point for the next board. We are not going to change it anymore this year.

*Marco*: In the end of the year survey you can add a question about the 'borrels', if internationals have no problem with using a Dutch word for the drinks, you can continue calling it 'borrels'.

## BaMyPo

This year there are four editions instead of six: this is very convenient for Babylon because of the extra activities on the year planning due to the lustrum.

- *BaMyPompoen*: This was a Halloween edition and took place the last Thursday before the first exam period. Though this date was not convenient, many Babylon members showed up and it was a successful edition.
- *BaMyPhohoho*: This was a Christmas edition and took place the last Thursday before the holidays. There were some problems with dividing the profit, but eventually it turned out fine. In addition, El Sombrero did not stick to the agreements regarding the discounts on drinks. However, they will compensate this during one of the other BaMyPo editions.

## **Inglorious**

The Inglorious parties will not take place at Van Buren anymore, but in Drie Gezusters, El Sombrero and Van Buren.

The first Inglorious edition was Inglowrious and took place at Drie Gezusters. Inglowrious took place on a Wednesday instead of on Thursday, which was not a problem at all. Many Babylon members joined the party and it was a great success. However, Drie Gezusters did not stick to the agreements either and refused to provide the free keg. At the end, they fortunately did provide it.

*Ivo:* What is your opinion about the fact that every Inglorious-edition is now at a different location? It might be confusing for the members.

*Dominique:* We discussed the location, because almost all the other associations wanted that Inglorious took place in the El Sombrero, but BaMyPo is also at the El Sombrero, so we found that too confusing for the members.

*Suzanne:* I don't think members notice that it is a different location every edition because there is a long time between the Inglorious-parties.

## **Sports Committee**

The Ski Trip 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.

Luuk 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.

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.

*Marco:* Is it an exam or a resit that is planned during the ski trip?

*Dominique:* It is the first chance for the exam. This is because it is a digital exam and this exam has to be made in the gymnasium. No other moment the gymnasium is available except during the ski trip..

*Sabine:* Maybe you should make clear when the ski trip takes place even earlier than you did now.

*Dominique:* They already knew it for a very long time, but the planner does not care about that.

*Ivo:* How did you experience the collaboration with Coop Burghardt? Last year, this was not a great success.

*Dominique:* I was also pretty sceptic about the collaboration beforehand, but I made very clear that there had to be a contract this time. They found that unnecessary because they

said they already agreed to give us food for the food packages. I was really nervous about it, but everything worked out really great.

### **Evaluation Ski Trip**

The group arrived very early on Sunday. Luckily, the lobby was very big and there were couches where everyone could rest. Only six people bought a ski pass for the first day and the rest of the group did not. This day was very long and many people were bored. Therefore, it is recommended to stimulate more people to buy a ski pass for the first day.

The 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 had 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.

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, some people in the accommodation complained about the noise, but luckily, at the end of the week, everyone got their deposit back.

Overall, the Ski Trip was a success. 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. Besides this incident, there also was an issue with some students smoking weed.

*Eline vL:* Did you threaten to punish them for misbehaving?

*Dominique:* Yes, when we talked to them about it, we told them that if it would happen again, by any member of the committee, we would not allow any committee member to come to the lustrum prom.

*Eline vL:* It were committee members?

*Suzanne:* Yes.

*Eline vL:* I would make it even clearer next year, because apparently it was not clear enough.

*Suzanne:* We have said so often that drugs are forbidden at the ski trip, that we didn't expect it to happen. Therefore, we didn't thought of a punishment beforehand. Apparently, it is necessary that the (committee) member already know what the punishment for using drugs is before the ski trip begins. This has to be passed on to next year's committee.

*Dominique:* Maybe next year, we can give the Sports Committee in September some options to choose from, so they can pick a location themselves.

*Janne:* Because you want to go with a big group, it is very important that you book the ski trip timely.

*Eline vL:* When you start planning in September, you can only choose between Valloire and Avoriaz.

*Marco:* In our year, we tried a new location. This was not a very good one. We now know three good locations, so I think it is best if every year, we rotate among these three.

*Tessa:* I think it was a good thing that the location was already set before the committee started in September. I think it takes away a lot of stress because you have more time to actually begin with the organisation of the ski trip.

*Eline vL:* I think you should add this incident with the committee members to the semi-annual report.

*Dominique:* I thought I would add it to the script of the Ski Trip, but if you think it should be in the report, I will add it.

*Kai:* In my opinion, the evaluation of the Ski Trip in the report was already too long.

*Luuk:* I think it has been handled well and it worked out fine, so it is not necessary to put it in the report.

*Lotte:* If you put this in the report, you should also add the part about the girl who broke her collarbone during skiing. Therefore, you should add both or leave both out.

*Ivo:* I actually would not put it in the report, because teachers might end up hearing about the incident when it is in the report, and that is not good for our image. That way, you make it a bigger problem than it is.

*Dominique:* We agree with that.

## **Batavierenrace**

Babylon will participate in the Batavierenrace in collaboration with 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 weren't 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.

Participating will cost €28,50 for the whole weekend. Food is included.

The team from Mycelium is already full.

## **Orientation Week Committee**

### Last years' Orientation Week:

Last years' Orientation Week was slightly different from previous Orientation Weeks. Instead of the various Orientation Weekends, there was one Weekend Festival at which all student and study associations could organise different activities. Babylon organised an obstacle run and real-life Mario kart. 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 on Tuesday. The committee arranged an activity at Ovum Novum: dinner and laser gaming at Laser Quest. After this, there was a party at Ovum Novum. 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 an extra 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.

This years' Orientation Week:

The Orientation Week will take place from the 18 until 25 August. This year, the Weekend Festival will take place again. The 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 committee is busy approaching possible sponsors.

*Mats:* I heard something about the fact that pre-master students are not allowed to participate in the orientation week of the university? For example, the Sports Day?

*Dominique:* The pre-master students have been 'illegally' participating in the activities of the university orientation week for years. This year, we want to respect the rules, so we won't let them participate in the Sports Day.

*Sabine:* Are you going to organise an activity to replace the Sports Day?

*Dominique:* Yes, we are working on it.

*Mats:* Why do you want to replace rowing with Phocas with another activity?

*Dominique:* Every year, you need to convince the students to come to the rowing activity. It takes a long time to get there by bike and many students don't feel like rowing when they are tired. Furthermore, the students pay to participate in the activities of the Radboud orientation week, so they should be able to go to these activities. The university also does not want us to plan other activities when they organise one. Therefore, we choose to participate in the water fight activity of the university.

**Prom Committee**

This year, the prom will be a Babylon-only prom. 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.

For the Prom, 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.

Although the tickets are quite expensive (members €42,50 and non-members €45), 120 tickets have been sold at this moment.

*Lotte:* In my opinion, the price difference between the ticket price for members and for non-members is too small. It should have been more than €2,50.

*Sabine:* Yes, some associations let members pay €10,- less than externals.

*Dominique:* We did not want to make the tickets for non-members more expensive than 45 euros, because we thought they probably would not come if the ticket price was higher than 45 euros.

*Govend:* We intended to make the ticket price lower for members, but because of a mistake from the bus company, we had to compensate the negative result of the budget.

*Kai:* You could have compensated this lack of money with other money than from the prom itself.

*Dominique:* Yes, that is why Maartje said earlier that this should have been discussed with her because she would have compensated it otherwise.

*Floris:* A Babylon-only prom in Nijmegen would also have been expensive, but because



the location is outside of Nijmegen, people probably feel like they get more for their money.

*Lotte:* Mycelium also organises a lustrum prom in Nijmegen.

*Dominique:* We posted a poll on the Facebook page, and it was very clear that members preferred a prom outside of Nijmegen.

*Sabine:* Yes, but it seemed like the ticket price would not be different than normally, so around 30 euros. This was confusing.

*Lotte:* Also, I think it is too bad that the prom is on Wednesday. A lustrum prom could better take place on a Friday. Mainly for people who work, but also for students who do not want to miss courses on Thursday.

*Dominique:* I didn't think about this, because I looked at the year planning of last year when I planned the prom. But it is a good advice to give for the prom committee of the next lustrum year.

### **Statement of view Advisory Board**

*Mats:* I think the report is looking good, there are some little mistakes in it, but you can still adjust this. If everything that is discussed tonight will be changed in the report, than I will give a positive advice.

*Sabine:* For me it is the same.

*Kai:* I want to compliment you, because I think you are doing a great job so far.

*Eline vL:* I think so too!

### **Vote Semi-Annual Report '18-'19**

*Total number of voters = 25*

Vote in favour: 19

Vote against: 0

Blanc vote: 0

Withhold: 6

The Semi-Annual Report is accepted by the GMM.

### **Financial status**

Total income: €19882,00

Total expenses: €19247,21

Result: €634,79

### **Advisory opinion Till Committee**

Lotte checked the cash and the bank account and stated that Babylon is financially healthy. There is too much cash money at the moment, but Maartje already had planned to deposit the money very soon.

### **W.C.T.M.**

*Lotte:* I want to compliment Maartje, she handled everything very well with the finances.

*Ivo:* I also want to give compliments. To the whole board. You are doing a great job.

*Mats:* The faith we had in you has definitely been confirmed. Keep up the good work!

*Govend:* If you still need members for the Career Committee, I might want to join.

*Marco:* You were a little later with sending the documents for this GMM. Last year it was two weeks before the GMM, now it is only one week.

*Suzanne:* Yes, it has been vague this whole year but now we want to make it a rule that the concept needs to be finished three weeks before the GMM. The Advisory Board has a week to check the report and give feedback. Subsequently, the board has another week to process the feedback and send it a week before the GMM to the members.

**Closing**

Suzanne closes the meeting at 11:17 pm.