



BABYLON

STUDY ASSOCIATION

**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020**

ACCESSIBLE, PROFICIENT AND AMBITIOUS

Foreword

This is the semi-annual report of the thirty-first board of Babylon. This report is meant to describe and reflect on the processes that concern managing Babylon, with a focus on the first half of the academic year 2019-2020.

The aim of the past half year was to get a good start and to maintain and improve the image and reputation of Babylon amongst all its stakeholders. While doing this, the long-term and short-term goals, which can be found in the Policy Plan of 2019-2020, were kept in mind. This report describes to what extent the set objectives have been met and how the thirty-first board aims to reach them in the future.

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

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

Max Ploemen	-	Chair
Quirijn Somers	-	Secretary
Niek van de Minkelis	-	Treasurer
Tessa Stolte	-	Commissioner of Internal Affairs
Thijs Buisman	-	Commissioner of External Affairs
Dylan Zeevaart	-	Commissioner of Activities

Table of Contents

- 1. Proceedings in long-term goals of Babylon.....4**
 - 1.1 Strengthen the bond between Babylon and its members and attract new members4**
 - 1.1.1 Orientation Week.....4**
 - 1.1.2 International members5**
 - 1.1.3 (Pre-)masters5**
 - 1.1.4 Communication tools.....6**
 - 1.1.5 Active Member Evening6**
 - 1.2 Improving the professionalism of Babylon6**
 - 1.2.1 Identity6**
 - 1.2.2 Professional communication6**
 - 1.2.3 Maintaining the corporate identity7**
 - 1.2.4 Privacy7**
 - 1.2.5 The Babylon room7**
 - 1.2.6 Social media8**
 - 1.2.7 Clothing8**
 - 1.2.8 Business cards.....8**
 - 1.3 Improve and strengthen the image of Babylon8**
 - 1.3.1 Companies and organisations8**
 - 1.3.2 Potential and current sponsors8**
 - 1.3.3 Study and student associations9**
 - 1.3.4 Members and other students.....9**
 - 1.4 Strengthening ties with external relations..... 10**
 - 1.4.1 Keeping in touch with sponsors.....10**
 - 1.4.2 Recruiting sponsors10**
 - 1.4.3 Business gift.....11**
- 2. General Affairs 12**
 - 2.1 SOFv & LETO 12**
 - 2.2 Advisory Board 12**
 - 2.3 General Member Meetings 12**
 - 2.4 Change of the board 12**
 - 2.4.1 International members13**
 - 2.5 Board grants 13**
 - 2.6 Social media 13**
 - 2.7 Website 14**
- 3. Chair..... 16**
 - 3.1 General tasks and responsibilities 16**
 - 3.2 International Committee 16**
 - 3.3 Prom Committee 18**
 - 3.4 Application Committee..... 18**
- 4. Secretary 19**

4.1 Tasks and responsibilities	19
4.2 The member file.....	19
4.3 Minutes	19
4.4 (E)mail.....	19
4.5 Website and social media	20
4.6 Final editing of the Babylon magazine	20
4.7 Publication Committee.....	20
4.8 Graphic Design Committee.....	21
5. Treasurer.....	22
5.1 Budget	22
5.1.1 Revenue	22
5.1.2 Expenditure	22
5.2 Contact with committee treasurers.....	23
5.3 Bookkeeping	23
5.4 Payment methods	23
5.5 Study Trip Committee	24
5.6 Merchandise	24
6. Commissioner of Internal Affairs.....	25
6.1 Consolidate the link between Babylon and the study programme.....	25
6.2 The Study Programme Committee	25
6.3 Book sales	25
6.4 The Education Committee	26
6.5 The Committee of Formal Activities	26
6.6 Summaries.....	27
6.7 Alumni	27
6.8 Personal health.....	27
7. Commissioner of External Affairs	29
7.1 Sponsors.....	29
7.2 Sponsor training	29
7.3 Career Committee	29
7.4 Congress Committee	29
7.5 Membership benefits	30
7.6 Vacancy policy	30
8. Commissioner of Activities	31
8.1 Year planning	31
8.2 Committee market	31
8.3 Contact with the Molenstraat.....	31
8.4 Committee of Informal Activities	32
8.5 Sports Committee	33
8.6 Orientation Week Committee	34
8.7 Weekend Committee.....	34
8.8 FC Babylon.....	35
9. Conclusion	36

1. Proceedings in long-term goals of Babylon

The thirty-first board has written a Policy Plan at the very beginning of the academic year, which has been approved during the General Member Meeting of 2 July 2019. In this report, four long-term goals were described and discussed, namely:

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

The following paragraphs will briefly reflect on the progress that has been made within these goals and attention will be paid towards the most important short-term goals that belong to them. It is not possible to describe everything in close detail; this will be done in the annual report. The thirty-first board conducted a survey among its members in December 2019. The purpose of this survey was to have a better insight in what needs to be improved in the second semester, but also what went well in the first semester. Some of the results can be found in the following paragraphs.

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

A strong connection between the members of Babylon and the association is essential, because the members are the reason that Babylon exists. Therefore, the thirty-first board invested a lot of time over the past half year in order to make this connection stronger. This can be found in the following paragraph. The thirty-first board is well represented in all year layers of the study programme, since it consists of one fourth-year student, four third-year students and one second-year student. However, five board members are enrolled in the C&O programme, while only one board member is enrolled in the IBC programme. Beforehand it was thought that this could be an obstacle in acquiring and connecting to IBC members, but it turned out that this was not the case.

1.1.1 Orientation Week

Acquiring new members for the association was important in the first weeks of the new academic year. For this reason, the board put much effort in the Orientation Week, in order to gain awareness and already recruit new members. The entire board participated in the Orientation Week: two as committee members and three as mentor parents. One board member was neither part of the committee nor a mentor but participated as board member. To promote Babylon, the Chair gave a presentation in which he explained the additional value of becoming part of the association and already mentioned and promoted important activities like the Information Session for international students, the Committee Market, the first *borrel* and CIS in the Field. Besides that, all board members tried to approach as many potential members as possible and kept on promoting Babylon. In addition, the board requested all the mentor parents to promote Babylon as well. The promotion resulted in a high attendance at the Committee Market and the free lunch at the Babylon room. In total, 94 members signed up to become an active member. More on this topic can be found in paragraph 8.2.

1.1.2 International members

One of the main short-term goals of the thirty-first board was to strengthen the bond between international members and Babylon. To make the international students feel as welcome as Dutch students, the thirty-first board continued the policy of the thirtieth board by using British English as the main language for the association. In addition, the thirty-first board continued the policy of the thirtieth board by making all activities available for international members. Besides that, international members had access to all committees and twelve international members signed up to become an active member. The thirty-first board also created the International Committee as a tool to make the international members feel more welcome in Babylon. More on the International Committee can be found in paragraph 3.2.

Internationalisation has been an important matter over the last four years and continues to be of high importance to the thirty-first board. It is necessary to get an insight in what international members think of Babylon in order to improve this process. Therefore, questions about the process of internationalisation in Babylon were asked to international members in the semi-annual survey. A total of eighteen internationals filled out the survey and the most important results will be discussed below. Aspects of Babylon that should be improved, according to the international members, regarding internationalisation are integration of the international members, speaking more English during activities and at the Babylon room and the *borrels* need to get more international minded. Things that went well, according to the international participants of the survey, is the creation of the International Committee, trying to include all members, organising many activities for international members and trying to speak more English.

1.1.3 (Pre-)masters

For many years, Babylon had difficulties to reach out and to attract (pre-)masters. However, progress has been made since last year. The thirtieth board already attracted nine (pre-)master students to become active members and the thirty-first board continued this progress and attracted twenty-four to become active members. The initial promotion happened during the Orientation Week, where the mentor parents of the (pre-)master group were really enthusiastic about Babylon. The thirty-first board believes that this is one of the reasons for the excitement and enthusiasm of the (pre-)master students this year. As mentioned above, thirteen pre-masters and 11 master students decided to join a committee in Babylon. Besides that, many (pre-)masters show up at *borrels* and other activities. It can be concluded that the (pre-)master students are, again, a great value to Babylon.

The semi-annual survey had a part only meant for (pre-)master members. This part was about the (pre-)master Orientation Week, since it might not be possible to have a (pre-)master Orientation Week next year due to university regulations. With the results of this part of the survey, the thirty-first board would like to show the great addition of the (pre-)master Orientation Week to the university. A total of seventeen pre-master students and seven master students filled out the survey. Thirteen of them participated in the Orientation Week and four did not. The thirteen members that did participate are unanimously positive about the Orientation Week. It met their personal interests, they felt more socially included in Babylon and they were positive about the insights about the university. The four members that did not participate felt that they missed out on something by not participating and thought they would have had a better start of their (pre-)master course if they participated. These four members did not participate, simply because they did not know about this Orientation Week programme for (pre-)master students. It is difficult to change this promotion, because the university is not willing to promote it to the new (pre-)master students. In the second semester, the Commissioner

of Activities will try to make sure that Babylon can maintain their (pre-)master Orientation Week in the future.

1.1.4 Communication tools

The thirty-first board continued the policy of the thirtieth board with offering longer open office hours. The Babylon Room is open from 10.30 a.m. until 4 p.m. from Monday until Thursday and from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Fridays. It turned out that members appreciate the longer open office hours so they can show up at every time, especially in the afternoon. It contributes to the accessibility of the thirty-first board, which is one of its key words. The monthly *borrels* are part of the communication tools as well. Babylon organises monthly *borrels* that are meant to maintain and strengthen the bond between the association and its members. The *borrels* will be discussed in more detail in paragraph 8.4.

1.1.5 Active Member Evening

On 7 November 2019, the first Active Member Evening of this academic year took place at De Waagh. The thirty-first board organised 'A Minute to Win it'. The active members were divided into six groups and they had to compete against each other in fourteen different games. The winning group received a free round of drinks. There was a good atmosphere during the whole evening and the board got a lot of positive response. The next Active Member Evening will take place on 17 March 2020, but this activity will be kept as a surprise for all the members.

1.2 Improving the professionalism of Babylon

The professionalism of Babylon shows through the associations' communication and behaviour. It is important to come across as professional as possible, since this will make the association more appealing to both internal and external partners, as well as to potential members and partners. The following paragraphs provide more information on how the thirty-first board achieved this.

1.2.1 Identity

The board has made efforts to maintain Babylon's established identity. A large part in doing so is to maintain a good balance between formal and informal activities, to portray the association as both professional and accessible. Unfortunately, this balance has not been optimal over the last semester. The amount of formal activities has been lacking. One of the causes for this lack of formal activities was the cancellation of the company visit in December 2019. This was also noticed by members, as the results of the semi-annual survey have shown. Some members felt that the association was being more informal than formal. The thirty-first board strives to keep a healthy balance for both. Therefore, for the coming semester, the board is planning on improving this balance through already planned formal activities, such as the Career Event and National Day of Communication, and by adding new formal activities, such as extra workshops.

1.2.2 Professional communication

The thirty-first board has been aiming for professional and well-structured communication to both external and internal parties. The board concedes to the fact that, at times, the communication on social media towards members could have been better. These occurrences especially appeared in the beginning of the academic year. After feedback from the Advisory Board, the thirty-first board has made efforts to assure these kinds of mistakes were minimalised. Since then, improvements have been made, and mistakes have been far less frequent.

As for communication towards external parties, the board has been maintaining the same way of communicating as planned in their Policy Plan. Communication has been

professional and tailored to the party the board was addressing. No problems have occurred on this subject so far. The board has also made efforts to review certain activities together with the party that hosted the activity, by sending them an email the day after.

1.2.3 Maintaining the corporate identity

The thirty-first board of Babylon aspires a uniform corporate identity in their internal and external communication. The format of the thirtieth board has been continued and used wherever possible.

The thirty-first board has been emphasising the importance of informing all committees about the corporate identity. The corporate identity will be explained in the committee script. This script will actively be used by the board and Babylon's committees to contribute to the uniformity of Babylon and to improve the association's professionalism. Furthermore, the thirty-first board obligates all committees to use the same PowerPoint lay-out in all presentations in order to maintain uniformity.

Babylon has gained several new partners, such as Chidoz and Popocatepetl. More information about new partners can be found in paragraph 1.4.2. In addition, a new partner will be announced in February 2020. However, in order to keep portraying the association as a professional entity to the outside world, the thirty-first board will actively search for a new formal partner, since all newly started relations offer informal goods or services. The board is convinced that this will maintain Babylon's reputation as both professional and accessible.

1.2.4 Privacy

In their efforts to comply with the new privacy regulations, the thirty-first board has been strict in handling personal data. Registration lists have not been visible for non-authorized people. This means that, after a list is used, it is stored safely.

There have been some occurrences where the privacy regulations have not been entirely adhered to. For instance, there has been a short period where the board made use of cloud services for registration lists. After feedback from the Advisory Board, this was stopped immediately. The board will keep up their efforts to protect the data of their members in compliance with the privacy regulations.

1.2.5 The Babylon room

The Babylon room is located at the Erasmus building, room E12.09. The thirty-first board tries to clean the room weekly and keep it organised. However, this is not always the case. The board will pay more attention to keep the room clean in the second semester. A clean room will contribute to the professional appearance of the Babylon room.

The thirty-first board would like the Babylon room to be a welcoming and accessible place for all members. The Babylon room has undergone some changes in the last semester. The lay-out has been altered, in order to create more space. The feedback on this change has been unanimously positive.

The Babylon room exists in the service of all members, and by maintaining an open-door policy, the thirty-first board is making the members feel welcome. The open office hours of the Babylon Room from last year (2018-2019) have been maintained and will be continued in the next semester, since it has been well-received by members and all personal schedules of the board allow this.

1.2.6 Social media

Babylon's social media channels have been managed by the Secretary and the Commissioner of External Affairs. The Secretary has been overseeing Facebook and Instagram, while the Commissioner of External Affairs has been taking care of LinkedIn and Twitter. This division was made as an experiment and has proven to be a good one since it has taken some of the workload off of the Secretary.

The use of Facebook and Instagram has generally been conducted successfully, taking the flaws mentioned in paragraph 1.2.2 into account. Twitter and LinkedIn have been used less frequently than Facebook and Instagram. LinkedIn has mainly been used to share job openings at companies within Babylon's field of study, and the use of Twitter has been very marginal. The Commissioner of External Affairs does check up on Twitter feeds, but the amount of posts has been very limited so far.

1.2.7 Clothing

The thirty-first board has purchased blouses at the beginning of the academic year, printed with their first- and last name, their position and 'XXXIst board of Babylon'. This has proven to be a good choice, since the blouse serves as a clothing option for semi-formal events. It has only been worn one time in the first semester during CIS In the Field. In the second semester it will be worn at workshops, the Career Event and the National Day of Communication. To warrant the professional image, as well as the accessibility of the board, the board will keep adapting their clothing to suit the activity attended. The board suits will be worn during the most formal activities, such as Constitution Drinks and the General Member Meetings.

1.2.8 Business cards

The thirty-first board of Babylon has purchased business cards to hand out to external parties. This way, the network of Babylon can be broadened. Moreover, the thirty-first board will be easier to contact. The business card has a general design, which includes the Chair's and the Commissioner of External Affairs' contact information. This way, every board member or committee member can hand out a business card whenever it is needed. The business cards are mainly in Dutch, since the primary language of Babylon's relations is Dutch. To show that Babylon is an international association, the positions are mentioned in a smaller font in English under the Dutch title as well.

1.3 Improve and strengthen the image of Babylon

Over the last few years, a lot of effort has been put into fortifying the positive image external parties and members of Babylon have of the association. The thirty-first board is continuing to do so. The main goal is a positive connotation with Babylon. This will, among other things, be achieved by improving and strengthening the bond with external contacts.

1.3.1 Companies and organisations

The thirty-first board set a goal for themselves to receive and welcome speakers in a neat, friendly and professional way during formal events. This will improve the bonds with the companies and improve the image of Babylon. So far, this has been done successfully. Speakers at CIS in the Field have had a pleasant experience, as well as the teacher from the Photoshop workshop. To further improve the bonds with companies, several companies will receive an invite for the National Day of Communication, which will take place on 7 May. More information on this day can be found in paragraph 7.4.

1.3.2 Potential and current sponsors

Potential and current sponsors also need to have a positive and professional image of Babylon. This has been achieved by having an adequate amount of personal contact with them, by keeping them up to date and by inviting them to formal activities. It is important

that they know what Babylon is and what the association could offer. By clearly transmitting this information during meetings, the thirty-first board of Babylon hopes to contract new relations and strengthen the existing relations. Since Babylon has attracted several new relations this year, it has been proven that contact with potential sponsors has gone smoothly.

Most of the committees need to search for sponsors. Therefore, sponsor members have been assigned. The Commissioner of External Affairs has provided a sponsor training along with a small sponsor guide, to assure that the first contact between companies and the sponsor members is professional and effective. This has been contributing to the professional image of Babylon.

1.3.3 Study and student associations

The thirty-first board believes that regular contact with other associations can be of great value for Babylon. Therefore, proactive behaviour is encouraged. Babylon cooperates with other associations in Nijmegen to organise Inglorious, BaMyPo, the annual Prom and the National Day of Communication, which will take place in Nijmegen this year. Apart from that, the thirty-first board aims to socialise with other boards. This can be beneficial, as there is the possibility to exchange ideas and experiences, but also ask for a favour every now and then. The contact with sister associations across the country could be improved. The first 'Sisters Day' will take place on 20 March 2020. The study associations who were supposed to organise were not aware of this task. In addition, multiple associations were not able to conform to the sisters contract. For this reason, the Sisters Day will take place later than usual. However, the sister associations are now in closer contact and will prevent such situations in the future. The second Sisters Day will most likely be held near the end of the academic year. To further improve relations with other associations, Babylon has been present at most of the Constitution Drinks and actively participated in the events of those evenings as much as possible. The thirty-first board also wanted to get into contact with RUIS (HAN Communication) to make way for possible future collaborations. Therefore, they will be invited to the National Day of Communication on 7 May.

1.3.4 Members and other students

Preferably, members and other students regard Babylon as an organisation from which they can expect support and where they can ask questions about various subjects. Moreover, their perception of the association should include terms as 'professionalism', 'innovative' and 'unity'. The overall public perceived opinion appears to be good. However, the results of the semi-annual survey showed that members would like Babylon to organise more formal activities. By doing so, Babylon can improve its formal image. That is why the thirty-first board will try to organise more formal activities in the second semester, as well as advice the thirty-second board to implement more of those activities in their year planning. The Committee of Formal Activities, the Career Committee and the Congress Committee try their best to propagate a professional image, as they are the committees who organise the formal activities and events on Babylon's behalf. The Committee of Formal Activities wears t-shirts in the original Babylon colours to maintain a professional image. Companies who are approached by the Career and Congress Committee are approached in a formal, polite and professional way. They are always first sent a preliminary email where the committee member introduces themselves. After which, correspondence will be initiated to gradually work towards requesting that the company in question will appear as a speaker.

1.4 Strengthening ties with external relations

1.4.1 Keeping in touch with sponsors

Strengthening ties with external relations is of vital importance to the Commissioner of External Affairs and the thirty-first board of Babylon as a whole. Over the past six months, maintaining ties with external relations has generally been successful. As usual, the Commissioner of Activities handles contact with the Oubaha Group (The company that owns all the bars in the Molenstraat). The Commissioner of External Affairs maintains contact with all other external relations, including StudyStore this year. The Commissioner of External Affairs is working together with StudyStore to include other study associations within the faculty in Babylon's book contract, in order to further establish Babylon as a leading association within the Faculty of Arts.

Mainly due to good contact and previous experiences with De Waagh, the collaboration has been intensified. From now on, all General Member Meetings will take place there. A second reason for moving these to De Waagh was to preserve the current amount of sponsoring Babylon receives.

The Commissioner of External Affairs has made a contact file, as was mentioned in the Policy Plan of the thirty-first board. There are currently over 40 entries in the contact file, so progress is being made. It has to be said that the majority of the entries has been filed by the committees of the Commissioner of External Affairs, so he will continue promoting the contact file to sponsor members of all committees.

1.4.2 Recruiting sponsors

Every existing relation has been maintained and extended, and several new relations have been established. Tappers, UniPartners, Chidoz, Escape Boot Nijmegen and Popocatepetl have all been added to Babylon's repertoire of collaborations. The Commissioner of External Affairs is currently finalising the details for a new collaboration with Domino's. All new collaborations will be briefly discussed below.

The collaboration with Tappers started at the beginning of the academic year and can be seen as a two-tail collaboration. Both a sticker deal and an agreement to organise several activities at Tappers were established. The sticker deal entails that members will receive a 20% discount on beer and a 25% discount on snacks. It has been agreed upon that Babylon will organise at least 2 activities at Tappers with a minimum of 30 people. Tappers has paid an amount of €150,- for this. For every additional activity Babylon organises at Tappers, Babylon will receive €50,-.

The collaboration with UniPartners has started on 1 November 2019. Babylon will provide UniPartners with the opportunity to place promotional material regarding internships. In return, UniPartners will pay Babylon an amount of €25,- per new intern that joins through Babylon. Babylon will receive a one-time bonus of €50,- if they provide 5 new interns.

The collaboration with Chidoz has started on 1 December 2019. This collaboration is a sticker deal, where members receive a discount on burritos. Members will gain a larger discount when they make a bigger order.

The collaboration with Escape Boot Nijmegen has started on 1 December 2019. This collaboration is a sticker deal as well. Members will receive a 20% discount when making a reservation, using the code that can be found on Babylon's website.

The collaboration with Popocatepetl has started on 1 January and is Babylon's latest sticker deal. Members of Babylon can choose a three-course meal from a special Babylon Menu

for €18,-. Upon showing the Babylon sticker in the restaurant, members will be provided with the physical menu, which is also available on Babylon's website.

As of the time of writing this report, the Commissioner of External Affairs is finalising the details for a new collaboration with Domino's. This new collaboration applies to all three Domino's branches in Nijmegen. The contents of the deal, as currently agreed, are that every member of Babylon receives their own discount card. With this card, members can order pizzas where they receive a discount of 10% when ordering one pizza, 20% when ordering two and 30% when ordering three pizzas or more. Of the net worth of all orders Babylon members make with the cards, 5% will be paid to Babylon.

For the next six months, the Commissioner of External Affairs will focus on maintaining and nurturing the established and new relations and will focus on searching for a new formal relation. This is seen as a priority, given that almost all newly started relations are informal. Babylon will continue to be presented as a professional, yet accessible study association and nurture the current pleasant environment for sponsors and other relations.

1.4.3 Business gift

As pledged in the Policy Plan, the thirty-first board will continue offering Doppers as a business gift. At CIS in the Field, speakers have received a Doppet. However, for the most formal occasions or when receiving high profile speakers, the Commissioner of External Affairs will offer a more deserving gift, such as a bottle of wine. The current plan for the Career Event is to offer this to the speakers.

2. General Affairs

2.1 SOFv & LETO

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

Babylon is also a member of LETO, an association that stimulates collaboration and transfer of information between study associations of the Faculty of Arts at Raboud University. Before, the Faculty of Arts had two committees, which were respectively SOLve and the Future Committee. To improve the cooperation between the study associations of the faculty of Arts, the umbrella association LETO was founded. Following the policy of the thirtieth board, the thirty-first board has decided to join LETO, to strengthen the bonds with the other study associations from the Faculty of Arts. Furthermore, LETO keeps Babylon up to date about faculty-related affairs. LETO organises several activities for all the associations of the Faculty of Arts.

2.2 Advisory Board

The advisory board consists of two members from the twenty-ninth board, three members of the thirtieth board and one active member of Babylon, namely: Ivo van Lier, Marco Avilez, Luuk van den Reek, Maartje Slot, Eline Giesbers and Janne Rutten.

On this moment, the thirty-first board has had one meeting with the advisory board in order to discuss and receive feedback on the ongoing business within Babylon. More meetings will be scheduled in the second semester. The Chair is always present at those meetings and two additional board members join him. Furthermore, the advisory board provides feedback on the weekly minutes that are made during the board meetings. These are always thoroughly read and considered.

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

2.3 General Member Meetings

The academic year's first General Member Meeting was held at De Waagh on 11 September 2019. During this meeting, the thirty-first board evaluated the Orientation Week and the Information Session, provided updates about ongoing board matters and presented their budget for 2019-2020. In addition, the thirtieth board presented their Financial Annual Report. Both the budget and the Financial Annual Report were accepted.

2.4 Change of the board

The thirty-first board created the Application Committee this year, in order to make sure that the whole application procedure will be carried out unbiasedly. Information about the Application Committee can be found in paragraph 3.4.

At this point, the recruitment procedures for the successive board have started. The thirty-first board has been lobbying among active members in order to draw attention to the possibility of becoming part of the thirty-second board of Babylon. On 18 February 2020, the Board Interest Lunch will take place. During this lunch, the thirty-first board will give a short presentation about the tasks and responsibilities of every board position.

Additionally, there will be time to talk to each board member individually. The Board Interest Lunch is promoted in the best possible way. Part of the promotion was making an Instagram post for each board member in which they described their tasks and responsibilities in the board of Babylon. A few pictures about the life as a board member so far were added to give the members a visual insight in this life as well. This way interested members are able to get a clear image of the position pointed out. At last, an email was sent to all members and a Facebook event has been created.

2.4.1 International members

The thirty-first board will give international Babylon members the opportunity to sign up for all board positions. However, a C2 level in Dutch is necessary for the positions of Chair, Secretary and Commissioner of External Affairs. To apply for the position of Treasurer, the candidate must have a Dutch level of at least B1. This is due to the fact that the Treasurer will have to work with Dutch invoices. Because of the experience of other boards and the current Commissioner of Internal Affairs, the thirty-first board decided that it is possible for an international to fulfil that function without any knowledge of the Dutch language. This because the Commissioner of Internal Affairs is mainly in contact with lecturers, study advisors and other contacts within the university, who all speak English. The function of Commissioner of Activities will also be possible to be fulfilled by an international student who does not have any knowledge of Dutch. If the Commissioner of Activities needs to get in contact with an external party who has some difficulties with speaking English, the Commissioner of External Affairs can be of assistance.

2.5 Board grants

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

2.6 Social media

Usually, the Secretary is responsible for all the social media of the association. However, the thirty-first board divided some tasks differently than previous boards. This division was made between the formal social media Twitter and LinkedIn, and the informal social media Facebook and Instagram. Twitter and LinkedIn are the responsibility of the Commissioner of External Affairs and Facebook and Instagram remain the responsibility of the Secretary. The Secretary creates the media planning, and this is available for the entire board at all time. This way, all board members can always check what will be posted on which day and help with suggestions for future planning. During the weekly board meetings, this media planning is always discussed to make sure that everyone is up to date.

The Secretary writes most of Babylon's social media content but is sometimes aided by other board members and/or committee members. For example, the descriptions of Facebook events are often written by the organising committees themselves. This makes sure that texts are always complete, correct and that these descriptions are varied. The board noticed that all committees found it satisfactory to write their own texts. It is still always the task of the Secretary (and/or the Chair) to check and, if necessary, improve or correct all communicative expressions. Before posting messages on social media, the text or post is always sent in the board WhatsApp group, so that the entire board is able to check them. Unfortunately, flaws and/or grammatical errors still occur at times. Often, members of the board or Advisory Board notice these fairly quickly, after which they are corrected as soon as possible.

The thirty-first board continued the use of the private Babylon Facebook group. This group is used to share all event, send reminders and communicate about other Babylon related matters. A week before every event, a reminder is posted in this Facebook group. This way, Babylon's events gain more awareness. All members of the thirty-first board added as many (new) Babylon members as possible, to make sure that all members can be part of this group. When Babylon members cancel their membership, the board does not remove them from the Facebook group. If they wish to leave the group, they are always welcome to do so themselves. This decision was made, because old members are still occasionally interested in events. If they would like to go to events that are also open for non-members, they will have to pay the non-member price.

The thirty-first board also uses the social media platform Instagram frequently. At the moment of writing, the Babylon Instagram page has 594 followers and keeps on growing. The Instagram feed consists of pictures of activities, (new) sticker deals, the members of the month, etc. The thirty-first board also uses many Instagram stories to show pictures or videos of activities and to promote these activities. The thirty-first board tried to focus more on Instagram this year, since the amount of people with a Facebook account is decreasing. This means that the importance of other social media, like Instagram, increases. Other used social media are LinkedIn and Twitter. As earlier mentioned, the Commissioner of External Affairs is responsible for these two formal social media. He keeps both the Twitter and LinkedIn pages up to date and tries to regularly post vacancies and interesting posts for (former) CIS-students. Vacancies that are posted are often received via email from companies that are looking for new employees or interns. These same vacancies are also posted on the website, to make sure that everyone can always easily find and access them. Up until now, most posts and vacancies have not received massive responses, but the numbers of responses keeps growing.

The thirty-first board continued the use of the 'Dutch follows English' principle. This is used on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. On Instagram, only English is used. The monthly newsletter still has a Dutch and an English version. The board does not yet want to switch completely to 'English only' on all Babylon's social media, because the majority of our members are still Dutch and Babylon is still a Dutch study association. Eventually, the board thinks that it is possible to switch to English only in the future, but that is simply not necessary yet. In addition, the board made English the main language for the new website. Users can still switch to the Dutch version of the site by clicking on a little Dutch flag. This was done to make international students feel more welcome in Babylon. The thirty-first board believes that international students appreciate the fact that the website's main language is English more than Dutch members might possibly find it annoying that they have to actively switch it to Dutch.

2.7 Website

The thirty-first board was advised to create a new website, since the current one does not meet the expectations of performance and visual presentation. It was the Treasurer's task to coordinate the development of the website. The thirty-first board was advised by the thirtieth board to contact a website developer, who agreed to develop the new Babylon website. After the Financial General Member Meeting, the thirty-first board planned to launch the website at the start of October. Unfortunately, due to lack of experience in creating a new website of the thirty-first board, they failed to make strict rules with the developer about due date of the website. This has resulted in a strong delay in the launching date. Also, not having a very clear idea of what the thirty-first board exactly wanted in terms of visuals, functionality etc. caused this delay. The thirty-first board aims to launch the website as soon as possible. At the moment of writing this report, the website (www.babylonnijmegen.nl) is in its very final developing stage and only a proper spell-check is needed. Even though the process of developing and launching has been a real

struggle, the new website will be something Babylon can last on for at least multiple years. The developer designed the website in a way that even inexperienced editors can edit the website easily. On top of that, the Secretary and Treasurer will create a script that will serve as a guide to help the future boards in maintaining the website and if desirable, edit.

The current website, www.svbabylon.nl, will be cleared of all content and will have a pop-up message that redirects visitors to the new website. This also means that the email addresses of the board members as well as the committees will change. Instead of @svbabylon.nl, the email addresses will end with @babylonnijmegen.nl.

The website developer has agreed to remain available in future years if a technical problem will occur. The server that Babylon has been using for the past years (Antagonist B.V.) will no longer be used. Due to the development of the new website, Babylon made the switch to Smallhold B.V. as its server. This change does not necessarily have anything to do with a lack of performance from Antagonist, but Smallhold is more affordable and familiar to our website developer. In addition, they are available at all times for questions, which already has been useful to the thirty-first board.

For the financial report of the website, please see paragraph 5.1.2 [website]. Here are the estimated costs, as well as the final costs mentioned, along with the various reasons for the eventual price.

3. Chair

3.1 General tasks and responsibilities

The main task of the Chair is to carry ultimate responsibility for everything that is organised and published under the name of Babylon. Besides that, he leads and coordinates the board and Babylon in general. One of the main tasks of the Chair is to lead the weekly board meetings. In the first semester, these meetings took place every Tuesday. It has happened that, because of personal circumstances or board-related events, the board meeting had to be rescheduled. When this happened, the Chair made sure that the meeting would take place as close to Tuesday as possible, so the weekly meetings would not occur shortly after each other. In addition, almost all the meetings have been attended by the entire board. When this was not the case, the board member who was not present provided updates by text or through Facetime. The meetings are going well, however, the Chair thinks that he can still improve the efficiency of some board meetings by making sure everyone stays focused. The agenda is usually uploaded a day before the meeting in order to give the other board members enough time to prepare themselves for the meeting.

Another task of the Chair is to monitor all the activities organised by Babylon's committees. He is doing this by reading through the minutes of all the committees and by talking to the specific coordinator of the committee. Overall, this went well, but he could have been more on top of certain activities. The Chair will make sure this will happen in the second semester.

Besides that, the Chair attended all the General Member Meetings of SOFv and LETO together with the Commissioner of Internal Affairs or the Treasurer. He also gave a couple of speeches during the Orientation Week and at the ceremonies for the Bachelor and propedeutical degree. A representation of the board of Babylon was present at all these ceremonies, except for one Bachelor ceremony. The cause of this absence was miscommunication between the board and the study advisor about the location.

3.2 International Committee

The thirty-first board created the International Committee in order to help the international students of CIS integrate in the Netherlands and Babylon and to increase the number of international members in the association. The committee consists of five international members and two Dutch members. Unfortunately, one international member decided to quit in November due to her busy schedule. Luckily, the board was able to replace her immediately with another international member who had applied for this committee in the beginning of the year, but unfortunately did not get in. She did not get in at first, because there was only one more spot available and many people applied. The four tasks of the International Committee, as mentioned in the Policy Plan of the thirty-first board, are to advise the board about the process of internationalisation, to organise information sessions for international members, to organise the monthly free lunches at the Babylon room and to organise two additional activities that have something to do with international events.

The International Committee had a strong beginning with the organisation of the Information Session for international students. Eleven international students attended this session, where they received information about studying, working and living in the Netherlands. This Information Session was found useful by the attendees. In addition to this session, a Facebook group for international members was created. More about this Facebook group can be found later in this paragraph. The second activity organised by the International Committee, in collaboration with the Committee of Informal Activities, was the Meet & Greet. Approximately 70 members attended this activity, 15 of which were international. The thirty-first board received a lot of positive feedback about this activity from both international and Dutch members. The Worldwide Fright Night was the third

activity organised by this committee. During this evening, 30 Babylon members watched a horror movie together. The initial idea was to organise a ghost trail, but at the last moment this seemed too hard to organise. The feasibility of an activity has to be checked earlier in the organisation process, to make sure that no drastic changes have to be made to the activity at the last moment. Although the movie choice could have been better, the movie night was seen as a success. Many members mentioned that they liked the idea of a relaxed movie night with friends.

Although the activities of the International Committee have been positively evaluated, the goal of the committee has not been carried out to its full extent. For that reason, the International Committee and the thirty-first board decided that a change had to be made. The committee came up with the following mission and vision: *'Our main goal is to organise activities in order to help international students integrate more easily in Babylon and in the Netherlands. We would like to show that we are an internationally oriented study association. In order to accomplish this, we need more dedication and use the Facebook group more frequently. In addition, personal contact is also one of the key elements of accomplishing this.'* This means that all activities of the International Committee need to help the international members integrate in Babylon and the Netherlands. Dutch lessons, cooking or tasting Dutch food, visiting museums about Dutch culture, etc. are all examples of activities that the committee could organise.

The International Committee is also organising unofficial Babylon events. The focus of these activities is on the international students, but everyone who would like to is allowed to participate. Activities as such are city trips, *Carnaval*, game nights, etc. These activities will be promoted via the Facebook group for international students in Babylon. This Facebook group was made in the beginning of the year to create a platform where international members of Babylon can contact each other. Currently, it is mostly used to promote these unofficial events. Activities that have been promoted in this Facebook group so far are a game night, a city trip to Maastricht and the *Kuukse kroegentocht*. Only a few people came to the game night and it can therefore be seen as not very successful. The city trip to Maastricht, however, was very successful. A group of seventeen people, including a few members of the committee, visited Maastricht in December. Many attendees were positive about this city trip and because of this success, the committee is planning on having another city trip in the second semester. The location will be chosen by the international students themselves via a poll in the Facebook group. The *Kuukse kroegentocht* has not taken place yet, but a few international members have already signed up.

The thirty-first board is also planning on giving the International Committee a more prominent role in the Orientation Week. The Committee will create a letter about the existence of the International Committee and this letter will be sent to the international students that will sign up for the Orientation Week. It will contain information about living and studying in Nijmegen and the email address of the committee will be mentioned. This way, the international participants of the Orientation Week will be able to ask the International Committee questions.

Since this year, the International Committee organises the free monthly lunches. In the first semester, they have organised four lunches with another theme every month. Mexican, German, Vietnamese and Italian lunches have already been organised. Many people showed up at these lunches and they were positive about most of them. Unfortunately, the thirty-first board noticed that people still speak too much Dutch during the lunches. The board believes that this is one of the reasons that not many international members show up. More attention will be paid to this matter in the second semester and the thirty-first board hopes that more international members will join because of that.

3.3 Prom Committee

This year, the Prom will, again, be organised in collaboration with the study associations Postelein, BOW and Mundus. The Prom Committee consists of three members of each associations: two regular members and one board member. The Prom will take place on 19 February from 8.30 p.m. until 1.30 a.m. at De Waagh. The theme is 'a lovely night', referring to Valentine's Day. In total, 450 tickets are available of which 113 are reserved for Babylon. The tickets include access to the Prom and unlimited access to beer, wine, sodas and vodka plus two rounds of snacks. The price is €27,50 for members of one of the four associations and €32,50 for non-members. All members are allowed to buy a maximum of two tickets. The atmosphere at the Prom Committee meetings is always good and everything goes according to schedule.

This year, a shared Instagram account was created for the promotion of the Prom. The account is called @promnight2020 and is managed by four people of the committee; one of every association. The purpose of the account is to promote the Prom in the best possible way. Many stories and posts can be published without bothering the media planning of the different associations. This way, the Prom could be promoted early and the members of the four associations stay up to date about everything that concerns the Prom.

3.4 Application Committee

The thirty-first board created the Application Committee to make sure that the application procedure of the thirty-second board will be fair and unbiased. Therefore, the committee consists of two current Babylon board members, one former board member, one member of the advisory board and one external board member of a different association. The two current board members are the Chair and the Vice-Chair. The Application Committee has met once so far, and that meeting was useful. It has been decided that the Application Committee will not be concerned with the promotion but will only carry out the actual application procedure. This includes reading all the applications, conducting the application interviews and giving a strong recommendation about the thirty-second board. The thirty-first board will eventually choose the thirty-second board based on the recommendations of the Application Committee.

The meeting of the Application Committee also led to new ideas for the promotion of a board year in Babylon. Next to the Instagram posts, the mouth-to-mouth promotion and the Board Interest lunch, the thirty-first board will organise an open board meeting for everyone who is interested in applying for the next board. During this open board meeting, the thirty-first board will discuss the topics that are relevant to that time of the year. This way, possible candidates will get a better insight in what it means to be a board member.

4. Secretary

4.1 Tasks and responsibilities

The general tasks of the Secretary are, among others, managing the member administration, the (e)mail, the associations' website and all social media. Another important task of the Secretary is to write the minutes of all weekly board meetings and General Member Meetings and to distribute them. The position is quite time-consuming, but the Secretary is overall happy with how he handled all these different tasks. Admittedly, there were some hiccups in the beginning of the academic year, and he had to find his way through all these different tasks, but after that it went better. For example, in the beginning of the year, he sometimes had some trouble with distributing the minutes in time to the Advisory Board and to his fellow board members (these should be sent to both parties within 48 hours after each meeting). Also, the social media could and should have been handled better in the beginning of the year. This will, together with his other tasks and responsibilities, be further explained and discussed in the following paragraphs.

4.2 The member file

The thirty-first board continued the use of the programme 'Conscribo' for the member administration. The Secretary is responsible for making sure that the member administration is complete and up to date. This includes subscribing and unsubscribing members. Students who are ordering books via StudyStore are referred to the website of Babylon to subscribe. This solved the problem that the board has encountered in previous years that only the names and email addresses of students that signed up for Babylon via the StudyStore website were visible. The Secretary encountered some difficulties after sending all members an email about the annual membership fee. Several people emailed the Secretary mentioning that they had already signed out (sometimes claiming this had already been a problem for a few years). A few of these people also added proof of previous email contact with former Secretaries. After correspondence with these people, all people that wanted to unsubscribe were signed out, and a few of them had the subscription fee refunded.

4.3 Minutes

It is the responsibility of the Secretary to write the minutes at the Board Meetings and at the General Member Meetings. The Secretary must write, archive and distribute the minutes as soon as possible after each meeting (within 48 hours after board meetings). As mentioned earlier, the Secretary sometimes had difficulties sending the minutes in time to the Advisory Board as well as his fellow board members. After the first few weeks, however, this has improved, and it has only happened a few more times.

4.4 (E)mail

Babylon uses the programme 'Roundcube' for their official email accounts and each board member has their own email account. The thirty-first board continued to use the new email addresses that the thirtieth board created. No difficulties were encountered in the last half year with these email addresses. This year, however, the email addresses will change again, because of the change of the website (see paragraph 2.7). To send emails to larger groups, the Secretary uses the programme 'Mailchimp'. This programme is also used to design and distribute 'the Babel', Babylon's monthly newsletter. The thirty-first board will continue to use Mailchimp after the change of website. The Secretary has not encountered any difficulties using either Roundcube or Mailchimp.

For physical mail, Babylon has a mailbox on the fourth floor of the Erasmus Building. The Secretary regularly checks this mailbox. However, the use of physical mail continues to decline. Most mail Babylon received this year were invitations to the constitution drinks of other associations and internal mail of the Faculty of Arts of the Radboud University.

4.5 Website and social media

In the last six months, the Secretary faced some difficulties with the current website of the association. The biggest problem is the fact that the website runs on outdated software. This software is only possible to update by paying large amounts or not at all. Another problem that occurred is that the English version of the website is not available because of these software issues. That is why the thirty-first board is currently only able to update the Dutch version of the website. To make sure that all new information is still available to all members, all signup forms and information about activities is published in English on the Dutch version of the site. To make sure that this is not too confusing, direct links to these signup forms were used in all communication about these activities so that everyone could still find and understand them. Because of these issues, among others, the thirty-first board is busy creating a new website. More information about this new website can be found in paragraph 2.7.

In contrast to previous years, the thirty-first board made a distinction between the formal and informal social media. More information about this matter can be found in paragraph 2.6.

As mentioned in paragraph 4.1, the Secretary had some struggles with maintaining the social media in a correct way. These issues included, among others, punctuation, spelling and sometimes format issues. These were discussed with the rest of the board and with the Advisory Board, and they have definitely improved over time. Occasionally, the social media could still be better, but the Secretary keeps improving his skills to make sure that the social media is at its best.

4.6 Final editing of the Babylon magazine

The Secretary of the thirty-first board is the coordinator of the Publication Committee and the Graphic Design Committee and therefore responsible for the Babylon Magazine, following the policy of the thirtieth board. The thirty-first board will advise the thirty-second board to think about this division thoroughly, because the role of Secretary is already very busy. The November edition of the Babylon Magazine was extremely late, due to struggles with the previous committees and BladNL (the company that prints all the magazines). This does not live up to the professional identity Babylon would like to carry out and the Secretary will continue to do his utmost best to make sure that all other magazines will be on time.

4.7 Publication Committee

The Publication Committee of 2019-2020 consists of 4 members, which is less than previous years, but still sufficient. The quality of the articles written by the committee is very good, which makes it easier for the Secretary to coordinate this committee. The committee members, together with the Secretary, always check each other's articles for errors and possible (spelling) mistakes. The committee members also help each other with suggestions for each other's articles. Before the articles are sent to the Graphic Design Committee, they are checked one last time by all board members, to ensure that the committee did not oversee any mistakes. This way, it is unlikely that errors are missed. Because of some problems with the printing and distribution of the November edition of the Babylon Magazine, the first edition of the 2019-2020 committee was planned for February instead of the end of January. This edition is, at the time of writing, in the final stages and will be delivered to all members soon. This year, the thirty-first board cancelled the blogs that were part of the website. This was done because of multiple reasons. One of these reasons being that last year, the blogs were more neglected because of time issues of the committee. Since the committee is even smaller this year, the focus has been put

on the magazine itself. Another reason was that the results of the end of year survey conducted by the thirtieth board, showed that very few members read these blogs. An idea of the thirty-first board is to post some articles or the complete Babylon magazines on the new website when it is finished.

4.8 Graphic Design Committee

The Graphic Design Committee of 2019-2020 consists of 7 members, which makes it considerably larger than last years. Not all members of the committee have experience in graphic design and only two members have experience in InDesign (which is used to design the Babylon Magazine). That is why all members that could, went to the Photoshop Workshop that the board organised earlier this academic year. Also, two members, together with the Secretary, went to an InDesign workshop that SOFv organised earlier this academic year. The thirty-first board is very pleased with the overall quality that the committee has shown so far. The committee and the board have also received multiple compliments about the graphic design which has been published on Babylon's social platforms.

5. Treasurer

5.1 Budget

A budget for 2019-2020 was made at the start of the academic year. It consists both the general budget and the several committee budgets, based on previous years. This year, Babylon has more revenue than the years before. This has to do with new sponsor deals Babylon has made last year. As of January 2020, the budget is still in positive results. Due to some extra revenue from the Orientation Week 2019, the budget is more positive than expected at first. All committees are financially healthy and there are no committees with significant financial issues. In the following paragraphs, the most important/relevant revenue and expenditures, the contact with committee treasurers, payment methods, the Study Trip Committee and the merchandise will be discussed. Possible future investments will be mentioned as well.

5.1.1 Revenue

- Member contribution

The annual contribution is one of Babylon's most important sources of revenue. At the start of November 2019, an email was sent to all members about the collection of the annual contribution. This email stated that the money would be collected from the member's bank account by direct debit. This direct debit was partly executed successfully. Around 30 members reversed the entry, often accompanied with a complaint email. These members sometimes referred to old correspondence between them and a former Secretary or Treasurer about their cancellation of membership. The thirty-first board contacted these members and decided to return the contribution if the person had a valid reason. Furthermore, by sending the email of contribution collection, many members desired to cancel their membership. They paid the contribution but are from this year on no longer a Babylon member. Besides, the direct debit failed for around 25-30 members for several reasons, such as a low balance on their bank account, invalid IBAN numbers and other administrative problems. These members have been contacted in December 2019 by email to inform them that a second direct debit would take place later that month. This worked out for the larger part of the group, however, there were still some members whose collection did not come through. They were contacted at the start of February 2020. Because the number of membership cancellations, the amount of annual contribution in the budget was not entirely correct and has been corrected.

- Contribution of the Department board of CIS

The Department of Communication and Information Studies contributes to Babylon every year. This contribution amounts to €1500,- and is meant to help Babylon to organise its largest formal events: the Congress and the Career Event. As of the time of writing, both committees responsible for these events are financially stable and have sufficient money to organise their events. There has been some trouble claiming this contribution, since the Department Board was confusing different payment moments with each other. At first, they did not want to pay the contribution since they thought the thirtieth board already made a claim to it. This was not the case and in collaboration with the former Treasurer this misunderstanding has been cleared.

5.1.2 Expenditure

- Constitution drink

The constitution drink of the thirty-first board took place at Club van Buren. The thirtieth board introduced one free drink instead of two free drinks for the guests. Since this was financially very attractive, the thirty-first board proceeded with this policy. The costs were estimated to be €700,-. However, the total costs of the constitution drink were €586,50.

- Website

This year, Babylon has been busy creating a new website. The new website is www.babylonnijmegen.nl and is almost ready to launch officially. More information about the process can be found in paragraph 2.7. At first, the thirty-first board was advised about the costs of the website by both the Advisory Board and the thirtieth board. Based on this advice, the Treasurer estimated the costs for the new website to be approximately €700,-. The thirty-first board got in contact with a website developer, recommended by the thirtieth board. He was willing to develop the website for Babylon. His quotation was €1250,- and he specified how much time was needed for each component. After informing interested parties at the Financial General Member Meeting, the thirty-first board decided to proceed with him, and agreed to the €1250,-. Eventually, the total amount paid for the website is €1580,- due to some bugs. Also, the transfer of all the information from the current website into the new website took more time than anticipated. Besides, the €1250,- was an estimated offer and was not final. This was a known fact for the board. The website developer has made the website very accessible, so future boards can edit the website very easily. Even though the website costs Babylon more than anticipated, this is a luxury that will be very valuable for the future.

- Camera

Since the camera of Babylon is in such a bad state, the thirty-first board has been exploring options for a new camera. There is a shortlist of 2 models the thirty-first board is interested in buying. The only obstacle would be financial resources. Due to extra revenue from the Orientation Week 2019 and the Ski Trip 2020, the board has the financial resources to fund a new camera.

5.2 Contact with committee treasurers

At the start of the academic year, the treasurer trainings took place. The Treasurer met with each committee treasurer individually to explain a budget, how to implement this in Microsoft Excel and their estimated revenue and expenditures. The trainings were short, but it was useful to have a face to face meeting with all the treasurers. Last year, the Treasurer suggested to make a treasurer handbook with all information needed. The Treasurer has decided to create such a document for his successor. After the training, all committee treasurers have received a starting budget, so they could start off with their committee financials. The Treasurer regularly checks in with the committee treasurers to insure they keep track of each financial development within their committees.

5.3 Bookkeeping

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

5.4 Payment methods

It has been decided that the thirty-first board will work with four payment methods this year. First of all, cash will be used for cheap activities. Secondly, payments by debit card/iZettle are possible for activities that cost more than €5,-. Direct debits are used for the contribution, Study Trip, Ski Trip, and activities with online registration. However, the Treasurer started experimenting with the use of payment requests via WhatsApp. The pros are no transaction costs, which iZettle does have. In addition, everyone has a mobile banking app these days and it is also very easy to use for both parties and for the bookkeeping. With a limit of €750,-, payment requests can be used for any kind of activity.

The only (large) downside to payment requests in the Netherlands is that most international students cannot use these payment links. The thirty-first board fixed this problem with either texting the IBAN of Babylon or by using direct debit. The new website will have iDEAL, which will enable members to pay directly on the website for merchandise or activities.

5.5 Study Trip Committee

This year's study trip will go to Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia. The trip will last for 8 days and will be from 25 April to 3 May. Forty students (including the board and the Study Trip Committee) and two lecturers are joining the trip to form a total of 42 participants. In the beginning, the committee had some struggles with finding the right location for the Study Trip. At first, the committee wanted to visit a country in Asia. However, this was not possible due to the price or other causes. After the eventual location had been found, the committee started working really hard to create a fun and educational programme for this trip. The committee aims for a total of five formal activities (university visits, consulate visits and company visits). The costs of the study trip are €700,- per person. Due to fluctuating prices and a few activities that have not been completely confirmed yet, there is a possibility that a few euros will be added to this price (maximum of €5,-). People who have not yet received the Student Life grant (formerly called the SNUF-grant) only pay €600,-. This year, Babylon will receive a subsidy from the Faculty of Arts which can vary from €5,- to €50,- per person. This subsidy is yet to be requested, which means the specific number is yet unclear. As discussed in the Policy Plan, Babylon will not receive the variable subsidy from the faculty this year. This variable subsidy is only granted once every two years and is only granted if the study trip goes to an English-, Spanish-, German- or French-speaking country.

5.6 Merchandise

The Treasurer is responsible for the Babylon merchandise. This year, members can order the merchandise online or at the Babylon Room. If the merchandise is ordered online, the money will be collected by direct debit. When the new website will be launched, the members can pay by iDEAL. If the merchandise is ordered at the Babylon Room, the members can pay by debit card with iZettle or with cash. They can also ask for a payment request. The merchandise consists of the following items: Babylon baseball jacket, €25,-; Babylon sweater, €15,-; Babylon socks, €7,-; Babylon cap, €7,-; Babylon Doppet, €10,50; Babylon Shirt, €12,-. This year, not very much merchandise has been sold up until this moment. Two Babylon sweaters, two pairs of Babylon socks, a Babylon Doppet and one Babylon shirt.

6. Commissioner of Internal Affairs

6.1 Consolidate the link between Babylon and the study programme

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs has done her best to improve the contact with the study programme and the lecturers. Since the beginning of the year, she has had regular meetings with student advisor Julia Pick, via whom she timely informed the lecturers of the relevant Babylon activities. To improve and personalise the relationships with lecturers, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs went to the fourth floor of the Erasmus building in the beginning of the year to introduce herself as the new Commissioner of Internal Affairs. She also went by their offices timely to personally invite them to Babylon activities, which boosted positive word-of-mouth about Babylon among lecturers. She believes the contact with the study programme has improved due to the teachers' presence at the Babylon Pub Quiz and the Christmas Dinner and the students' presence at the Open Days. She also made sure every lecturer was informed about the possibility to join the Study Trip and that they all received a reminder for the teacher sign-up deadline. During Babylon activities at which lecturers were present, multiple board members talked with them to ensure the teachers were enthusiastic about the activity as well as Babylon and were in close contact with the board. Also, a Christmas card was delivered to the lecturers and some of the Babylon Magazines were personally delivered to the offices of lecturers that were present at the time. Babylon was present at both the bachelor graduations and the propaedeutical ceremonies. During the Bachelor Graduations, Babylon was given an important role by giving a speech and handing out flowers to the graduates. Unfortunately, there was some miscommunication about the location of the second bachelor graduation, which led to Babylon being late at the ceremony. When the Chair and Commissioner of Internal Affairs arrived, they went to the coffee room to still congratulate the graduates and hand out their flower.

Another step taken to improve the contact with the study programme, is the participation of the Commissioner of Internal Affairs in the Bachelor's Study Programme Committee (OLC), on which will be elaborated next.

6.2 The Study Programme Committee

This year, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs decided to join the Study Programme Committee as full member instead of a shadow member. Firstly, as a signal to the study programme that Babylon actively cares about the quality of the education, which ideally could improve the association's image. And secondly, to get a clearer image of every development in our study programme. Although these two objectives have possibly been reached already, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs should not be the main driving force of the committee. It must be clear that the Commissioner of Internal Affairs is a 'regular' member of this committee and is a member to stay up to date about everything what is going on within the study programme, and does not take place in it specifically as a Babylon (board) member. This way, she avoids any conflict of interest. This year, the committee consists of five lecturers and five students, two of whom stayed abroad the first semester. A sixth student, one that could physically be present at meetings, was brought to the OLC to temporarily fill the student gap. 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 specifically support Babylon's interests.

6.3 Book sales

In August, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs collaborated with Frank van Meurs to compose the booklist for CIS. Babylon still collaborates with StudyStore for its book sale. Contact with StudyStore went smoothly. It was quick and efficient, and it was no problem when changes in their web shop had to be made. StudyStore immediately informed

Babylon when a book unexpectedly was out of stock so that there could be an alternative in time. In close contact with lecturers, all necessary book replacements were resolved. In September, some students got their books a bit late, which has been discussed in a meeting with StudyStore to improve for next year. This year, the Babylon sign-up link was moved to the top of the order page. This is because it did not stand out and could easily be overlooked.

Recently, it came to the Commissioner of Internal Affairs' attention that it was possible for students to order their books with the member discount, without completing their Babylon membership via the link that can be found at that page. This problem will be resolved by placing the book order page on the website behind a user sign-up. This means that all students will have to create an account on Babylon's website, which we can either verify or deny after checking their membership status. This way it is certain that all current Babylon members are also paying their membership fee. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs will also, in collaboration with the Secretary, personally check if all students who ordered their books via Babylon this year are already listed in Conscribo as a member. In case they are not, they will receive an email politely instructing them to do so as soon as possible.

6.4 The Education Committee

This year's Education Committee consists of Dutch members only: IBC and Premaster. The Education Committee has not organised a Babylon activity yet but has done a great job at their other responsibilities which will be discussed later in this paragraph.

At the moment of writing, the Education Committee is working on their next events: The Family Day on 23 April 2020 and the Study Choice Check. They will also soon start preparing for CIS in the Field, which will be organised in September 2020. The Education Committee is also responsible for the Open Days. The committee members have been very helpful during the Open Days, which is good for the relationship between Babylon and the Study Programme, including its lecturers and study advisors. On top of that, the committee is responsible for the Student for a Day programme. The chair of the Education Committee has taken responsibility for the matching system of current students with potential students. Since it was sometimes hard to find master students who are willing to help and have lectures to bring new students to. Therefore, the chair of the committee and the study advisor have decided that master students can also choose to have a drink with the aspiring student to talk about the studies and answer any possible questions.

Since it was a success last year, the goal was to organise more exam preparation hours (or 'study afternoons') for CIS students, to give them a chance to have their remaining questions answered. After multiple great attempts of the committee, they unfortunately had to accept that it was not possible. Lecturers were not willing to be present in an extra 'lecture', since students have had enough time to ask questions in the lectures according to them.

Fortunately, the department is thinking about (and trying out) giving extra seminars closer to the exam. One of these seminars was held on 13 January for philosophical reflection (B2). If students are enthusiastic and seem to find these seminars helpful, they might continue organising them in the future. Until then, the committee will keep trying.

6.5 The Committee of Formal Activities

This year's Committee of Formal Activities consists of 8 Dutch members. During the first semester, the CFA has proudly organised the Pub Quiz, where students and lecturers came together. The Pub Quiz was a big success. The four lecturers that were present said they

really liked it and would like to be there if it will be organised in 2020 as well. The committee is now busy planning a company visit.

The committee had a rough start this year. With eyes on the Pub Quiz, possible companies for a visit were contacted on short notice. Committee members did not seem very motivated and took a long time to send out emails. As a result, it was almost impossible to find companies who were able to prepare for the date we set in advance. Some interested parties were not able to fulfil our wishes, such as communicating in English, which meant further communication was shut down. Also, most companies communicated more slowly than anticipated. All of this came together with the illness of the Commissioner of Internal Affairs, which meant it was more difficult for her to keep a close eye on the progress that was being made in contacting companies. Later, the Chair discovered that committee members had been contacting companies with their personal email, instead of the committee email. This is something the Commissioner of Internal Affairs normally should have noticed as a coordinator, but did not. In December, the committee problems resulted in postponing the first company visit. However, the committee is currently in contact with a well-known company and wishes to make up to Babylon's members by making sure this one will be extra memorable.

However, underestimating the difficulty of organising a company visit has eventually lead to having to cancel one of the company visits. This year's committee will do everything in their power to be able to organise at least one company visit. To prevent the same problems next year, they are also open to the idea of laying some groundwork for a company visit that can be organised by next years' Committee of Formal Activities.

6.6 Summaries

This year, Athena Summary wanted to work together with Babylon for the sale of course summaries. In the beginning of the year, the board decided to not go through with the collaboration. After having spoken to the study advisor, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs concluded that it could jeopardise Babylon's relationship with lecturers, since they would rather have their students write their own summaries and they had negative experiences with summaries that did not match their curriculum well. In addition, there were no real financial benefits for Babylon in this collaboration. Students can still get their summaries there if they like, only now we are not in any way associated with them. This means that Babylon will not be held responsible for any mistakes or lacks in those summaries. The thirty-first board does not regret the decision to reject the cooperation with Athena Summary.

6.7 Alumni

Until now, there has not been any contact with alumni. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs is having trouble finding their LinkedIn groups. When the Education Committee starts organising CIS in the Field, it will be of great importance that CIS graduates are being contacted. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs and the Education Committee will soon start sending invitations to alumni to give them the opportunity to speak during the event. They can also follow Babylon's LinkedIn page to stay up to date about matters that might interest them.

6.8 Personal health

During this past year, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs obtained a physical health problem, preventing her from being present at every activity. During the second semester, it became clear that she needed to rest. The board therefore decided it was not mandatory for her to be present at activities, whenever she felt she could not do it. In the course of the month January, all board members agreed to let the Education Committee be coordinated by the Treasurer, and the Committee of Formal Activities coordinated by the

Chair. This decision was made to give the Commissioner of Internal Affairs the time and space to recover without any pressure from additional board tasks. However, she kept attending as many board meetings as possible, kept up with the board email and continued her tasks within the Study Programme Committee and other possible board tasks that could be done from home.

7. Commissioner of External Affairs

7.1 Sponsors

Babylon's deal with Rabobank has remained intact for this year. Babylon is also still delivering trainees, which is a promising fact for their potential future sponsoring. It can, however, not be said with certainty that Rabobank will continue their sponsoring after this academic year, since they cannot make any promises about this.

Due to efforts by the Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirtieth board, the deal with De Waagh has been intensified. They now offer more money for the activities Babylon will organise in collaboration with them. The communication between Babylon and De Waagh has been very pleasant so far. The Commissioner of External Affairs has frequent contact with the owner of De Waagh and trusts the pleasant relationship will continue.

Five new collaborations have been established, and the Commissioner of External Affairs is in advanced talks with Domino's. The five new relations are UniPartners, Popocatepetl, Chidoz, Escape Boot Nijmegen and Tappers. The details of these collaboration are mentioned in paragraph 1.4.2.

7.2 Sponsor training

Each sponsor member of Babylon's committees has received a sponsor training along with a small sponsor guide, and all members of the Orientation Week Committee will receive a training as well. In this guide they can find the important matters that were mentioned during their training and some tips to keep in mind. The focus of the sponsor training was mainly on the correct way of approaching the different types of sponsors. Many aspects are common knowledge to an extent, but the board considers it a necessary jog of memory. This training has been successful so far. For example, the sponsor members of the Sports Committee once again made a successful arrangement with the Coop for the sponsored food packages of the Ski Trip.

7.3 Career Committee

The Career Committee has been working hard to arrange the workshop in the first semester, the workshop(s) in the second semester and of course the Career Event. The main preparations for the Career Event have been finished. It will take place on 5 March 2020 at De Waagh. Speakers, the location and consumptions have all been arranged. The committee will use the rest of the time they have to create promotion materials, find things to add to the goodie bags that the Rabobank will provide and prepare a business gift for the speakers.

The Photoshop workshop in the first semester was relatively successful, although there was a setback. The arranged teacher did not prepare the workshop in English, even though this was agreed upon. She did speak German, and the only present internationals were German, so she gave them personalised help. The downsides of her not speaking English were therefore minimalised, but it is important to keep in mind that a guarantee for speaking English is needed for future workshops.

7.4 Congress Committee

This year, the Congress Committee will organise the National Day of Communication together with Mycelium. This event will replace the Congress this year and will take place on 7 May 2020. The general theme of the day will be 'Media Connects'. The location for the event will be theatre hall 'C' in the Elinor Ostrom Building. The workshops will also be in the Elinor Ostrom Building. Although some progress has been made, there is a lot left to do with the committee. A reason for this is that it took a long time to concretise a theme.

The Commissioner of External Affairs is planning several one-on-one meetings with Mycelium's Chair to speed up developments.

7.5 Membership benefits

The board is happy to announce that they have added four new sticker deals to the list of membership benefits, in the form of Tappers, Chidoz, Popocatepetl and Escape Boot Nijmegen. The board will monitor the use of these sticker deals and nurture the newly established relationships.

Another very likely addition to the list of membership benefits will be Domino's. Every member of Babylon will receive their own discount card which they can use to order pizzas at a discount. This deal will be a great addition to the association, since it offers members of Babylon the benefit of ordering at a discount, while simultaneously offering financial gain for Babylon, since 5% of the net worth of all orders Babylon members make will go to the association.

The existing sticker deals have all been evaluated and extended in the last semester. Fika was the only company that was having some doubts about extending the collaboration, since they felt it was not delivering as much as they had hoped. In the end, they agreed to extend the relationship, if the board agreed to have lunch there.

7.6 Vacancy policy

The board has noticed that there has been a greatly increased amount of occasions where companies asked the association to share job openings with them. In response, the Commissioner of External Affairs has drafted a preliminary policy on the matter. This policy gives companies several advertising options which can be seen below.

- **Package A. €30,-:** Posting the vacancy on the website and LinkedIn once.
- **Package B. €50,-:** Posting a vacancy for the company on the website and on LinkedIn. The company may post a second vacancy on LinkedIn at a later time.
- **Package C. €75,-:** Posting a vacancy for the company on the website, LinkedIn and Facebook. Facebook is in most cases the most attractive medium for sharing vacancies.
- **Package D. €100,-:** Posting a vacancy for the company on the website, LinkedIn and Facebook. The company may post a second vacancy on these media at a later time.

The policy has only recently been implemented but has already yielded some rewards. Injectables has agreed to pay a sum of €100,- for posting a vacancy.

8. Commissioner of Activities

The main task of the Commissioner Activities is to coordinate his committees. These four committees and their corresponding activities will be discussed extensively. Besides the committees, the year planning, the committee market and contact with the Molenstraat will be discussed.

8.1 Year planning

The Commissioner of Activities was responsible for making the year planning of all activities of Babylon. He strived to find the right balance between informal and formal activities and to plan the right amount of activities. Besides that, the aim was to make an even distribution of activities throughout the year, so that all months offer roughly the same amount of activities (except for the months with exam weeks or holidays). Until now, the attendance of most activities has been great, which probably means that the distribution of activities has been adequate. The thirty-first board received some complaints about the balance between formal and informal activities. In the first semester, there were too many informal and too few formal activities. This is due to the cancellation of the company visit and the study afternoons, which were a big part of our formal activities. This balance will most likely be restored in the second semester with extra workshops. This year, some new activities were introduced, like the Meet and Greet, organised by the International Committee and the Committee of Informal Activities and the Pieten Olympics, organised by the Committee of Informal Activities. Both activities were well-visited and can be considered a success.

8.2 Committee market

Furthermore, the Commissioner of Activities has been responsible for organising the Committee Market. Due to the renovation of the Erasmus Building, the event could not take place in the Erasmus Hall, where it used to take place in previous years. Therefore, like last year, the Commissioner of Activities organised the Committee Market in the hall of EOS, which was once again a good alternative. The Committee Market was very well-visited and resulted in enough applications to fill all committees. Ninety-four members signed up for a committee, of which 91 members were enrolled in a committee. Thirteen of them were pre-master students and twelve were international students, resulting in five of the thirteen committees having at least one international member. Three members wanted to join the International Committee, but there was not enough space in the International Committee for them. A place in other committees was offered to them, but they did not want to join another committee.

8.3 Contact with the Molenstraat

The Commissioner of Activities has been responsible for all the contact with the managers of the bars at the Molenstraat and other cafés. He 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. The general BaMyPo and Inglorious contracts stayed the same. The only change is that all Inglorious parties will take place at Drie Gezusters. However, the general Molenstraat contract changed quite a bit. Babylon will get a discount of €4,- per person on the Barbeque during the Orientation Week; the price will go from €5,- to €1,-. Babylon will also get a free Barbeque at the end of the year. A mix drink for €3,- and a shot for €2,- can be selected for each *borrel*. More information on the activities in the Molenstraat can be found in the following paragraph. The contact with the Molenstraat has been going smoothly. The managers of Van Buren, El Sombrero and Malle Babbe are very easy to contact and they always respond quickly to WhatsApp messages or phone calls. Especially the contact with the Malle Babbe has been, and still is, very smooth. Since October, there has been a new manager, Frank. He responds very quickly to texts or calls and is willing to help with all the ideas of the committee and he often comes up with ideas of his own.

8.4 Committee of Informal Activities

The Committee of Informal Activities consists of seven first-year students and one second-year student of Communication and Information Studies. Unfortunately, one member left the committee in the beginning of the academic year due to personal reasons. This member was not replaced because the committee already had one member more than the year before. At the time of writing, the committee has already organised three *borrels*, themed: Expedition Babylon *Borrel*, Till Death Do Us Party *Borrel* and the Not So Silent Night *Borrel*, of which especially the first two were very successful. The other *borrel* was also well-visited, but less than the first two. People showed up later, which might be due to the football matches that were broadcasted on the same day. Usually, the football matches will be aired during the *borrel*. However, it was decided to not broadcast the game during this *borrel*, since it could scare off members who came to the *borrel* immediately after the Christmas Dinner.

Next to the special discounts, members of Babylon are able to enjoy a glass of wine for €2,50, a small beer for €1,20 and a meter of beer for only €12,- during the monthly *borrels*. There have been no problems with these discounts so far. To help the visitors of the *borrel* remember the deals, we made a price list at the last *borrel*. This resulted in higher sales for the discount drinks. Furthermore, the committee is allowed to spend €5,- on decorations for each *borrel*.

Other than the monthly *borrels*, the Committee of Informal Activities is responsible for the organisation of the BaMyPo and Inglorious parties. Two members of the Committee of Informal Activities participate in the BaMyPo sub-committee. However, all committee members have been present at the BaMyPos and helped with the door shifts and decorating. Only the first edition, BaMyPopstar, has taken place so far. Despite some problems with deals in the beginning of the evening, the party was a success. A lot of members showed up and they had a good time.

This year, all the Inglorious parties will take place at Drie Gezusters. The communication with the manager of the Drie Gezusters, Shayan, goes very smoothly. However, during the first edition of this year, the IGLorious party, there were a lot of problems with some of the agreements. Shayan did not communicate all the agreements with the person in charge that night. Fortunately, most problems were solved on the night itself. All problems have been discussed in a meeting with the manager and will hopefully be solved before the next Inglorious party.

Furthermore, the Committee of Informal Activities has organised the Karaoke Night, The Pieten Olympics and the Christmas Dinner. The Karaoke Night took place at Partycafé Nooit Meer Naar Huus. They opened up the place and offered special discounts for this activity. This was the second Karaoke night by Babylon, unfortunately it was not as successful as last year. The low attendance of this activity could be the result of the activity being relatively close to the exam week and also because of a party the day before, which was attended by a lot of members.

The Pieten Olympics was an alternative version of a Beer Olympics. It was decided to make the activity as cheap as possible, because there were already a lot of expensive activities during that period. Instead of a Beer Olympics with beer included, the Committee of Informal Activities decided to provide one consumption per participant. This paid off, because 34 members participated. This activity is very flexible and not that hard to organise, so it could be a good activity for upcoming years.

The location of the Christmas Dinner this year was, again, De Waagh. The Committee

arranged a three-course meal with two drinks included. The costs were €25,- per person, which was slightly more expensive than last year. However, 55 members signed up and even a lecturer joined.

The preparations for the DIESweek are almost done. During the DIESweek the birthday of Babylon will be celebrated with activities on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The DIESweek will be promoted as a festival line up; in the course of two weeks all activities will be announced and after this the registration will be opened.

8.5 Sports Committee

The Sports Committee consists of a mixture of three first-year students, two second-year student, one fourth-year student and two master students. During the first semester, the Sports Committee was busy organising the annual Ski Trip that took place from 4 January until 11 January 2020. Initially, the Ski Trip would have taken place from 25 January until 1 February. Unfortunately, the trip had to be rescheduled due to some changes in the exam programme. Luckily, this did not affect the costs and the number of members who were able to join. During this week, a few resits were planned. However, due to good promotion, all the available spots were filled within one day. Fortunately, Babylon was able to book eight more spots, which resulted in a total of 43 spots. Although they had some difficulty, the committee was able to fill these 43 spots. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, only 41 members joined the Ski Trip.

The Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirtieth board made a sponsor deal with travel organisation Totally powered by Husk. Because more than 40 people signed up for the trip, Babylon received €10,- per participant in return. Besides that, they sponsored Babylon a free keg of beer, because more than half of the participants hired their ski equipment. In return, Babylon had to place the logo of Totally on all promotion material regarding the Ski Trip and they had to hang up the flag of Totally on two monthly *borrels*. Furthermore, Bascafé and Tappers sponsored all costs of the sweaters. In return for this, the Sports Committee needed to organise the Pre-Ski Trip *Borrel* and an *Après-Ski Trip Borrel* at Tappers or Bascafé. 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 for promotion during the Ski Trip in return.

As mentioned earlier in this paragraph, the Ski Trip took place from 4 January until 11 January 2020 and a group of 41 members joined this trip to Avoriaz. Early in the evening on Saturday 4 January 2020, the group left towards Avoriaz. The group arrived in Avoriaz on Sunday morning. This year, all participants had a six-day skiing pass, which meant that after the arrival, everyone could collect their ski equipment and start their first day of skiing. It is recommended to arrange a six-day skiing pass or to make sure everyone has a skiing pass on the first day, to make sure that no one gets bored on the first day waiting for their rooms to be ready. The Sports Committee organised different activities every evening, such as a lowkey party, a pub crawl, a room pub crawl, and the final theme party named 'Dirty Disney'. On Wednesday, the Sports Committee went to the swimming pool and asked everyone if they wanted to join. Eventually, a group of 21 members joined the trip to the pool. During the room pub crawl, people from different rooms were mixed up in small groups so everyone could meet new people. Especially this activity seemed to be very popular and the committee many positive responses were given afterwards.

The location and apartments were chosen and booked by the previous Sports Committee to reduce the costs of the Ski Trip. However, this year's trip was more expensive than last year's trip. Nevertheless, the fact that the trip was already booked, did take away the stress to find a location immediately after the Sports Committee was formed. Therefore, the current Sport Committee will book next year's Ski Trip as well.

The ski area was large, convenient and beautiful. There were enough different slopes for both beginners and advanced skiers. The accommodation was good; the rooms were relatively spacious, and it was close to all the bars, supermarkets and restaurants. However, some people in the accommodation complained about the noise, especially during the room pub crawl and a few rooms even received warnings. The rooms were made aware of these complaints and they made sure it would not happen again. At the end of the week, everyone got their deposit back.

Overall, the Ski Trip was a great success and both the committee and the board received a lot of positive feedback afterwards. Furthermore, everyone returned home safely. Unfortunately, one member had her skis stolen on the last day, which was a low point of the week. A report was immediately filed with the local police and the problem was further handled by the insurance of the particular member.

Babylon will, unfortunately, not participate in the Batavierenrace this year. The reason for this absence is the Study Trip to Russia that will take place at exactly the same time. However, the Sports Committee will try to fill this gap by organising a bigger activity in May 2020.

8.6 Orientation Week Committee

During last year's Orientation Week, like the previous year, one Weekend Festival was organised instead of the various Orientation Weekends. This Weekend was organised by the university itself. At this festival, all student and study associations could organise different activities. Babylon organised real-life Mario kart again. The activity was well-visited by both Babylon members and non-members. The University decided that there could no longer be activities on the Sunday after the weekend. The Sunday schedule was usually filled with bowling and the award ceremony. The Committee decided to move the bowling to the Monday before the Inglorious party. The award ceremony was moved to the Dinner Show, which was not ideal, but the best option. Because of new sponsorship deals, the fee for the Orientation Week could be reduced from €45,- to €42,-.

This year's Orientation Week committee consists of one first-year student, one second-year student, six third-year students and one fifth-year student. For third-year students who went abroad, the Orientation Week Committee and the Weekend Committee are the only options to become an active member. This explains the large number of third-year students in the committee. The Orientation Week will take place from 16 until 23 August 2020. At the time of writing, the Orientation Week Committee is thinking of possible activities to organise for the Festival and determining the week programme. Like last year, study associations are not allowed to organise activities on the last Sunday anymore. This rule has been made, because new students complain every year that the programme is too busy. Therefore, the bowling will remain on the Monday before the Inglorious party.

8.7 Weekend Committee

The Weekend Committee is one of the new committees that the thirty-first board has created. After the success of the Lustrum Weekend last year, the thirty-first board decided to form the Weekend Committee to organise another weekend. The committee consists of 3 second-year students, two master students and one pre-master student. At the beginning of the year, the committee dedicated their time to finding the location and date of the Babylon Weekend. A suitable location has been found and the Weekend will be organised from 15 May until 17 May 2020. The committee is currently focusing on the programme of the Weekend and on finding sponsors. The cost of the weekend will be a lot lower than last year; the weekend will cost between €40,- and €45,- instead of €65,-. This reduction of cost will be possible by cutting high expenditures like the party bus and bubble football.

8.8 FC Babylon

The interference of the Commissioner of Activities in FC Babylon was very minimum during the first half of the year. A team captain and two social media captains were chosen. This allowed the team to continue to play their games. Unfortunately, there has not been a trial training during the first half year, due to a bit of resistance from the players and not enough perseverance from the Commissioner of Activities. He will try to organise a trial training before the start of the second half of the season.

9. Conclusion

In general, the thirty-first board is content with Babylon's progression in reaching their short-term goals. The board feels they have done everything in their power to connect to Babylon's members and potential new members. In the past half year, the board has been working hard to improve the professionalism of Babylon mainly by creating a new and better working website, and by carefully managing the social media platforms. The board members have also noticed that the image of Babylon has improved among lecturers and companies. To further improve the image among members, the board will work hard to organise more formal activities in the future. The bond between Babylon and external relations has been well maintained and the board will continue the recruitment of sponsors in the coming half year. All the board members look back at the past half year with gratitude and content. Not everything went perfect or according to plan, but the board aims to take in all feedback, positive and negative, to make sure that the second semester will go even better than the first one.