



BABYLON

STUDY ASSOCIATION

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

ACCESSIBLE, AMBITIOUS, PROFESSIONAL

Foreword

This is the semi-annual report of the thirty-second 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 2020-2021.

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 2020-2021, were kept in mind. This report describes to what extent the set objectives have been met and how the thirty-second 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 providing 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.

Maud Weijers	-	Chair
Lieke Verhoofstad	-	Secretary
Sam Helmink	-	Treasurer
Alyce Hoeben	-	Commissioner of Internal Affairs
Renée Christophe	-	Commissioner of External Affairs
Marlon Gerrits	-	Commissioner of Activities

COVID-19

Mentioning COVID-19 is inevitable, as it has and will continue to have a major impact on Babylon. During this academic year, the thirty-second board has already had to cancel several activities, among which the Ski Trip, due to the (inter)national measures taken to limit the further spread of COVID-19. Similarly, it is highly probable that some activities next semester cannot take place in physical form.

It is clear that COVID-19 has brought and will continue to bring along great challenges. Not only the recruitment, but also the bonding of members has been more difficult. However, the thirty-second board managed to find enough members willing to join a committee. Moreover, many activities that would have taken place physically were replaced with an online alternative. Also, the social media was kept updated more and was used more frequently to ensure the bonding and contact with members.

Furthermore, the circumstances and regulations required more creativity and commitment to make sure that various activities were organised, with the aim of maintaining members' interest and commitment to Babylon.

Accordingly, the thirty-second board has tried to stay creative and has tried to think in possibilities rather than limitations and has therefore organised every activity in a manner that was perceived as successful as possible. Moreover, it has been essential for the thirty-second board to ensure the safety of Babylon members and others, as well as to prevent Babylon from suffering from COVID-19 too much. Therefore, the board has observed, and will continue to observe the government regulations and guidelines at all times. Since these have been adjusted regularly, the thirty-second board made sure to always be aware of the latest developments regarding COVID-19. In agreement, the board will continue to always take responsibility and have the final say on every activity organised by Babylon and whether or not to proceed.

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1. Proceedings in long-term goals of Babylon

The thirty-second board has written a Policy Plan at the very beginning of the academic year, which has been approved during the Financial General Member Meeting of 14 September 2020. 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. The board chose not to describe everything in close detail; this will be done in the annual report. The thirty-second board conducted a survey among its members in January 2021. 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. A total number of 57 people completed the survey, of whom 15 were international students. Moreover, there was a representative distribution of all year layers of the study across the respondents; 33% of the respondents were first-year students, little over 25% were second-year students, 18% were third-year students, little under 10% were fourth-year or older students and 13% were (pre-)Master students. Some more results of the survey 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, despite the circumstances and measurements, the thirty-second 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 paragraphs. The thirty-second board is well represented in all year layers of the study programme, since it consists of two fourth-year students, two third-year students and two second-year students. Moreover, three board members are enrolled in the C&O programme and three board members are enrolled in the IBC programme. As already expected on forehand, this was a good composition which sufficiently met the division of students in the entire CIS programme.

1.1.1 Orientation Week

Acquiring new members for the association was especially 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 of the new potential members and already recruit new members. Although the Orientation Week was mostly online, the board joined as many activities as possible. The entire board participated in the Orientation Week: three board members participated as committee members and three as mentor parents. To promote Babylon, the Chair gave a presentation in which she explained the additional value of becoming part of the association and already mentioned and promoted 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.

1.1.2 International members

In accordance with the policies of the previous boards, the thirty-second board continues to try to strengthen the bond between the international members and the association. In order to achieve this, the board has made all activities available for international members. Moreover, the main language for communication of Babylon is British English. Moreover, a total number of 12 international members are part of a committee and thus an active member of Babylon. The International Committee, which was created by the previous board (2019-2020), was also continued and has proven to be rewarding. The International Committee will be further elaborated on in section 7.5.

In order to be able to keep improving the important process of the internationalisation of Babylon, the thirty-second board wants to know the opinion of the international students on certain matters. That is why there were certain questions specifically directed at international students in the semi-annual survey that was distributed. In total, 15 international members filled in the survey and helped the board gain more insight on their view of Babylon. Generally, the responses of the Dutch lessons provided by the International Committee were very positive. Moreover, some of the responses mentioned that the International Committee provided a safe space for the international students and it encouraged them to speak English. They did mention, however, that it would be nicer if everyone spoke English, also in written communication (e.g. in the Active Member group chat).

1.1.3 (Pre-)masters

For a long time, Babylon had difficulties to reach out to and to attract (pre-)master students. However, progress has been made for a couple of years now. Last year, the thirty-first board continued this progress and attracted twenty-four (pre-)master students to become active members. This year, unfortunately, the number of active (pre-)master students is significantly lower than last year. In total, there are nine active (pre-)masters. Similar to previous years, the initial promotion happened during the Orientation Week. As the (pre-)masters were not able to join the Bachelor's Orientation Week, but only had one separate online orientation day this year, there was not as good of an opportunity to promote Babylon and enthuse them about becoming an active member. Still, a full day of activities was organised for the new pre-master students, among which some fun introduction activities organised by the Orientation Week Committee of 2019-2020. Also, a WhatsApp group chat was created and made accessible to all pre-master students interested in joining it. The Commissioner of Activities and a former pre-master student who has been an active member of Babylon were included in the group chat as well, which made it possible to directly address the pre-master students and help them out if necessary. In total, four pre-master students joined a committee in Babylon, as well as five master students (mostly in the Till Committee and Advisory Board). Besides that, some (pre-)masters showed up at online activities every now and then.

1.1.4 Communication tools

- Email

The old email addresses of Babylon (secretaris@svbabylon.nl and secretary@svbabylon.nl) still exist. This was decided because it could be the case that other associations or external

parties still use Babylon's old email addresses. Last year, an email was sent to everyone with the announcement that Babylon has new email addresses. Emails sent to one of the old email addresses are automatically linked to the new email address. The Secretary planned on sending everyone who used Babylon's old email address a reminder to adjust Babylon's contact details in their administration. She found out, however, that it is not directly visible when an email was linked to our new email address. Therefore, she did not send everyone a reminder. Halfway through the first semester, she sent everyone who had sent an email to Babylon's old email addresses an email with the request to put the right contact details of Babylon in their administration. Some parties changed it, but most did not and kept sending emails to the wrong address. In the next semester, the Secretary will send another email to the parties who did not change Babylon's email address to remind them once more.

1.1.5 Active Member Evening

On Thursday 5 November 2020, the first Active Member Evening of this academic year took place. It was very different from the AME in other years, since it had to be online due to the corona crisis. The thirty-second board organised 'I love Holland - Babylon edition', with games from the Dutch TV-show 'Ik hou van Holland'. The active members were divided into six groups and they were then divided into three breakout rooms, with two teams in each breakout room. These two teams had to battle each other in several minigames. All members of the winning group received a limited edition Babylon card deck. There was a good atmosphere during the whole evening and the thirty-second board got a lot of positive responses. Therefore, the AME can be marked as successful. The next Active Member Evening will be organised on 8 March 2021. The intent of the evening remains a secret.

1.1.6 Activities organised by the board

In the beginning of the year, when the committees had not been formed yet, the board was in charge of organising some activities herself. These activities were the first *borrel* (themed: "Let's meet again"), the Meet & Greet and the LinkedIn Workshop. Another activity that would have been organised by the board was joining a live-show of the Dutch TV quiz "Weet Ik Veel". The board received an email with an invitation to join a live-show, which seemed really fun. A Facebook event was created and around 30 people signed up for these shows. The Secretary then emailed back confirming the invitation and mentioning Babylon wanted to join. Unfortunately, the board did not check in advance whether there still were enough spots available in the show and there were not. Therefore, the board decided to cancel the event, which obviously led to disappointment among the members who signed up for this.

The first *borrel* would have taken place physically on Tuesday 15 September at Café Van Buren with 100 members. When the registrations were opened, it only took approximately half an hour for all 100 spots to be filled. Unfortunately, the government measurements changed shortly before the event, and the *borrel* had to be cancelled.

Last year, the Meet & Greet was organised by the International Committee and the Committee of Informal Activities, as it was aimed at connecting the international and Dutch students more. However, this year the board decided to organise the activity herself because not a lot of international students were present last year, which took away the aim of having it organised by the International Committee. The Meet & Greet took place on Tuesday 29 September at Tappers. The intention of the activity was to play some games in small groups of 4 to 5 people and to get to know each other in the beginning of the year. On the day of the event, the government announced new measurements again, indicating

that only 30 people were allowed in any public place. Originally, there were approximately 40 sign-ups, which was thus not allowed anymore. Many people decided to sign out for the event, which resulted in a group of 19 people left. In the end, the event could still take place and it turned out to be a really fun evening.

Lastly, the board organised the LinkedIn Workshop, because the Career Committee was not formed yet. The activity, which took place on Tuesday 6 October, was organised in collaboration with UniPartners, who gave the workshop. The workshop was visited by 26 members, including the board. It was an interesting and educational workshop, although it was not very interactive. This is more difficult through Zoom. The board hopes that the next workshop will be slightly more interactive.

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-second 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. According to the survey, the balance was quite optimal over the last semester. Most of the students thought the variety of (online) activities was sufficient. For example, an online company visit has taken place, CIS in the Field, a workshop, and several informal activities such as an online *borrel*, the annual Pubquiz and the Olympic Winter Games. The thirty-second board strives to maintain this healthy balance in the coming semester. Therefore, the board will continue organising both formal and informal activities.

1.2.2 Professional communication

The thirty-second board has been aiming for professional and well-structured communication to both external and internal parties. The board concedes to the fact that, in the beginning of the academic year, the communication on social media towards members could have been more extensive. After feedback from the Advisory Board, the thirty-second board has made efforts to assure that the social media platforms, and in particular Instagram, were used more frequently, especially during activities. Since then, improvements have been made, and social media have been used more frequently.

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 thirty-second board is particularly satisfied with the use of LinkedIn, which is, as planned in the Policy Plan, being used much more actively than in previous years. The board has also made efforts to review certain activities together with the party that hosted the activity, by contacting them afterwards and asking them for their evaluation.

1.2.3 Maintaining the corporate identity

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

The thirty-second 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-second board obligated all committees to use the same PowerPoint lay-out in all presentations in order to maintain uniformity. However, there have been several informal activities for which a different lay-out was used. The thirty-second board decided that, for informal activities, it is not necessary to use the original Babylon PowerPoint lay-out, if the Babylon logo is on the slides. For Formal activities however, the formal PowerPoint lay-out will remain obligated.

Babylon has gained several new partners, such as Fresca and The Fresh Factory. In order to keep portraying the association as a professional entity to the outside world, the Commissioner of External affairs 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

The thirty-second board has been strict when it comes to the privacy regulations. Registration lists have not been visible for non-authorized people. Furthermore, minutes of board meetings and committee meetings are shared through mail or WhatsApp, and not via Google Drive or Facebook, since these are not GDPR proof. 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 on the 12th floor, room 9 in the Erasmus building (E12.09). Normally, this room is open for the members to come to. However, due to the government measurements, the Babylon Room has unfortunately not yet been completely opened this year. When the university was still opened, it was possible for the members to make an appointment to visit the Babylon Room for certain occasions, such as picking up some items such as merch, or to ask a question. The appointment had to be made through the website at least 24 hours in advance, and one appointment took 15 minutes. If someone wished to stay longer, multiple appointments had to be made. An overview of which board member was available at what time was displayed on the website, so members could easily make an appointment with the board member they wanted to.

Similar to previous years, the opening hours of the Babylon Room are from 10.30 AM till 4 PM. The Babylon Room will be reopened, as soon as the measurements allow it. When that happens, the board strives to create an open and welcoming atmosphere again. The board will then be present in the room according to the opening hours and all members will be welcome to visit during these open hours.

1.2.6 Clothing

The board has purchased blouses, T-shirts and vests - printed with their first- and last name, their board position and 'XXXIInd board of Babylon' - and board suits. All these clothes were worn during specific activities. The blouses were being worn at semi-formal events such as CIS in the Field and workshops. The board suits were worn during the most formal activities, such as Constitution Drinks and the General Member Meetings. The T-shirts and vests were worn during informal events. To warrant the professional image as well as the accessibility of the board, the board will continue to adapt their clothing to suit the activity attended.

1.2.7 Business cards

The thirty-second board has created a new design for the business cards and purchased a small number to distribute to external relations, with the goal of expanding the network of Babylon. The contact information of the Chair and the Commissioner of External Affairs are on there, as they are often the most relevant to external parties. The business cards are in Dutch with the English translation of the titles underneath it, so it is accessible for both Dutch and international contacts.

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-second 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 members of the thirty-second 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 speakers for the online Company Visit and the speakers of the LinkedIn 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 Wednesday 19 May 2021. More information on the NDC can be found in section 7.4.

1.3.2 Study and student associations

The thirty-second board believes that regular contact with other associations can be of great value for Babylon. Therefore, proactive behaviour is encouraged. In previous years, Babylon cooperated with other associations in Nijmegen to organise Inglorious, BaMyPo and the annual Prom. This year, the Commissioner of Activities decided, in cooperation with the other involved associations, not to organise Inglorious and BaMyPo, as it was not possible under the current circumstances. In the upcoming semester, however, the board strives to organise an online alternative for the Inglorious party in order to maintain the good contacts among the involved associations. The Prom will be organised only in collaboration with Postelein this year. The other two study associations Babylon has organised the Prom with in the past year, BOW and Mundus, have announced that they no longer intend to organise the Prom with Babylon, which is further elaborated on in section 5.6.

Moreover, the National Day of Communication will take place in Nijmegen again this year, as it had to be cancelled last year. Similar to last year, Babylon will organise the NDC in cooperation with Mycelium. Apart from that, the thirty-second board aimed 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. Over the past half year, the contact with sister associations across the country was pleasant, however it could still be improved. Several online meetings with the sister associations have taken place already. The first 'Sisters Day' was supposed to take place on 29 October 2020, but unfortunately it had to be cancelled. Pending the developments regarding COVID-19, no new date has been set yet. The board still strives to schedule two Sisters Days; one during which only the representatives of each association are present, and one during which the complete boards of each association are present.

So far, only three Constitution Drinks have taken place, and Babylon has been present at all three of these. Also, Babylon has been present and has actively participated in other events organised with the aim of getting to know other associations, such as several activities organised by SOFv. The thirty-second board also made initial contact with RUIS (HAN Communication) to make way for possible future collaborations by inviting them to the National Day of Communication.

1.3.3 Members and other students

Preferably, members and other students regard Babylon as an organisation from which they can expect support and where they can ask questions about various subjects. Moreover, their perception of the association should include terms as 'professionalism', 'innovative' and 'unity'. The overall public perceived opinion appears to be good. The semi-annual survey showed that Babylon has got a positive image among members and other students. Most of the members believe that Babylon is very accessible and pleasant, as well as being professional and interesting. Most members also found that the variety of the (online) activities was sufficient. All in all, the image of Babylon among members and other students is what the thirty-second board aimed for.

1.3.4 Sustainability

Up until last academic year, internationalisation was an important development within Babylon. Since, at present, all great steps in that process of internationalisation have been taken, the thirty-second board decided to take on a new path. As a result, the board has been striving to make Babylon more sustainable. The board has made some progress in achieving this goal. In the first instance, the Study Trip Committee thought of arranging a destination to which can be travelled to by train. Besides, the board arranged a meeting with the Green Office to talk about making the association more sustainable. The Green Office and the board introduced themselves and the Green Office mentioned that the board can contact them if it is in need of help regarding the plan to become more sustainable. This meeting could also be seen as a means for creating a benevolent image at the Green Office. The thirty-second board also signed the Sustainability Covenant offered by the Green Office in which it stated that Babylon has the intention to be more aware of being sustainable. The board also decided to buy whiteboards for activities instead of using paper, these whiteboards can be used for multiple activities. Besides, all members can fill in declaration forms online so the board does not have to spill paper any longer. They also are considering a rubric on Instagram Stories every week in which they highlight sustainability or sustainable options. Also, the thirty-second board has paid more attention to green/sustainable companies who offer vacancies or ask for a favour. In general, the board is more focused on trying to be as sustainable as possible. Because almost all activities took place online, there were not many possibilities for the thirty-second board to be more sustainable. When it is possible to organise physical activities again, the board will focus extra on choosing the sustainable options.

1.4 Strengthening ties with external relations

1.4.1 Keeping in touch with sponsors

Strengthening ties with external relations is of great importance to the thirty-second board, and especially to the Commissioner of External Affairs. Besides all the bars in the Molenstraat, who are in contact with the Commissioner of Activities, the Commissioner of External Affairs maintains contact with all external relations. Over the past six months, it has been quite challenging to successfully maintain good contact with the sponsors. The Commissioner of External Affairs noticed it was harder to reach them, both through email and through phone. More information on this can be found in section 1.4.2.

The Commissioner of External Affairs has continued to make a start to the contact file created by the Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-first board, as mentioned in the Policy Plan of the thirty-second board. As for now, the majority of the contacts included in the contact file are the sponsors and the companies Babylon has a sticker deal with. This is due to the fact that there have not been many committees yet who have had to contact sponsors for their activities. The Commissioner of External Affairs will continue to update the contact file with relevant contacts throughout the rest of the year.

1.4.2 Recruiting sponsors and current sponsors

As mentioned in section 1.4.1, it has been challenging during the past half year to contact sponsors and maintain this contact. This was not only the case for the current external relations of Babylon, but also companies that were contacted for the first time by the Commissioner of External Affairs. However, after multiple efforts, the Commissioner of External Affairs has succeeded in contacting everyone. Unfortunately, two companies Babylon had a sticker deal with (Popocatepetl and Fika) have decided to indefinitely end the collaboration due to the corona crisis. They have, however, both mentioned they would like to be in contact again once all is mostly back to normal. On top of that, StageMax, a previous sponsor of Babylon, also ended the contract this year. Their reasons for ending it remain unclear.

Moreover, the Rabobank, which is the main sponsor of Babylon, has mentioned that it is uncertain whether they will continue sponsoring Babylon in the next academic year. They have said this before, however this year it is more likely to be true, according to the contact person of the Rabobank. Therefore, the Commissioner of External Affairs has decided to start looking for (a) new sponsor(s). Even if the Rabobank would continue their sponsorship, it would still be profitable to have a new sponsor. As for now, several communication and marketing companies in Nijmegen have been contacted. The marketing company Morres & Company has replied not to be interested, because it only just started in Nijmegen. Morres & Company did mention they would like to be contacted again in some time, which will be advised to the thirty-third board. Furthermore, Gloedcommunicatie replied that their sponsor money was not yet distributed for the year 2021, so they would come back to this offer in a couple of weeks. They mentioned that they found it an interesting offer. In the next six months, the Commissioner of External Affairs will continue this search and try to find one or multiple new sponsors.

In good news, on the other hand, the Commissioner of External Affairs has started two new collaborations in the past half year. These new deals are with The Fresh Factory and Fresca. Details about both deals are explained below:

Firstly, a new sticker deal with The Fresh Factory was established. The Fresh Factory, a healthy fast-food restaurant, provided our members with a 10% discount code. This is a QR-code that can be scanned at the restaurant. Moreover, Babylon has their own "Babylon

smoothie" there, which is a blue smoothie made of low-fat yogurt, blueberries and blue grapes. This smoothie has been chosen by the members through a poll in the Instagram story. In return, Babylon has posted their logo on the website and has made a social media post.

The second new collaboration this year is with Fresca, which is also a new sticker deal. When showing their Babylon sticker, members will receive one extra hot drink for free when buying a hot drink. So, it is a buy one get one free deal. Only one person has to show their Babylon sticker, so members can also make use of the deal with a non-member.

The results of the survey showed that, overall, the members who filled it in are satisfied with the current offer of sticker deals. In the upcoming half year, the Commissioner of External Affairs will focus on safeguarding good relations with the current sponsors and deals, as well as on trying to find new membership benefits and sponsor deals. It is important to stay in contact with the current external relations by keeping them up to date and, if relevant, inviting them to formal activities. Moreover, as mentioned in the Policy Plan of the thirty-second board, the Commissioner of External Affairs aims to find a new formal relation, which will be the main criteria when looking for new deals and relations as the previous new deals were rather informal. The Commissioner of External Affairs will ensure that Babylon is presented as a professional, yet accessible study association.

1.4.3 Business gift

As pledged in the Policy Plan, the thirty-second board has designed personalised Tony Chocolonely's chocolate bars. These have already been used as a business gift, for example for the speakers from CIS in the Field and the people from the company visit at Archetype. The chocolate bars were either sent to their homes by mail or were brought to their homes by a member of the board if the speaker lived in Nijmegen. The board has received some very kind messages in response to this thoughtful small present. The current plan for the Career Event and for the NDC is to offer the speakers a Tony Chocolonely's bar as well.

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.

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 Radboud University. As the thirty-first board advised the current board to join LETO, the board decided to do so in order 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. Moreover, LETO organises several activities for all the associations of the Faculty of Arts throughout the academic year.

At least two board members of Babylon have attended almost every SOFv and LETO meeting this academic year. Unfortunately, they missed one SOFv meeting as it took place at the same time as the Active Member Evening. In addition, the thirty-second board missed out two LETO meetings. Once due to an agenda mistake and for the other one they did not receive an email with the invitation for the General Member Meeting of LETO due to an error in the mailing list of LETO.

Moreover, the board received a request from SOFv to participate in the creation of a clear set of guidelines regarding COVID-19. It appeared that the different faculties of Radboud University handled certain situations regarding COVID-19 very differently, which resulted in not all study associations having the same possibilities with regard to organising activities. Therefore, it was decided to create one clear set of guidelines which can be used by all faculties and study associations. The Chair and the Commissioner of Activities have been present at the arranged meetings for this and have helped SOFv create these guidelines. At the moment of writing, the SOFv is still waiting for the guidelines to be finally approved by the university.

2.2 Advisory Board

The Advisory Board consists of three members from the thirtieth board, and two members of the thirty-first board, namely: Dominique Paulissen, Max Ploemen, Susanne Luijff, Suzanne Klein Wolterink and Tessa Stolte.

At this moment, the thirty-second board has had one meeting with the Advisory Board in order to discuss things and receive feedback on the ongoing business within Babylon. The Chair was present at this meeting as well as two additional board members. 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 sufficient and very pleasant. They have proven to be a valuable source of information and advice.

Because the thirty-second board wishes to gain feedback from other parties as well, it has been decided to select a (former) board member from another study association to take place in the Advisory Board from next year on. This member will have to apply for this position in the same way the current members had to. This adaptation will be changed in

the house regulations.

2.3 General Member Meetings

The first General Member Meeting of this academic year was held at De Waagh on 14 September 2020. This was the Financial General Member Meeting. During this meeting, the thirty-second board evaluated the online Orientation Week and the online Committee Market. Also, the board presented the adjustments to the Policy Plan as well as their budget for the academic year of 2020-2021. In addition, the thirty-first board presented their Financial Annual Report. During this meeting, all three reports were approved.

2.4 Change of the board

Last year, the thirty-first board established the Application Committee in order to make sure that the whole application procedure was carried out unbiasedly. Partly thanks to this committee, the recruitment of the current board went very well. Therefore, the thirty-second board decided to continue the use of the Application Committee. At this point, the recruitment procedures for the successive board have started. The thirty-second board has been texting active members who might be interested in doing a board year, in order to draw attention to the possibility of becoming part of the thirty-third board of Babylon. On Tuesday 9 February 2021, the Board Interest Presentation will take place. During this activity, the thirty-second board will give a short presentation about the tasks and responsibilities of every board position. Part of this presentation will be given by two members from the thirty-first board, namely the Commissioner of External Affairs and the Commissioner of Activities of last year. The reason for this is the fact that the roles of these two positions have changed the most during the current board year and the board felt they could more elaborately explain their roles in a 'normal' year. Additionally, on Tuesday 16 February 2021, the thirty-second board strives to organise a physical 'speed date' activity, during which attendees will have time to talk to each board member and ask them questions individually. In case it will not be possible to organise this speed date activity physically, the possibility to talk to board members individually will be given during the Board Interest Lunch. The week after this, on Tuesday 23 February 2021, an open board meeting, which will be accessible for all members to join, will be organised, in order to create the clearest possible image of what it is like to fulfil a position in the board of Babylon. The entire recruitment procedure will be well promoted. Part of this was making an Instagram post for each board member in which they described their tasks and responsibilities in the board of Babylon. 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

As mentioned in the Policy Plan of the thirty-second board, international Babylon members will also have the opportunity to apply for a board position. For the position of Chair and Treasurer, the candidate must have a Dutch level of at least B1, whereas for the positions of Commissioner of Internal Affairs and Commissioner of Activities, the candidate is not required to have any level of proficiency in Dutch. All communication done by the Commissioner of Internal Affairs and the Commissioner of Activities can be done in English, and otherwise they can be assisted by one of their fellow board members. The positions of Secretary and Commissioner of External Affairs can only be fulfilled by candidates with a C1 level of Dutch as they are often required to be in contact with Dutch parties.

2.5 Board grants

Every year, the board members of Babylon receive Board Grants from the university in return for their work. The validation to determine how many Board Grants the board will receive, takes place every two years. This year, a validation took place to determine the quantity of the Board Grants for the thirty-third and thirty-fourth board of Babylon. The board had to hand in Babylon's statutes, the annual planning for the current academic year (including the expected amount of members attending every activity), an overview of the individual board tasks and a document with general information about the association, such as the amount of members. The next two Babylon boards will be granted 30 Board Grants, instead of 28 which the previous boards were granted.

2.6 Social media

The social media channels of Babylon have been managed by the Secretary and the Commissioner of External Affairs. The Secretary has been overseeing Instagram and Facebook and LinkedIn has been managed by the Commissioner of External Affairs.

- *LinkedIn*

In the beginning of the academic year, LinkedIn was not used as often as the board initially planned on. However, the past few months, the board managed to post something on LinkedIn every two weeks. The content varied from interesting articles written by CIS researches and the Radboud University to posts about activities Babylon organised. The Commissioner of External Affairs has been making and will continue to make efforts to proactively search for interesting content to post on LinkedIn.

- *Facebook*

In the past months, Facebook has mostly been used for the promotion of activities. The Secretary created a Facebook event for all activities Babylon organised. All board members invited as many members as possible for every activity. Moreover, the Member of the Months as well as some new collaborations/sticker deals and vacancies/promotion material from sponsors were posted on Facebook. The board did not use the private Babylon Facebook group much. Only last-minute updates about the Ski Trip and a few reminders for upcoming activities were shared in it in the beginning of the year. The board posts a reminder for every activity a week before the event takes place on Instagram Story. The little use of the private Facebook group is a missed opportunity to have more members participate in the activities. In the next half year, the board will keep the promotion via this group specifically more in mind. In order to stimulate as many members as possible to attend Babylon's activities, the board will consider posting an extra reminder in the Facebook group if it is useful and necessary for every single activity. At the beginning of the year, the Secretary tried to add as many (new) Babylon members to this group as possible. When members cancel their membership, the Secretary does not remove them from the Facebook group. This is 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. If they wish to leave the group, they are always welcome to do so themselves.

- *Instagram*

Instagram is used most often to communicate things to Babylon's members. For every upcoming activity, an Instagram post was made, which has turned out to be successful so

far. This way, members who do not have a Facebook account do not miss out on the promotion of any activities. Babylon's Instagram page currently has 661 followers and keeps on growing. Next to activities, announcements are also posted on Instagram. Some important announcements were shared through an Instagram post, others were shared via the Instagram Story. In addition, the Member of the Months are posted on Instagram and these have sometimes been shared in the Instagram Story by the member of that month. This shows that members are proud of their efforts and that they like to share that with their own followers.

Due to the circumstances regarding COVID-19, the board was not able to see a lot of members in person. Therefore, the communication via social media became more important. In the beginning of the year, during the second semi-lockdown, the board decided to come up with a new rubric on Instagram called "Guess the Babylonian". Every Friday (for seven weeks), a baby photo of one of Babylon's members was shared in the Instagram Story. This was a lowkey way to keep Babylon in the minds of its members and to introduce some of the members to others, since it was not possible to get to know many other members in person. The board is currently thinking of possibilities for a new rubric in the second semester. It is not decided yet how exactly the new rubric will be given form, but the board wants to focus on sustainability.

Every week, during the board meetings, the media planning is discussed in order to make sure everyone is aware of what will be posted the upcoming days and weeks.

- *Content*

The Secretary and the Graphic Design Committee design most promotion material for the social media. The content is written by committee members and all board members. To divide the tasks more evenly, other board members have helped the Secretary by writing content for the posts and writing general emails. The promotion members of the committees write the text that accompanies the event on Facebook or the post on Instagram for their activity. This way, the diversity in content is higher and more complete. Before posting the content, the texts were checked and, if necessary, improved or corrected by at least three board members. In the beginning of the year, the content was not checked carefully enough, which resulted in some grammar and/or spelling mistakes. Often, a board member or an Advisory Board member pointed those mistakes out, after which they were corrected. Now, the content is checked better and flaws occur less often.

- *Style*

The board tried to insert one style in the Instagram posts. This way, the Instagram feed looks more professional and appealing and, besides, posts are instantly recognisable as Babylon posts. The Secretary designed a standard format for the Member of the Month, so that they all look the same. Moreover, the promotion material designed by both the Graphic Design Committee and the Secretary, has the same orange and blue complexions to make everything more coherent. The board received some compliments about the Instagram feed, so they will continue using this style.

2.7 Website

Last year, the thirty-first board created a new website. This year, the board decided to use the website more often for communication, in order to attract more members to the website. The past half year, members had to sign up for every activity via the website, which worked properly. After the Zoom link for a particular event was created, it was shared in the event on the website, as well as in the Facebook event. This way, members that do not have a Facebook account, are also able to easily find the Zoom link. The news page was not used

as often as planned. The board did not always think of posting news or announcements on the website. The board wants the website to be complete, but by not posting news items regularly, unfortunately, it is not complete enough. This is something the board will take care of more closely in the next half year.

When the sign-ups for the first physical *borrel* started, the website crashed due to the large number of users on it. The board quickly contacted Smallhold, who reset the website and made sure the server could handle more users. The contact went easily and the problem was solved quickly. Smallhold adjusted the settings of the server in order to avoid other problems with the server in the future. Furthermore, the website was hacked a couple times a while ago, which caused the board not being able to log in to the website anymore. The developer of the website checked the settings and installed a Firewall in order to prevent this from happening again.

3. Chair

3.1 General tasks and responsibilities

The main task of the Chair is to carry ultimate responsibility for everything that is organised and published under the name of Babylon. Besides that, she leads and coordinates the board and Babylon in general. 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 (too) shortly after each other. Except for a few times, all board meetings took place online via Zoom. In addition, it has only occurred once that a board member left the meeting early due to illness. When this was the case, that board member was present during the most important part of the meeting and was updated about the other topics discussed by carefully reading the minutes afterwards. It has occurred a couple of times that the Chair or another board member showed up late to the weekly board meeting. Recently, however, - after having been addressed about this by fellow board members - this has not occurred anymore. Approximately two months ago, the Chair proposed the idea of taking a short break in each meeting in order to improve the efficiency. The meetings were already going well before that, but the Chair thinks that improvements have been made since the introduction of taking breaks, as it benefits everyone's focus. Although, for some time, the Chair was rather late distributing the agendas, it is now usually distributed a day before the meeting in order to give the other board members enough time to prepare themselves for the meeting. Moreover, the Chair has provided the chairs of almost all committees with a chair training in the beginning of the year. Within some committees, the role of chair is fulfilled by a (former) board member or an active member that has fulfilled the role of chair of a committee before. These people were not required to attend the training. The training went well and the participants were satisfied with its content. After the training, the Chair distributed an example of an agenda, which the chairs could use for making agendas for their committee's meetings.

Another task of the Chair is to monitor all the activities organised by Babylon's committees. She is doing this by regularly reading through the minutes of all the committees and by talking to the specific coordinator of the committee about upcoming activities when she oughts it necessary. In the beginning of the academic year, the Chair received the minutes from only a few committees. After having asked all board members to remind the secretaries of the committees they coordinate to send the minutes to the Chair, the number of committees that sent the minutes increased somewhat. However, there are still quite a few secretaries of committees that do not consistently send the minutes of all meetings to the Chair. The Chair will make sure this will happen in the second semester by reminding the committees' secretaries again.

Besides that, the Chair attended most of the General Member Meetings of SOFv and LETO together with the Commissioner of Internal Affairs (see 2.1). Moreover, the Chair gave a speech during the Orientation Week as well as at the ceremony for the Bachelor's degree. During the Orientation Week, all members of the board of Babylon were present. During the ceremony of the Bachelor's degree, however, the Chair was the only person allowed to attend due to the measures regarding COVID-19.

3.2 Application Committee

Last year, the thirty-first board created the Application Committee to make sure that the application procedure of the thirty-second board would be fair and unbiased. Partly thanks to this committee, the recruitment of the current board went very well. Therefore, the thirty-second board decided to compose and deploy an Application Committee again this year. Similar to last year, the Application Committee consists of two current Babylon board members (the Chair and the Vice-Chair), one former board member, one member of the Advisory Board and one external board member of a different association (in this case Postelein). For the recruitment of this committee, the board asked everyone who was eligible for and interested in joining the committee to write a motivation letter. The composition of the committee was based on these motivation letters. The members of the Application Committee of 2020-2021 are Maud Weijers (as the current Chair of Babylon), Renée Christophe (as the current Vice-Chair of Babylon), Quirijn Somers (as a former board member of Babylon), Suzanne Klein Wolterink (as a current Advisory Board member) and Anne Woppereis (current board member of Postelein, as an external board member).

So far, the Application Committee has met once, and that meeting was useful. Before this meeting, it had already been decided by the board that the Application Committee will not be concerned with the promotion and recruitment of members of the successive board, but will only carry out the actual application procedure. This includes reading all the applications, being present during and conducting the application interviews and providing the current board with a strong recommendation about the thirty-third board. The thirty-second board will eventually choose the thirty-third board based on the recommendations of the Application Committee.

3.3 Babylon Band

At the beginning of the academic year, the Chair was approached by two members of Babylon, who very enthusiastically proposed the idea of forming a band within Babylon. After discussing the idea, the thirty-second board was rather enthusiastic as well and, therefore, supported the idea. As the Chair is the most musically experienced member of the board, she is the one involved in the whole process of forming the band. In order to find more enthusiastic people wanting to become part of the band, promotion was made on Instagram, Facebook and in the Babbel of the month October. Interested people were asked to send an email, containing who they were, what instrument(s) they played and how experienced they were. In total, nine emails were received. Consequently, online meetings took place with every candidate in order for the initiators to get to know the candidates a bit better and in order to be able to share thoughts and ideas about the initiative. The focus points during these meetings were people's experience and musical level, preference of music genre, but also the personal connection with the other candidates and the initiators. Based on the emails and online meetings, the band was composed in its current form.

The band consists of seven people, including one drummer, one bassist, one pianist, two guitarists and two lead singers. Moreover, the band contains six Dutch members and one international member. Also, the band includes members from all year layers of the study, namely one first-year student, one second-year student, three third-year students and two fourth-year students.

A permanent rehearsal place has been found and the band has already rehearsed several times. On a personal level, all members of the band have a very good connection with each

other and the relationships between the members are very friendly. For the upcoming semester, the goal is to resume the rehearsal and continue the development of the band as soon as possible.

3.4 Online Werewolves Game

In the last week of November 2020, the board organised the online Werewolves Game. This is an online version of the already known game "Weerwolven van Wakkerdam" and it is played in real time via WhatsApp. This online version of the game was introduced to the Chair by a board member of EOS (the association of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the VU in Amsterdam) during one of the sister meetings. A total number of 23 members of Babylon participated in the game, including a rather large number of first-year students. Most of these first-year students had not yet participated in many other Babylon activities before, so the board was very excited to see these new faces actively participating in this game. The Chair had the role of leader of the game. As mentioned before, the game was played in real time, which means that the game lasted nearly a week. During the game, all participants were very enthusiastic and most players were investing a lot of time and effort in it. Also after the game was over, the Chair received a lot of positive feedback. All in all, the board looks back on this activity with great satisfaction. Therefore, the board will consider organising this activity again in the second semester.

4. Secretary

4.1 General tasks and responsibilities

The general tasks of the Secretary are, among other things, managing the member administration, the (e)mail, Babylon's website and the Facebook and Instagram pages of the association. Another important task of the Secretary is to write the minutes of the board meetings as well as the General Member Meetings and to distribute them. The distribution of the minutes has not always been completed within the time set for it (48 hours), but most of the time it has.

This year, the board decided that it would be more suitable if the Secretary provides a promotion training to all promotion members of the committees instead of the Commissioner of Activities. This worked out fine, because the Secretary, generally, has more knowledge about the promotion process of activities.

The strict media planning works well for the Secretary and almost all promotion material is finished in time.

4.2 The member file

The thirty-second 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. Last year, the thirty-first board upgraded Conscribo, so the sign-ups would no longer need to be registered manually, but could be automatically implemented in Conscribo. Due to some issues with the upgrade of Conscribo, this was not arranged in time before the Orientation Week. Therefore, the Secretary still had to subscribe every new member manually. By now, this upgrade is completed and the Secretary can connect Conscribo to the website. She needs to make a form that can be put on the website, so the registrations no longer have to be done manually.

The Secretary encountered some difficulties after the Treasurer collected the 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. The Secretary made sure, in collaboration with the Treasurer, that everyone who could prove they already signed out, got the subscription fee refunded and that everyone who had signed out before, was also removed from the member administration.

4.3 Minutes

It is the responsibility of the Secretary to write the minutes during the board meetings and 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). In the beginning, there were still quite some (grammar/spelling) mistakes in the minutes when it was sent to the Advisory Board. After this happened a couple of times, the board found a way to make sure the minutes are checked better. Now, every week two board members will thoroughly check the minutes grammar and spelling wise. The other board members still have to read the minutes, but they only have to check their own updates content wise. This appeared to work well. Furthermore, the Secretary tried to check her own minutes more carefully as well. Now, there are not many mistakes in the minutes anymore. In general, most of the times the minutes were sent in time to the Advisory Board.

4.4 (E)mail, website and social media

- (E)mail

Overall, the Secretary faced little difficulties regarding the email. It only appeared that it is not immediately visible when an email is redirected from one of Babylon's old email addresses. Therefore, the Secretary could not directly reply to these mails to remind the sender of Babylon's new email addresses. More about this can be read in section 1.1.4.

The Secretary tried to check Babylon's mailbox once a week. Due to the government regulations, she was not always allowed to visit the university. Therefore, at times, the mailbox was not checked every week. Babylon generally does not receive many important letters, so this was not that big of a deal.

- Website

Apart from the website having crashed at the beginning of the year and it having been hacked multiple times, there were no issues regarding the website. The website could be used more than it is now, so this is something to keep in mind for the next semester. All sign-ups for events go through the website, which works properly. At the moment of writing, the website has some technical difficulties which result in some people no longer being able to log in or create an account. The website developer has been contacted, but could not solve the problem straight away. The Secretary will now contact WordPress to see if they have a solution. Until the website works properly again, members can send an email to the Secretary explaining what they wanted to visit the website for, and she will help them out. The board hopes this problem will be fixed as soon as possible. More about the website can be read in section 2.7.

- Social Media

Generally, the Secretary is satisfied with the looks of Babylon's social media. The Secretary created a new account on Linktr.ee for Babylon. This way, multiple links to sign up for different events can be in the Instagram bio at the same time. More information about Babylon's social media can be found in part 2.6.

4.5 Graphic Design Committee

The Graphic Design Committee of 2020-2021 consists of 8 members. Not all members of the committee have experience with graphic design and only two members have experience with InDesign (which is used to design the Babylon Magazine). At the beginning of the year, 2 members attended the physical Photoshop workshop organised by SOFv. The Secretary received the documents for both the Photoshop as well as the InDesign workshop and sent these to the rest of the committee. This way, the whole committee had the opportunity to learn the basics of InDesign and Photoshop.

The thirty-second 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.

- Babylon Magazine

By now, two editions of the Babylon Magazine have been published. The September edition was made by the committees of last year. The January edition was made by the new committees. Both the content and the design was completely different than before. The magazine looks cleaner and more professional now.

The content changed mainly in terms of the more personal touch it has now. Members of Babylon had the chance to contribute to the magazine, by sharing their experiences and, in the case of the previous edition, their favourite music album. Moreover, the Publication

Committee tried to find a good balance between formal and informal articles. The committee liked the idea of adding pages stuck to the same theme, for example four pages which were all about Black Lives Matter. In that case, there is a mix of articles within one theme (a scientific, an informal article, a puzzle). The new magazine also contains the so-called Babylon pages with, for example, information about the committees Babylon has. These pages return every magazine. The committee also wanted to add more humour to the magazine, which is done by adding a meme page or a quiz about the committee members for example. Furthermore, the committee does not use the same structure as the previous committee. The previous committee used the same categories for all articles every edition, whereas the committee this year strives to make every edition look like a new one. This will be achieved by adding some different and some remaining articles. According to the semi-annual survey, 37% noticed a difference in the content of the magazine. When brainstorming about a new edition, all ideas are written down. Often there are too many ideas which are then saved for the next edition. This is a good starting point for the next edition. This method is very handy.

The design changed in multiple ways. Firstly, the shape of the magazine changed from a square to a rectangle. This already looked more professional and did not cost extra money. Therefore, the board decided to change it. The Graphic Design Committee started all over with regard to the lay-out of the magazine. The only thing that stayed the same is the design of the page numbers, since all committee members liked that. The Graphic Design Committee tried to also express the feeling the Publication Committee wanted to give members with the content in the design of the magazine. This resulted in, for example, the first Babylon related pages being more playful and the career related pages having a more simplified lay-out. The committee chose to overall use more white spaces on the pages and to change the margins. This way, the magazine looks cleaner and more professional. The most important changes were that the committee no longer used pictures that fill the entire page and that the same colours are used over the whole magazine.

The semi-annual survey showed that members are positive about the changes they saw in the magazine. Furthermore, the board as well as the committee received many positive reactions on the overall design of the magazine. Overall, the committees, as well as the Secretary and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs are proud of and happy with the result.

Even though most things during the process of writing and designing the magazine went well, there occurred some difficulties with the planning of the magazine. The Secretary and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs did not keep in mind that the board also had to proofread all the content. The board checked the content when the Graphic Design Committee had already started editing. This way, they already implemented the content in the magazine, without it being checked by the board. To solve this problem, the board checked all content again when the magazine was finished, in order to reduce the grammar and spelling mistakes. The Secretary and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs adjusted the planning for the upcoming BM's and included an extra week in which the board needs to check the content.

5. Treasurer

5.1 Budget

Two budgets for 2020-2021 were made at the start of the academic year. A 'normal' budget, and a 'COVID-19' budget. They both consist of the general budget and the several committee budgets, based on previous years. However, in the COVID-19 budget, lower sponsor incomes were budgeted. This year, Babylon will indeed receive less sponsor money, due to activities that cannot take place because of the ongoing corona crisis. However, as of January 2021, the budget is still in positive results. All committees are financially healthy and there are no committees with significant financial issues. In the following paragraphs, the most important subjects, such as the revenues and expenses, the contact with committee treasurers, the merchandise, the Study Trip Committee and the Prom Committee, will be discussed.

5.1.1 Revenue

- Member contribution

The annual contribution is one of Babylon's most important sources of revenue. Mid November 2020, 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. However, the money could not be collected from all international members, due to missing BIC-codes. These BIC-codes were found on the internet, so the membership fee of most international members was collected in December 2020.

In addition, around 25 IBANs were missing. The members whose IBANs were missing have been sent an email in December, but very few responded. Thereafter, the people with a Facebook account were contacted through Messenger, which resulted in 3 responses. As a last attempt, the study advisor was contacted recently, with the question if she could send those people an email. If that will not result in a response, the people with the missing bank number will be signed out of Babylon.

Furthermore, there were around 30 members that reversed the fee. Some of them sent an email with proof that they had tried to sign out before, others sent an email that they were not aware of the fact that they were still signed in, and asked if they could still sign out. The thirty-second board decided to return the fee if a member had a valid reason. The members who wanted to sign out after the collection of the membership fees will be signed out from next year onwards. There were about 5-10 direct debits that failed for reasons such as low balance. Because of 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 Language and Communication

The Department of Language and Communication contributes to Babylon every year. This contribution amounts to €1500,- and is meant to help Babylon 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. As of now, Babylon has received the first payment of €750,- in September 2020, and is expecting the second payment of €750,- in February 2021.

5.1.2 Expenditure

- InDesign

In the beginning of the year, there was a problem with the Graphic Design Committee. The committee did not have access to InDesign, since it was removed from the computers in the Erasmus building. Therefore, the thirty-second board decided to add InDesign to the budget. The costs were €158.75 for a yearly subscription and an online course. This online course was used to familiarise the Graphic Design Committee with InDesign.

- Constitution Drink

To this day, the Constitution Drink of the thirty-second board has not taken place yet, due to persistent measures regarding COVID-19. However, the thirty-second board has decided to keep aside the €650,- that was originally budgeted for the Constitution Drink, hoping that the Constitution Drink can take place later in the year.

5.2 Contact with committee treasurers

At the start of the academic year, the treasurer training took place. The Treasurer met with almost all committee treasurers through Zoom to explain a budget, and how to implement this in Microsoft Excel. The meeting was short, yet useful. After the meeting, 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 ensure 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. In the beginning of the year, Conscribo was upgraded, which made the administration clearer. Because the Babylon Room has been closed due to COVID-19, and because the thirty-second board decided to focus on sustainability, the receipts and forms have been saved online. So far, there have not been any problems with the administration this year.

5.4 Payment methods

At the beginning of the year, it was decided that the thirty-second board would work with five payment methods this year. First of all, cheap activities can be paid for in cash. Secondly, payments by debit card/iZettle are possible for activities that cost more than €5,-. Direct debits are used for the contribution, the Study Trip, the Ski Trip, and activities with online registration. When members order merchandise on the website, they can pay with iDeal. The last payment method that Babylon works with, are Rabobank payment requests. Since most of the activities this year have taken place online, payment requests have been used in almost all cases. So far, there have not been any problems with the payment requests.

5.5 Study Trip Committee

Due to the ongoing corona crisis, the thirty-second board has decided that a Study Trip abroad is not possible because of safety reasons and current regulations. Furthermore, to this moment, the Department Board has been recommending to not plan a Study Trip this year. Therefore, the committee has been rather quiet in November and December. Since January, the Study Trip Committee has been busy planning a Study Trip in the Netherlands. However, it has been hard for the committee to plan the trip, because of the regulations imposed by the government. Most of the companies and museums are not allowed to welcome students under the current circumstances. This makes it very challenging for the

committee to make plans. Furthermore, it has been difficult to find a suitable accommodation close to the destination. Many of the accommodations that are available offer a rebooking guarantee instead of cancellation with money if the stay cannot take place. As there are no plans or possibilities for Babylon to visit the accommodation at another moment, it is not an option the agree with a rebooking guarantee. Despite the difficult situation, the committee is aiming for a four-day programme, with a mix of formal and informal activities during the holiday in May. Little is known about the programme, but the committee has been working very hard recently to create an interesting programme. However, the committee is not yet going to book anything that cannot be cancelled for free, until the situation is more hopeful and clear. If, due to regulations, it is not convenient to travel, the Study Trip will not take place this year.

5.6 Prom Committee

The intent of the Prom has changed heavily since the beginning of the year. The four study associations, Babylon, Postelein, BOW and Mundus have decided to split up and organise two separate proms. From now on, Babylon will organise its annual Prom together with Postelein. This decision was made because of two main reasons: the other associations did not want to collaborate with Babylon any longer, and more tickets would be available if the associations split up.

After that decision was made, the Prom Committee consisted of six people. Two members of Postelein, two members of Babylon, and the coordinators of both Postelein and Babylon. Almost straight away, the committee believed that a prom like the ones in previous years could not take place this year, due to COVID-19 regulations. Therefore, the committee aimed for a 'Prom Dinner'. De Waagh, the location where the Prom would normally have taken place, was enthusiastic about the idea, and agreed that the dinner was a good substitute for the regular Prom. De Waagh offers spots for 120 people during a dinner, and therefore the committee had decided to organise two dinners on two consecutive evenings. One evening for members of Postelein, and one evening for members of Babylon. These dinners would have taken place on 17 and 18 February. However, due to COVID-19, there is a great chance that the restaurant will still be closed by then. Therefore, the committee was forced to cancel the Prom Dinner at De Waagh. If the regulations allow it, the committee is aiming to organise a similar dinner later in the year once the restaurants have reopened.

Nevertheless, the committee still wanted to organise something similar on the original date. On 18 February, members from both Postelein and Babylon can pick up a 'Bregje@home box' from Proeflokaal Bregje. This is a three-course dinner box for only around €15,- that can be consumed at home. The attendees can join a Zoom meeting on the evening of 18 February, so that everyone can still eat their dinner 'together'. Between the different courses, the committee will provide the attendees with some entertainment.

5.7 Merchandise

The Treasurer is responsible for the Babylon merchandise. This year, members can order the merchandise online or at the Babylon Room. However, the Babylon Room has been closed for most of the year so far. If the merchandise is ordered online, the members can pay by iDEAL. If the merchandise is ordered at the Babylon Room, the members can pay by debit card with iZettle, in cash, or through a Rabobank payment request.

The thirty-second board has decided to remove the baseball jacket from the collection, because it did not fit well anymore in the merchandise assortment. The thirty-second board

also designed a new piece of merchandise, namely a dark blue hoodie with coloured letters saying 'BABYLON' embroidered onto it. This piece was well received by the members, since approximately 30 pieces have been sold since the beginning of the year.

With the addition of the new hoodie and the removing of the baseball jacket, the merchandise now consists of the following items: Babylon hoodie, €22.50,-; Babylon sweater, €15,-; Babylon socks, €7,-; Babylon cap, €7,-; Babylon Dopper, €10.50; Babylon shirt, €12,-.

5.8 FC Babylon

The interference of the Treasurer in FC Babylon was very minimal. In the beginning of the year, members of Babylon had the chance to join FC Babylon by sending a direct message to the Treasurer on Instagram. This resulted in seven new members of FC Babylon. Thereafter, a team captain and social media captain were chosen. The team captain ensured that the team was registered for the competition of the first semester. Unfortunately, the competition FC Babylon participated in was shut down after three games, due to the regulations regarding COVID-19.

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 to discuss ongoing activities and the health and wellbeing of all the board members. To improve and personalise the relationships with lecturers, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs, together with the Chair, went to the fourth floor of the Erasmus building to introduce themselves and hand over the latest version of the Babylon Magazine in order to introduce them to Babylon or remind of the existence of Babylon. Unfortunately, due to the regulations regarding COVID-19, only a few people were present at the university. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs decided to send an email to all the lecturers in which she introduced the new board and Babylon. She mentioned that the Babylon Magazine was in their mailbox and asked if they wanted to become a member of Babylon. The board did not receive many reactions, but they acquired two more members of Babylon. During the annual Pubquiz, the lecturers that were present were divided into groups with students and a board member, to ensure that the lecturers were enthusiastic about the activity as well as about Babylon and that they were in close contact with the students and the board. Also, an e-card was mailed to the lecturers to thank for their hard work because of the Day of the Teacher. A present will be given in the second semester when the regulations allow it to go to university. Babylon was present at the Bachelor Graduation. During the Bachelor Graduation, Babylon was given an important role by giving a speech and handing out flowers to the graduates. Because of the corona measures, only the Chair was allowed to come to the Bachelor Graduations. Also, the board thanked two lecturers who have retired by sending them a physical card and a Merci chocolate.

Another step taken to improve 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 also join the Study Programme Committee as the former Commissioner of Internal Affairs advised to do so. By being a member of the Study Programme Committee, Babylon gives a signal that they actively care about the quality of the education, which ideally could improve the associations' image. Furthermore, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs joined the Study Programme Committee 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 that 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 four lecturers and five students. 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 again 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 July, the former Commissioner of Internal Affairs collaborated with Frank van Meurs to compose the booklist for CIS. She sent the booklist to the current Commissioner of Internal Affairs to check if all books are available in StudyStore. Babylon still collaborates with StudyStore for its book sale. The contact with StudyStore went smoothly. It was quick and efficient, and there were no problems 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. Last year, some students got their books a bit late. This problem was solved this year.

The book order page is still on the website, behind the user sign-up. This means that all students will have to create an account on Babylon's website, which the board can either verify or deny after checking their membership status. This way, it is certain that all current Babylon members are paying their membership fee, which was the problem last year. Students were able to buy their books at a discount without paying the membership fee.

6.4 Education Committee

This year's Education Committee consists of four Dutch members and one international member, all of which are IBC students. The Education Committee has not organised a Babylon activity yet, but it has done a great job at its other responsibilities which will be discussed later in this section.

At the moment of writing, the Education Committee is working on their next event: The Family Day on 15 April 2021. They will also soon start preparing for CIS in the Field, which will be organised in September 2021. The Education Committee is also responsible for the Open Days, partly for the Student-for-a-day Programme and the Study Choice Check as all three events took and will take place online this year due to COVID-19. A couple of Open Days have been organised, the Student-for-a-day Programme will take place in April and the Study Choice Check will be organised in June. The committee members have been helpful during the Open Days, which is good for the relationship between Babylon and the lecturers of the study programme, including its lecturers and study advisors. The task of the committee members at the Open Days was to help answering questions from the prospective students. Sometimes people of the committee were present and sometimes the committee looks for students to help when they are not able to do so themselves. Less responsibility is connected to the task of the committee members at the Student-for-a-day Programme than last year. This year, the event is organised by the communication department of the Faculty of Arts. The members only need to be present to answer questions and to tell the participants about their perception of the study. The tasks for the Study Choice Check are not clear yet, as the event takes place online, in a while. It will be different from last year.

The aim of the thirty-second board was to organise study afternoons this year, but since the university is closed, the study afternoons cannot take place. The substitute for this event that the thirty-second board thought of - without the presence of lecturers - also did not take place, not in an online version either. The main reason for this was the little enthusiasm for the 'Intensive Study Week' organised by the student advisors before the first exam week where students were able to study 'together' online.

6.5 Committee of Formal Activities

This year's Committee of Formal Activities consists of five Dutch members. The committee proudly organised a first online Company Visit. It had to be arranged differently than other years because of the circumstances. Therefore, it took place via Zoom. Three speakers from Archetype, an international communications and PR agency, were present to tell us about their company. The online Company Visit was a success. In total, there were 24 people present. A couple of weeks before the company visit, Archetype made short videos that were posted in Babylon's Instagram Stories to make people enthusiastic for their company and for the Company Visit. This worked out really well, the committee received positive reactions about this idea. The Company Visit contained explanation about the definition of Public Relations and a case study. It took place in the break between lectures (12.15 – 1.30 pm). This timeframe was perfect, neither too short nor too long. Unfortunately, there was a rather high number of people that signed up for the activity but did not show up. The board and the committee do not know the reason of the absence of most people. During the second semester, more attention will be paid to this issue.

The committee strives to arrange three other company visits soon. A large number of emails have been sent to companies of which multiple are interested in giving an online company visit.

The former Committee of Formal Activities laid some groundwork for a company visit for this year's Committee of Formal Activities. The company they had arranged was Swinckels (beer brewery). This was a nice option in order to organise a company visit really soon after the start of the academic year. Unfortunately, the Company Visit could not take place due to COVID-19. The Committee of Formal Activities is still in contact with the company to hopefully organise this company visit physically in a while.

6.6 Publication Committee

This year's Publication Committee consists of four members, of which three members are Dutch and one is international. The quality of the articles and the creativity of the committee is very good, which makes it easier for the Commissioner of Internal Affairs to coordinate this committee. The committee members, together with the Commissioner of Internal Affairs, always check each other's articles for flaws and possible (spelling and/or grammar) mistakes. This year, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs and the Secretary decided to give the board a week to check all the articles because there were still some errors in the articles after having been checked by the committee members. After the board has checked them, the articles are sent to the Graphic Design Committee. The second edition of the Babylon Magazine was totally renewed with new content and new looks. The thirty-second board received positive feedback on it. In the semi-annual survey, the board asked questions about the new Babylon Magazine to see if members think the new style is better than the former style. All the members who filled in the survey were positive about the changes the Publication Committee and Graphic Design Committee made in comparison to the former editions. They were most enthusiastic about the new design of the magazine. Most people have indicated to read all articles, instead of only the more formal or the more informal ones.

In the beginning, there were some struggles within the committee. The former chair of the committee has left after finishing the first issue of the magazine, as he thought he was not the best fit for the position going forward. The Chair and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs arranged a meeting with the chair and discussed the situation. The thirty-second board has approached some students of which they knew they were doubting to become a member of this committee in September. This resulted in a new member for the committee. A new chair has been appointed. All in all, this went good.

6.7 Summaries

Last year, AthenaSummary wanted to work together with Babylon for the sale of summaries of several CIS-courses. The thirty-first board decided to not go through with the collaboration. The thirty-second board decided to start a collaboration regarding summaries again, as the students had indicated they wanted more study related support. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs asked AthenaSummary if they had summaries available for the courses CIW and IBC, which they did not. Therefore, she contacted Stuvia. Stuvia wanted to start a collaboration. Now, students can get a 10% discount on the summaries for the IBC/CIW courses. The discount can be received by clicking the link via the Babylon website. This leads to the Stuvia website. Up to now, it has not worsened the bond between lecturers and students.

6.8 Alumni

So far, there has been contact with alumni multiple times. The commissioner of Internal Affairs has access to the LinkedIn group that includes many alumni of the study. The alumni are being contacted for CIS in the Field and for the company visits. It is very useful to have access to this group, since most alumni are happy to help Babylon at events. 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 CIS in the Field event. They can also follow Babylon's LinkedIn page to stay up to date about matters that might interest them.

7. Commissioner of External Affairs

7.1 Sponsors

As mentioned, the deal with Rabobank has remained intact for this year, but it might not be continued next year. Babylon has delivered one intern to Rabobank this year, but the current intern is not from Babylon. The Commissioner of External Affairs will stay in contact with Rabobank during the upcoming half year to be updated at all times about the status of the partnership. Moreover, the collaboration with StageMax has also not been extended this year. Their reasons for ending it remain unclear.

The deal with De Waagh has stayed intact for this year, however the money that Babylon will receive is dependent on the number of activities Babylon will be able to organise there this year. So far, the board was only able to organise the Financial General Member Meeting physically there, which is only one of the multiple activities originally planned there. The communication between Babylon and De Waagh is very pleasant and efficient. The Commissioner of External Affairs is frequently in contact with the contact person from De Waagh, which has been pleasant, and she trusts this will continue for the upcoming months.

More information about current sponsors and the details of the two new collaborations established by the Commissioner of External Affairs this year (with The Fresh Factory and Fresca) can be found in section 1.4.2.

7.2 Sponsor training

Almost every committee within Babylon has a sponsor member. All sponsor members received a sponsor training along with a small sponsor guide from the Commissioner of External Affairs. In this guide, the most important matters that were mentioned during the training can be found, as well as some handy tips and tricks to keep in mind. During the sponsor training, the focus was mainly on how to approach different kinds of sponsors and which companies are good to approach and which are not. Although this might be common knowledge, the board still considers it necessary to explain to the members. The training was given online through Zoom to all sponsor members at the same time and it appeared to be successful. Afterwards, the Commissioner of External Affairs sent all important documents and a basic email template to the sponsor members for them to use. However, not many committees have made use of it yet as there is not much to organise that requires sponsors.

7.3 Career Committee

The Career Committee of this year consists of nine participants including the coordinator, of which four are international students. The committee has been working hard the past year on several events. The main event they focus on is the Career Event, which will take place on Thursday 29 April. For the event, the majority of the speakers are arranged already and right now, the committee is mainly focusing on organising the event online instead of physically. However, in case it will be possible to take place physically, the location (De Waagh) has already been arranged, as well as the lunch. It has been very challenging for the committee to contact these speakers and to stay motivated for organising this event. However, the members did not give up and will continue to work hard the upcoming time for the events.

Moreover, the committee has been working on the Workshop Resume and Cover Letter that takes place on Thursday 4 February, which has not yet taken place at the moment of writing,

as well as on the Guest Lecture which will take place on Thursday 25 February. The Guest Lecture will be about Crisis Communication and provided by two speakers from Sterk Werk. The workshop in the first semester was arranged by the board, as the committee was not formed by then.

7.4 Congress Committee

Similar to last year, this year's Congress Committee is in charge of organising the National Day of Communication, which is organised together with Mycelium. The reason Babylon and Mycelium will organise the NDC again this year is because the event was cancelled last year due to COVID-19. The committee consists of eight members, including the two coordinators from Babylon and Mycelium. There are four members of Babylon in the committee and four Mycelium members. The event will take place on Wednesday 19 May 2021 and the theme will be 'Gen Z: The Digital (R)Evolution'. If the government measurements will allow the event to take place physically, the location arranged is Theaterzaal C in the Elinor Ostrom Building. However, the committee is focusing on an online event and coming up with creative ideas for this, as it is not expected that it will be possible to let the event take place physically. There is still a lot of progress to be made with the committee, although the committee has some speakers set already. The reason for the lack of progress is the fact that it is very hard to find speakers and to receive responses. Moreover, the committee members are not always as motivated as they would have been when the committee meetings could have taken place physically. In order to improve the motivation, the committee will be meeting every week from now on and if necessary, the Commissioner of External Affairs will have private meetings with the Chair of Mycelium to speed up the progress.

Unfortunately, one member of Mycelium decided to quit the committee after two months, as she felt she did not get enough motivation from the committee and it was not what she expected it to be like. This was a shame, but fortunately the committee is big enough to be able to carry on without her.

7.5 International Committee

This year was the second year of the International Committee, which was created by the thirty-first board. The committee consists of six members, including the coordinator. Three of the members are international students, and two members were also a member last year. They were asked because the coordinator thought it would be best if someone with experience was part of the committee as it is fairly new and the goal of the committee still had to be figured out. As can be read in the Policy Plan of the thirty-second board, the goal had been slightly adapted, and the goal is now to increase the number of international members within Babylon and to help them integrate more easily. Besides that, the mere focus of the committee was to be a point of contact for international students.

The first activity organised by the International Committee was the Information Session in the beginning of September. This was an online presentation which was aimed at informing the new international students of the possibilities that Babylon, the university and Nijmegen can offer them as an international student. Unfortunately, only one student showed up. There could have been multiple reasons for the failure of the event, but the main reason for it probably was the lack of communication and the unfortunate timing. The committee hoped to reach many students during the event, and also to be able to add them to the WhatsApp group chat which exists specifically for international students. Luckily, by spreading the invite link via multiple channels (WhatsApp, Facebook), a lot of new international students joined that WhatsApp group anyways. The group now contains 34

members and is the main form of communication for the international students. The results of the survey showed that two-thirds of the members who filled in the survey are part of the group chat. They also got the chance to send an email to the committee if they wanted to join the group still.

The main focus of the International Committee over the past six months have been the Dutch Lessons, as there has not really been another opportunity to organise an (online) activity. So far, there have been six online Dutch lessons which were visited by approximately 10 international members each time. During these lessons, the participants were taught basic Dutch vocabulary, basic and helpful sentences, some easy grammar and conjugations of verbs were discussed as well. The Dutch lessons were given by the three Dutch members of the committee. After each lesson, the participants were asked to give some input on what they wanted to learn during the next lessons and were asked about their evaluations of the teaching style and quality of the lessons. Moreover, the semi-annual survey sent to all members of Babylon also contained some questions regarding the Dutch lessons. As mentioned, these were evaluated positively and as useful, interactive and fun. The committee will continue the lessons for the upcoming period, as all participants were enthusiastic to learn more Dutch.

The committee decided to continue with the lessons in the next half year. The committee will now provide the lessons in blocks of three or four weeks with 1 "break" week in between. These blocks will then be about one main subject with some vocabulary and basic sentences as well. The formats and set-up of the lessons will be similar to the lessons provided in the first semester, as this turned out to be a success. The committee also created a WhatsApp group chat solely for the Dutch lessons with the participants so not all communication about the Dutch lessons has to be in the general international group chat.

The committee is also thinking of organising another online activity for international students in the upcoming period. At the moment of writing, the committee is still thinking of a good idea so there are no details yet, but the event might take place on the weekends as there is not much to do during the weekends at the moment. Normally, the committee would have organised the "unofficial" Babylon activities such as city trips, but these can obviously not go on due to the current measurements. Therefore, the online activity during the weekend might count as a nice alternative.

7.6 Membership benefits

The board is happy to announce that two new sticker deals have been added to the list of membership benefits, which are with The Fresh Factory and Fresca, which are further elaborated on in section 1.4.2. The board will monitor the use of these sticker deals by staying in contact with these companies, and nurture the newly established relationships.

Moreover, the Commissioner of External Affairs of the previous board started a collaboration with Studystore, which also involves other study associations of our faculty. This year, USA, the study association of American Studies, also joined in on the collaboration with which they can provide discounts on their study books.

Unfortunately, two sticker deals have not been extended in the last semester, which were with Fika and Popocatepetl. The ending of these deals is due to COVID-19 and both restaurants not wanting to take any risks during this period. Both restaurants want to be in contact again as soon as everything is back to normal. The rest of the sticker deals have luckily been extended this year, and Domino's provided some new discount codes for the

members to use.

7.7 Vacancy policy

There has been an increased number of occasions in the past years where Babylon was asked to share several kinds of vacancies of companies. Therefore, the Commissioner of External Affairs of the previous board (2019-2020) set up a vacancy policy, which was sent to the companies and provides several advertising options. The Commissioner of External Affairs slightly adapted the vacancy policy of last year. The current vacancy is as follows:

- **Package A. €30,-:** Posting the vacancy on the website and LinkedIn. The company may post a second vacancy on LinkedIn at a later time.
- **Package B. €40,-:** Posting the vacancy on the website, LinkedIn and Facebook. The company may post a second vacancy on both media at a later time.
- **Package C. €50,-:** Posting the vacancy on the website, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram Stories. The vacancy will be saved in the story highlights on Babylon's Instagram page.

The policy has been offered to companies before, however, unfortunately, no use has been made of it so far. At the moment of writing this report, the Commissioner of External Affairs is in contact with three companies who might be interested in making use of the vacancy policy, but nothing has been settled yet.

8. Commissioner of Activities

The main task of the Commissioner Activities is to coordinate her committees: the Committee of Informal Activities, the Sports Committee, the Orientation Week Committee and the Weekend Committee. 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. She strived to find the right balance between informal and formal activities and tried 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, there has been some shifting of the activities due to COVID-19. In the first few months of the academic year, only a small number of activities were organised. After that, almost all the activities have taken place online; only the Meet & Greet at the beginning of the year took place physically. Although most activities took place online, the attendance of most activities has not been disappointing. It is worthy to mention, however, it has become clear that the more online activities are planned shortly after each other, the less participants joined the activities. To keep the members of Babylon bonded to their study association, the CIA hosted some extra activities in the month November. Every Tuesday of November, an online (informal) activity was hosted. More on this can be found in section 8.4. When looking at online activities in general, it is obvious that less people will attend, but the thirty-second board still is content with the number of participants that showed up. For most activities, the number of participants that signed up actually joined the activity. However, this was not the case for the Company Visit hosted by the Committee of Formal Activities. For this event, almost half of the participants that signed up did not show up. The thirty-second board will try to solve this problem by putting in every event that application means actual participation.

8.2 Committee Market

The Commissioner of Activities has been responsible for organising the Committee Market. Due to COVID-19, the Committee Market took place online. From every committee, there was at least one former member present who held a short presentation in a certain time frame and who was able to answer questions afterwards. The Committee Market was well-visited and resulted in enough applications to fill all committees. In total, 54 members signed up for a committee, of which everyone was enrolled in at least one committee. Out of the members who enrolled for a committee, four were pre-master students and eight were international students. Moreover, eight of the members were first-year students.

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. Together with the Commissioner of External Affairs, she went to all contract evaluations and negotiations, formed the new contracts and arranged deals and locations for activities that would usually take place in the Molenstraat, such as the *borrels*. Because Malle Babbe has been closed since March 2020, a contract was signed with Café van Buren instead of with Malle Babbe, since Café van Buren was the only café that remained open. The contract was different from previous years. Because the hospitality sector was hit hard during the corona crisis, the prices for beer during a borrel went up to €2.30, the price for wine went up to €2.60, the prices for a mixed drink went up to €3.50 and for a shot to €2.50. Next to this, Babylon will not receive a set amount of

money per *borrel* but 7% of the revenue that Café van Buren made during the *borrel*. As long as Malle Babbe remains closed, this contract with Café van Buren will remain in effect. When Malle Babbe reopens, a new contract with Malle Babbe will be constructed. Normally, two other contracts with the Molenstraat regarding the BaMyPo parties and the Inglorious parties are also constructed and signed, but because of COVID-19, no new contracts for these parties were formed since they, most likely, cannot take place (in physical form). When these parties can take place again, a new contract for these parties will be constructed and signed. There was a lot of uncertainty about the sponsor money of the Molenstraat of the previous academic year. Eventually, not the total amount of sponsor money was transferred, but only the money of the borrels that actually took place in Malle Babbe since that was what the contract stated. This resulted in €656,- instead of the normally paid €850,- (two borrels less because of COVID-19).

8.4 Committee of Informal Activities

The Committee of Informal Activities (hereafter: CIA) consists of three first-years students and two third-year students. At the time of writing, the committee has already organised several online activities, namely: an Online Borrel, Pubquiz, Music Bingo and a Christmas Beer Tasting.

To start with the Online Borrel, which was a great success. Approximately 30 people participated. During the *borrel*, easy drinking games like "Mexx" and "Piccolo" were played in breakout rooms. After each round (consisting of two different drinking games) there was a short break in which different "Never Have I Evers" and "Dilemmas" were opposed upon the participants. After each break, different breakout rooms were created so the participants would get in contact with different people. The online *borrel* was a success and will, most likely, be organised again.

Next to this, the CIA was responsible for organising the Pubquiz this year. In total, 36 members signed up for the Pubquiz. The Pubquiz was held online. To make the Pubquiz stand out, the CIA came up with a lot of different fun categories like "Guess the Celebrity" and "What Happens Next?". The Pubquiz was played in teams. After each category the teams were invited into breakout rooms, so they were able to discuss their answers. They needed to send those answers to a member of the CIA before the breakout rooms closed. Also, similar to previous years, teachers were invited to the event. In total, five teachers participated. They were all coupled to a different team. From an email that was sent to them afterwards, the CIA was granted a lot of positivity from the teachers. They all had a great time. Each person in the winning team could pick up a bottle of wine in the Babylon Room. This all went very smoothly.

Moreover, a Music Bingo in collaboration with Café van Buren was organised. The original price for participation was €3.50 but the thirty-second board decided to contribute €1,- per person, so the costs to participate for the members resulted in €2.50. Two members of the CIA hosted the Music Bingo in Café van Buren together with three people from the Café van Buren staff. In total, 37 members signed up for the event. The event was a great success. Many people participated and everyone had great fun.

Lastly, an online Christmas Beer Tasting was organised. As the Christmas Dinner could not take place because of the restaurants being closed, the CIA collaborated with Café Tappers to host an online Christmas Beer Tasting. For €10,- per person, the members received three craft beers. The CIA contacted Coop Molenstraat and they sponsored a little snack for each participant. Moreover, the CIA wrote a Christmas card for each participant, which was also

added to the beer package. Tappers delivered the complete beer packages to the Babylon Room where everyone who signed up had to pick them up. To make the Beer Tasting more Christmas-like, the CIA came up with a short Christmas related quiz that was added to the Beer Tasting by Tappers. In total, 35 members signed up for the event. The event was fun, although it could have been more interactive.

At this moment, the CIA is working really hard to organise activities for the DIESweek, which will take place in the first week of March. Since the activities of that week probably need to be hosted completely online as well, the CIA is working on an online program. Next to this, the CIA is in its final preparations for "Drinkopoly", which will be hosted on 2 February.

8.5 Sports Committee

The Sports Committee consists of a mixture of students from different year layers. Although the Ski Trip is normally the event for the Sports Committee to arrange, this year, due to COVID-19, the Ski Trip to Avoriaz could unfortunately not take place. The thirty-second board of Babylon decided to cancel the Ski Trip earlier this academic year because members of the Department Board read about the event in the Babbel and were not happy about the event being planned. After the Commissioner of Activities and the Chair had been in contact with HUSK and the university a lot, HUSK eventually decided to take on the cancellation costs. In exchange, a new contract with HUSK was drawn up, which entailed that Babylon needs to book their Ski Trip with HUSK the coming three years. The first year Babylon will not receive any discounts, the two years after, Babylon gets the discounts that were agreed on a few years ago. This was agreed after many phone calls with HUSK since their original plan was to form a contract without any discounts for the coming two years. The Commissioner of Activities could have communicated better and more clearly with the Sports Committee about the cancellation of the Ski Trip. On behalf of the entire board, she has made her apologies to the committee for this.

Because the Ski Trip was cancelled, the Sports Committee decided to organise an online activity in January. The activity was called the Olympic Winter Quiz. 13 members participated. The quiz consisted of different categories like "après ski" and "winter foods" to create a nice warm winter feeling. Each team discussed its answers in breakout rooms and was also requested some assignments to do. The winning team received two bottles of Glühwein.

8.6 Orientation Week Committee

With regard to this year's Orientation Week, almost the whole event had to be hosted online. Due to bad communication from the university, the program had to be created very last-minute. Apart from some difficulties, such as having too many participants in the Zoom meeting, the committee managed to put together a nice online programme for the new first-year students and received mostly positive feedback. The university decided to grant mentors and the committees a financial contribution for their participation in the Orientation Week. However, the mentors received much more money than the committee members. The Commissioner of Activities therefore had a conversation with the university, after which they decided to give the members of last year's committee a gift card to even the amount of money that was granted to the mentors. This will be done in the upcoming weeks.

This year, the Orientation Week Committee consists of students from multiple study layers. Right now, the committee is mostly focused on putting together an online program since the situation regarding COVID-19 is still very uncertain. When the committee has a complete online program ready, it will slowly start to organise a 'normal' programme for

the Orientation Week. This is now still very difficult to do since all pubs and locations are closed.

Moreover, the university learned from their bad way of communicating and decided to grant each study their own contact person for the Orientation Week. This means that communication will go strictly through this person to the university. This way, better communication with the university will hopefully be obtained.

8.7 Weekend Committee

The Weekend Committee consists of a mixture of second-, third- and fourth-year students. The location for the Weekend will be the location the Weekend Committee of last year decided on, because the Weekend had to be cancelled last year and the location could be moved to a later time for free. The Weekend will take place from 9 - 11 April 2021. The committee came up with a "Spring Break" theme for the Weekend. The committee is currently focusing on the programme for the Weekend and on finding sponsors. The cost of the weekend will be approximately €60,- per participant. The bus for the Weekend is already booked, but it can still be cancelled for free up to two weeks before departure.

The Weekend Committee is currently also thinking of a plan B, in case the Weekend has to be cancelled. This plan B will consist of different activities within Nijmegen. It is decided that there will not be thought of a completely online alternative for the Weekend, because students are usually not very excited to participate in online events during a weekend.

9. Conclusion

In general, bearing in mind the circumstances of the past half year, the thirty-second board is content with Babylon's progression in reaching their short-term goals. Despite all restrictions, 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 by using the new website, developed by the thirty-first board, more frequently, and by carefully managing the social media platforms. The board members have also noticed that the professional image of Babylon was maintained among lecturers and companies. To further improve the image among members, the board will work hard to continue to offer a varied range of 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. Obviously, all board members have had to adjust their expectations and process disappointments, but nevertheless, they have stayed motivated and made the most of it. Not everything went perfectly or totally 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.