



BABYLON

STUDY ASSOCIATION

**CONCEPT ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021**

ACCESSIBLE, AMBITIOUS, PROFESSIONAL

Foreword

This is the annual report of the thirty-second board of Babylon. This report is meant to describe and reflect on the processes that concern managing Babylon during the academic year 2020-2021. Parts of it may overlap with the contents of the Semi-Annual Report.

The main aim of this year was to strengthen the bond between the association and its members. While doing this, the long-term and short-term goals, which can be found in the Policy of 2020-2021, were kept in mind. Emphasis was laid on attracting new members, strengthening the bond with international members and strengthening ties with external relations. This report describes to what extent the set objectives have been met and how the board expects her successors to continue working towards the association's goals.

Furthermore, this report will give an insight into the way activities have been organised. Committees will be elaborated on and successes and possible improvements will be discussed. The board has thoroughly reflected on the past year and is devoted to providing its members with an honest and genuine evaluation of their work. The results of the annual survey¹, conducted in June 2021, are used for this evaluation. In addition, COVID-19 and its effects on Babylon will be discussed.

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

¹ In June 2021, the board distributed a survey in which they asked the members of Babylon for their opinion about several topics. The survey was completed by 49 people. 8 participants were international students. The participants were divided over the year layers of the studies as follows: approximately 37% were first-year students, 19% second-year students, 16% third-year students, 12% fourth-year students or over and 12% were master students.

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1. COVID-19

1.1 COVID-19

Mentioning COVID-19 is inevitable, as it has had a major impact on Babylon over the past academic year. During this past year, the thirty-second board has had to cancel several activities, due to the (inter)national measures taken to limit the further spread of COVID-19.

It is clear that COVID-19 has brought 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 bonding and contact with members. Fortunately, the regulations were eased more and more towards the end of the academic year, which made it possible to organise some physical activities to end the year well.

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 the government regulations and guidelines at all times. Since these have been adjusted regularly, the thirty-second board made sure to always be on top of of the latest developments regarding COVID-19.

1.2 Activities

Due to COVID-19, the thirty-second board was not able to organise all activities in its original form. Most activities were replaced by an online alternative. However, for some activities it was not possible to find an online alternative that would --meet the goal. The following activities have not taken place last year nor were replaced by an online alternative:

- First-years Weekend
- Ski Trip
- Inglorious parties
- Family Day
- Study Trip
- Study Afternoons

Elaboration on why the activities have not taken place can be found in the chapters of the committees concerned.

Extra Activities

The thirty-second board strived to organise as many activities for her members and stay in touch with them as much as possible. As said before, some activities were not replaceable by online versions. In order to maintain the bond between her members, the thirty-second board came up with some additional activities and ways to stay in contact with the members. The extra activities / ways to stay in contact the board came up with are:

- Online Werewolves game (section 4.4)
- Weekly Friday Instagram Rubrics (section 5.3)
- "Teacher Talks" - the podcast (section 7.1)
- The "Ommetje" pool (section 9.5)

The activities are described in more detail later in the report.

1.3 Financials

Due to COVID-19, the finances of Babylon differ quite a lot from other years. Since several of our sponsors have been heavily affected by the corona crisis, and since the board could not organise most of the activities physically, the sponsor money that Babylon will receive will be less than in previous years. However, there are also many big expenses that have not been made because of the corona crisis. For instance, the annual Study Trip and the annual Ski Trip, but also activities such as the Prom, did not take place in its original form.

The Treasurer made two budgets for the past year. One budget was based on the budgets of previous boards and one budget was based on a worst case scenario, where incomes and expenses were affected by the corona crisis. Presumably, the definitive financial overview will be in between the two budgets that were created.

The thirty-second board is currently talking with sponsors about how much sponsor money Babylon will receive for the past year. The thirty-second board found it fair and decent to check the possibilities with the sponsors regarding the amount of money, since most of them have been (heavily) affected by the corona crisis. So far, the thirty-second board is positively surprised by the amount of money that most of Babylon's sponsors will give.

2. 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 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.

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

A strong connection between the members of Babylon and the association is essential because the members are the reason that Babylon exists. Therefore, the thirty-second board invested a lot of time over the past year to make this connection stronger. An illustration of this can be found in the following paragraphs. The thirty-second board was well represented in all year layers of the study programme, since the board members were evenly spread over the second, third and fourth year. Moreover, three board members are enrolled in the C&O programme and the others 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.

2.1.1 Bonding of members

The bonding of members has been carried out in various ways during the past year, however, it has been proven to be more challenging than usual due to the lack of physical contact with the members. The first steps towards this were taken during the Orientation Week, of which the goal was to acquire new members for the association. Although it took place almost completely online this year, the board put a lot of effort into bonding with the new members. Moreover, active membership was stimulated by organising an online Committee Market, as well as by organising two (online) Active Member Evenings and an Active Member Activity, which could take place physically. In addition, the Member of the Month was continued as well. There was not a possibility to update the Wall of Babylon, because of the fact that the Babylon Room was closed during the majority of the year. There were also two lunches organised at the end of the year, which took place at Café Van Buren. These were not as well visited as the lunches in the Babkam were, but this is also understandable, since it was harder for people to just come by.

The Weekly Challenges were also continued during the year, but the committees did not participate in them as well as they did previous years. This can be explained by the fact that all committee meetings have been online and it was harder to carry out these challenges. Moreover, the bond between the committee members was not as strong as previous years, so they were less motivated to carry out the challenges and score points for the Committee Games. Besides that, the weekly challenges were announced on the website as well as an announcement in the Active Member WhatsApp group chat this year

instead of on Facebook. There is a possibility that the members did not see the challenges or did not want to go to the website in order to find the challenges.

The board has also made extra efforts to bond with the first-year students in the past year, which was for example done by organising an online first-year activity, which took place on 10 March 2021. 12 first-year students signed up for this activity and with these people we played an online version of the Dutch board game Party & Co. This activity was really appreciated by the participants and it was a lot of fun. Afterwards, the participants mentioned to the board that they would rather join a Babylon activity because they got to know some other people.

2.1.2 (Pre-)masters

In previous years, it became clear that (pre-)master students are often not or less interested in becoming a member of Babylon. Over the past two years, however, it turned out differently. The thirtieth board had nine active (pre-)masters, and during the academic year of 2019-2020, there were thirteen active (pre-)master students. This year, the number of active (pre-)masters is back to nine. Considering that, due to new regulations of the university, the (pre-)masters were not allowed to take part in the Bachelor's Orientation Week this year, but instead had one separate Orientation Day, the board is not unsatisfied with this number. The (pre-)masters were mostly interested in the formal side of Babylon. Most of them joined a formal committee, like the Congress Committee, and were present during formal activities. Besides being interested in formal activities, the (pre-)masters also joined informal activities like *borrels* from time to time.

Unfortunately, similar to this year, (pre-)masters will not be able to join the regular Orientation Week again next year. This means that future boards should keep putting extra effort into the university's special (pre-)master day to keep this important group involved in Babylon.

2.1.3 International members

In accordance with the policies of the previous boards, the thirty-second board has continued to try to strengthen the bond between the international members and the association. Moreover, the main language for communication of Babylon is English. In addition, a total number of 12 international members have been 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 have been rewarding. The International Committee will be further elaborated on in section 8.7.

Similar to the semi-annual survey, there were questions specifically aimed at international students in the annual survey. The thirty-second board values the opinion of the international students on certain matters. In total, 8 international members filled in the survey and helped the board gain more insight on their view of Babylon. Overall, their responses were positive. They mentioned that they got to know new people because of the International Committee and that the Dutch Lessons have been valuable to them. Moreover, they also hoped that next year more physical activities would be possible, because they would really like that. Lastly, some suggestions were made as to what Babylon can do towards international students. These suggestions were passed on to the thirty-third board so they can try to implement them.

2.1.4 Recruitment of the new board

Last year, the thirty-first board introduced the Application Committee for the recruitment of the new board. This year, the board decided to continue the use of this committee. More on this can be found in section 4.3. Furthermore, similar methods to previous years were

used to recruit the new board. The Board Interest Lunch, which was held this year in the form of a Board Interest Presentation, social media promotion and an Open Board Meeting are examples of this. In agreement with the Policy Plan of the thirty-second board, international Babylon members also had the opportunity to apply for a board position. For the positions of Chair and Treasurer, the candidates had to have a Dutch level of at least B1, whereas for the positions of Commissioner of Internal Affairs and Commissioner of Activities, the candidates were not required to have any level of proficiency in Dutch. The positions of Secretary and Commissioner of External Affairs could only be fulfilled by candidates with a C1 level of Dutch. As a result, one international member applied and the thirty-second board is proud to be able to announce that the thirty-third board will be the first international board of Babylon. In general, the board did not experience a lot of difficulties with regard to enthusing interested members to apply for the thirty-third board. Eventually, there were enough applications to fill all six places of the board. Therefore, the thirty-second board considered the promotion very successful.

2.2 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 new members and partners. The following paragraphs provide more information on how and to what extent the thirty-second board achieved this.

2.2.1 Identity

The board has made efforts to maintain Babylon's established identity. A large part of doing so is to maintain a good balance between formal and informal activities, to portray the association as both professional and accessible. The responses on the survey showed that most members found the balance between formal and informal sufficient. Both formal activities such as the Study Afternoons and the Study Trip, and informal activities such as the First-years Weekend and the Inglorious parties were cancelled due to COVID-19. However, the results of the annual survey showed that some members thought the balance of the activities was insufficient. Therefore, the thirty-third board will strive for a perfect balance between formal and informal activities next year.

2.2.2 Professional communication

Throughout the entire year, the thirty-second board has aimed for professional and well-structured communication towards its members and both external and internal parties. The board concedes to the fact that, during the past year, the communication through social media towards members could have been more extensive. For example, during some activities, there were no or hardly any stories posted on Instagram. After receiving feedback on this from the Advisory Board, the thirty-second board has made efforts to assure that the communication through social media was used more frequently. Unfortunately, this was not followed through with every activity. The board worked with a system to reduce typos and grammar flaws, and luckily this worked well, resulting in hardly any mistakes within the social media posts.

As for communication towards external parties, the board has maintained the same way of communicating as planned at the beginning of the year. The communication towards these parties was professional and tailored to the party the board was addressing. Moreover, when invited for an activity, the party was contacted afterwards for a short evaluation, which was appreciated. No problems have occurred on this subject during the year. In addition, the board is satisfied with the increased use of the LinkedIn page and it has been advised to the thirty-third board to continue using LinkedIn actively next year.

2.2.3 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 was explained in the committee script. This script was actively 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 formal committees to use the same PowerPoint lay-out in all their presentations to maintain uniformity. The informal committees were allowed to make their own design as long as the Babylon logo was on the slides; this stimulated the creativity of the informal committees.

Babylon has gained several new partners, such as Fresca and Fresh Factory. In order to keep portraying the association as a professional entity to the outside world, the Commissioner of External Affairs has found a new formal partner for a sticker deal. This new partner is Dekker van de Vegt of which you will read more in 2.4.2. The board is convinced that this will maintain Babylon's reputation as both professional and accessible.

2.2.4 Privacy

The thirty-second board has been strict when it comes to the privacy regulations to protect the data of their members. Registration lists have not been visible for non-authorised people. Furthermore, minutes of board meetings and committee meetings were shared through mail or WhatsApp, and not via Google Drive or Facebook, since these are not GDPR proof.

2.2.5 The Babylon Room

The thirty-second board wanted the Babylon Room to be a welcoming and accessible place for all members. Unfortunately, the Babylon Room had to stay closed to members for the largest part of the year. When the university was opened, it was possible for members to make an appointment to visit the Babylon Room for certain occasions, such as picking up some items such as merchandise items, or to ask a question. The appointment had to be made via 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. This possibility to make an appointment was not used a lot. Most appointments that were made were for picking up merchandise items or Member of the Month gifts.

2.2.6 Business cards

The thirty-second board 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 were on there, as they are often the most relevant to external parties. The business cards were in Dutch with the English translation of the titles underneath it, so it was accessible for both Dutch and international contacts. However, the thirty-second board has not made any use of the business cards, partly due to the fact that (almost) all contact with external parties took place online. This information has been passed on to the thirty-third board, so they could think about whether or not they were going to buy business cards again.

2.3 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 continued to do so. The main goal was a positive connotation with Babylon. This is, among other things, achieved by improving and strengthening the bond with external contacts.

2.3.1 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 was done to improve the bonds with the companies and improve the image of Babylon. This has been done successfully last year. For example, speakers from different workshops (i.e. LinkedIn workshop, Sustainability workshop) have had a pleasant experience, as well as the speakers at CIS in the Field, the National Day of Communication, and at our online company visits.

2.3.2 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. This year, due to the circumstances regarding COVID-19, it was not possible for Babylon to cooperate with other associations in Nijmegen to organise Inglorious, BaMyPo and the Prom physically. However, the Prom was substituted by an online alternative that was organised along with Postelein (see 6.6). Also, one online edition of the BaMyPo, called the BaMyPopmusic bingo, was organised in cooperation with both Mycelium and Postelein. Both of these activities were rather successful, although it was a shame that participants did not really have the chance to socialise with each other and get to know students from other associations. Moreover, Babylon organised the National Day of Communication together with Mycelium. This event was hosted completely online as well and it was a great success. In addition, the thirty-second board socialised with other boards whenever possible, for example during activities organised by SOFv.

The contact with the sister associations, also called the National Council of Communication Sciences (NCCS), went well this year. A meeting was held approximately every six weeks via Zoom, and these meetings were led by the Chair of Babylon. The NCCS contract was not completely correct and slightly outdated in some sections, so it was decided to renew the contract. The Chair of Babylon made sure this was done and at the time of writing every association is signing the renewed contract. The 'Sisters Day', that usually takes place once or twice a year, has not taken place this year. Due to the regulations, it was impossible to meet in person with all board members of all sister associations and it was decided not to organise an online Sisters Day. Babylon and all of the current sister associations would still like to organise one when this is possible. Therefore, a date is being set at the beginning of the next academic year.

Similar to last year, the thirty-second board also wanted to get into contact with RUIS (HAN Communication) to make way for possible future collaborations. Therefore, they were invited to the National Day of Communication. This should have been a small start in creating new connections with RUIS, but unfortunately they were not present at the NDC due to some internal issues RUIS was experiencing at the time. After the NDC, when Babylon tried contacting RUIS to discuss possible future collaborations, no response was received, so this meeting could not be scheduled. It is unfortunate that this bond was not created this past year, though next year there will be another chance. The thirty-third board of Babylon is planning on contacting RUIS again to give it another try.

2.3.3 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 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 by train. Besides, the board arranged a meeting with the Green Office to talk about making the association 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. In addition, the board bought whiteboards that can be used during activities instead of paper. Besides, all members could fill in declaration forms and registration forms for activities online, so the board did not have to waste paper any longer. Furthermore, the board has done a rubric on Instagram Stories every week in which she highlighted sustainability or sustainable options. Also, the thirty-second board has paid more attention to green/sustainable companies who offered vacancies or asked for a favour. In general, the board was 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. Therefore, paying attention to sustainability is passed on to the thirty-third board.

2.4 Strengthening ties with external relations

2.4.1 Keeping in touch with sponsors

Strengthening and maintaining ties with external relations has been of great importance to the Commissioner of External Affairs and the thirty-second board as a whole. The Commissioner of External Affairs has maintained contact with all external parties during the past year, although this has proven to have been challenging oftentimes. Some parties were hard to reach or mentioned they did not want to continue the collaboration due to COVID-19. More on this topic will be mentioned in section 2.4.2. Nevertheless, the Commissioner of External Affairs has succeeded in staying in contact with all external parties and she believes this will not be a problem anymore next year.

The Commissioner of External Affairs has continued the sponsor file as was mentioned in the Policy Plan of the thirty-second board. The majority of the contacts that are in there are current sponsors and companies Babylon has a sticker deal with or has worked with in the past year. This is due to the fact that there have not been many activities that required sponsors and the committees therefore did not add any new contacts to the file.

2.4.2 Current sponsors and recruiting sponsors

Not all existing relations have been maintained over the past year. StageMax, one of Babylon's previous sponsors, decided not to continue the contract. In addition, FIKA and Popocatepetl, two restaurants Babylon had a sticker deal with, decided to indefinitely end the collaboration with Babylon as they were hit hard by the COVID-19 measures. Both parties mentioned they are willing to continue the collaboration in the beginning of the next academic year. Therefore, the Commissioner of External Affairs has advised her successor to contact both parties as soon as she starts her function.

Moreover, Rabobank has mentioned in the beginning of the academic year that there was a possibility they would stop sponsoring Babylon, as there are a lot of internal changes going on within the company. Luckily, in June they announced to continue sponsoring Babylon for one more year, however they will sponsor less money. Fortunately, De Waagh

has announced to start paying more from next year on which means this will be compensated.

The Commissioner of External Affairs has put efforts into finding a new (formal) relation during the past year. Unfortunately, this has been very challenging. She contacted over 30 companies and the majority of these contacted companies mentioned not to be interested in sponsoring Babylon this year. Oftentimes, this was due to COVID-19 and sometimes the companies mentioned a study association was not a good fit with their policy. She has been in contact with some companies who expressed some interest, but later they turned out not to be interested anymore. One company, however, is interested in sponsoring Babylon, but they have already divided their budget for this year. Therefore, the Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-third board will contact this company again next year to see if they are still interested at that moment.

Luckily, the Commissioner of External Affairs has succeeded in introducing three new sticker deals over the past year. Two of these have already been described in the Semi-Annual Report, and another deal has been started recently. Therefore, these deals will be shortly elaborated on:

Firstly, a new sticker deal with The Fresh Factory was established, which started in September 2020. 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. This smoothie was 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 sticker deal that was introduced this year is with Fresca, a restaurant located in the city centre of Nijmegen. When showing their Babylon sticker, members 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. This deal was introduced in February 2021, and at that moment the COVID-19 measures did not allow restaurants to be open. Hence why this deal was initially introduced for drinks to-go. However, the deal is now still valid when, for example, eating lunch there.

Lastly, the newest sticker deal that has been introduced is with Dekker van de Vegt, which is a book store in the city centre of Nijmegen. They have collaborations with multiple other study associations and they offer Babylon a 10% discount on second-hand items, international books, calendars and agendas. Members have to show their Babylon sticker at the check-out and they will then receive the discount. This deal started on 1 July 2021 and is therefore currently the newest sticker deal established by the Commissioner of External Affairs.

The Commissioner of External Affairs will, for her last weeks, continue to put efforts into finding new collaborations. She has been doing this along with her successor, so the Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-third board knows all procedures next year. Moreover, Babylon will continue to be presented as a professional, yet accessible study association and nurture the current pleasant environment for sponsors and other relations.

2.4.3 Business gift

As pledged in the Policy Plan, the thirty-second board has designed personalised Tony's Choclonely chocolate bars. Throughout the year, these have been used as a business gift for speakers at events or people that have contributed to Babylon in the past year. 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 contributor lived in Nijmegen. The board has received some very kind messages in response to this thoughtful present. The speakers of the NDC have received a different gift, which was a bouquet and an assortment of chocolates. It has become clear that Tony's Choclonely is not fully sustainable anymore, which is why the thirty-third board has come up with a different business gift for next year.

3. General Affairs

3.1 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 between study associations of the Faculty of Arts at Radboud University. Babylon decided to join LETO to strengthen the bonds with the other study associations from the Faculty of Arts two years ago. Furthermore, LETO keeps Babylon up to date about faculty-related affairs and organises several activities for all the associations of the Faculty of Arts throughout the academic year.

Two board members of Babylon 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 two LETO meetings. Once due to an agenda mistake and 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. The guidelines were approved after the writing of the semi-annual report. After the guidelines were made, they slightly changed, because the government regulations were in such way that no stage of the guidelines matched the current situation.

3.2 Advisory Board

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

This year, the thirty-second board only had one meeting with the Advisory Board in order to discuss and receive feedback on the ongoing business within Babylon. Additionally, the board, and mostly the Chair, had contact with the Advisory Board about certain topics when the board ought it necessary. Usually, the Chair of Babylon is always present at the meetings with the Advisory Board and two additional board members join him or her. Next year, more than one meeting between the board and the Advisory Board will be planned. Furthermore, the Advisory Board provided feedback on the weekly minutes that were made during the board meetings. These were always thoroughly read and considered. The contact with the Advisory Board was very pleasant and sufficient this year. They have proven to be a valuable source of information and advice.

The Advisory Board of 2021-2022 will consist of at least three and no more than six members. Since two years ago, it has been possible for a Babylon member who has played an active role within the association, to take place in the Advisory Board. This year, the House Regulations were adjusted, making it possible for an external board member (a

(former) board member of a different study association) to be a part of Babylon's Advisory Board as well.

3.3 General Member Meetings

The academic year's first General Member Meeting, the Financial GMM, was held at De Waagh on 14 September 2020. During this meeting, the thirty-second board briefly evaluated the online Orientation Week, provided updates about ongoing board matters and presented her budget for 2019-2020. Also, she presented her revised Policy Plan. In addition, the thirty-first board presented her Financial Annual Report. All three reports were approved.

The second General Member Meeting, the Semi-Annual GMM, was held online via Zoom on 10 February 2021. The thirty-second board presented her Semi-Annual Report during this meeting, which was approved. Besides that, the thirty-second board suggested a change of the House Regulations with regard to the composition of the Advisory Board. However, at that time, the idea was not clear enough yet. Therefore, an additional Semi-Annual GMM was organised via Zoom on 10 March 2020. During this meeting, the proposed change of the House Regulations was presented again and this time it was accepted.

The last General Member Meeting will be held via Zoom on 8 July 2021. During this meeting, the thirty-second will briefly present her Annual Report, there will be voted on the thirty-third prospective board of Babylon and if voted in, the thirty-third board will present her concept Policy Plan. In addition, the Advisory Board and the Till Committee will change.

3.4 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 past academic year (including the expected number of members attending every activity), an overview of the individual board tasks and a document with general information about the association, such as the number of members. The next two Babylon boards will be granted 30 Board Grants, instead of 28 which the previous boards were granted.

3.5 Website

The aim of the thirty-second board was to use the website more often for communication and to ensure the website was a channel members and external parties could visit for all information they wanted to know. The first aspect went well. Some important updates were posted on the website and additional information about some affairs was put on the website. Moreover, members had to sign up for every activity via the forms on the website, which worked properly. Zoom links to the online events were also posted in the event on the website to ensure members who do not have a Facebook account could also find the link. In the first half year, the board did not use the news page on the website as often as planned. Therefore, there had to be more emphasis on finding content to post on the news page of the website. Unfortunately, this did not happen. Often, the news page was forgotten or thought of too late. The board has advised the thirty-third board to find content that can be posted on the news page. Also, they can think of new ways to attract members to the website.

At the beginning of the 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 contacted Smallhold,

who reset the website and made sure the server could handle more users. Smallhold adjusted the settings of the server in order to avoid other problems with the server in the future. In the second semester, when the sign-ups for the first physical *borrel* after the lockdown started, the website crashed again. Smallhold was contacted again and was able to bring back the server after a couple of minutes. They said they cannot do anything that prevents this problem from happening again. Therefore, there unfortunately is a possibility that the website crashes again in the future. Smallhold automatically receives a notification if that happens. If the thirty-third board faces this problem, she can contact Smallhold and they will solve the problem.

In the first semester, the website was hacked a couple of times, which caused the board and the members 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. Since then, the website has not been hacked anymore.

The old website (www.svbabylon.nl) still exists, because of the e-mail addresses connected to that server. The thirty-second board cancelled the licence for the website itself, the e-mail addresses and the databases of the old website. The licence for the domain name of the old website was automatically extended for this year, but the board cancelled the licence of the domain name SV Babylon from next year on.

3.6 (E)mail

Overall, there were little difficulties regarding the email. It appeared that some other study associations or university institutions still made use of Babylon's old email addresses. The Secretary emailed those parties to remind them of our new email addresses. Now, very few parties make use of the old email addresses. Therefore, the thirty-second board decided to no longer extend the licence of the old email addresses. If, in the future, emails are sent to the old email addresses, the sender will receive a notification that the email address they sent the email to no longer exists.

The Secretary used the programme 'Mailchimp' to send emails to all members of Babylon. Every month, the newsletter, called the 'Babbel', was sent to all members. This newsletter was written both in Dutch and English. The content of the Babbel mostly consisted of upcoming activities, throwbacks to previous activities, announcements of new collaborations/sticker deals etc. According to the statistics Mailchimp shows, about 50% of the members who receive the Babbel, actually reads it. Therefore, the Babbel can be considered a useful way for promotion.

Moreover, the Secretary sent 'happy birthday' emails to the members to congratulate them on their birthday. All general members could get a free shot during the next *borrel* at Café Van Buren. Unfortunately, until April, the board was not able to organise a physical *borrel* and the deal could not be used. Contributing graduates and lecturers/professors did not get the opportunity to get a free shot, because more than half of the contributing graduates are 25 years or older, or are not even living in Nijmegen anymore, so they are not likely to attend the *borrels* anymore.

Due to government regulations, the Secretary was not always allowed to visit the university. Therefore, at times, the mailbox was not checked every week. This did not result in any problems, due to the small amount of mail Babylon received.

3.7 Mental health

During the past academic year, mental health has played a more important role than before due to the circumstances regarding COVID-19. Out of the semi-annual survey, it became clear that a relatively high number of Babylon members experienced some sort of mental health difficulties. Therefore, the board decided to pay more attention to the topic during the second semester of the academic year. This was done in various ways. First of all, Babylon has shared the platform Frisse Gedachtes several times, on both Facebook and Instagram. This is a new initiative that was established by three students from the Radboud University committed to improving student wellbeing. The platform offers, among other things, an online chat box via which students can anonymously talk to other students. Another initiative by Frisse Gedachtes, called Frisse Gedachtes Walks, was set up later. This new initiative was well promoted by Babylon on social media as well. Moreover, a page focussed on mental health was created on Babylon's website, on which Frisse Gedachtes was promoted as well. On this page, the study advisors are also mentioned as a place to contact for help, as well as Praktijk InZicht, Couch Talk and Therapie Vrijzijn, which are companies that offer professional help to students for free. Lastly, the confidants of Babylon of the past academic year, Maud Weijers and Sam Helmink, were mentioned on the page as well as a contactpoint for students wanting to talk to someone. Also, extra attention was paid to the confidants on Babylon's social media, in the Babbel and in the Babylon Magazine.

3.8 Study Support

The thirty-second board introduced a new heading on the website. This heading is called 'Study Support' under 'Members'. Under this heading a page can be found on which our study related support is explained. Babylon's study support consists of summaries from Stuvia, a deal with BijlesHuis and an upcoming collaboration with a collection specialist from the University Library.

3.8.1 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. Therefore, she contacted Stuvia. Stuvia wanted to start a collaboration. Now, students can get a 10% discount on the summaries for the CIS-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 which could have been expected.

3.8.2 BijlesHuis

The Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-first board established a collaboration with BijlesHuis last year, and this collaboration was extended this year. BijlesHuis offers (online) tutoring for various subjects of our study programme. BijlesHuis also offers our members the possibility to become a tutor there. For every student that signs up through Babylon as either a member or a tutor, Babylon will receive €20,-. Over the past year, one member of Babylon has signed up to become a tutor at BijlesHuis. The deal will be continued next year as well.

3.8.3 Collection specialist

The Commissioner of External Affairs was approached by the collection specialist from the University Library, who is specialised in the Faculty of Arts. He wanted some more promotion for his services as not many students are aware of this. The board thought it would be better to promote his services from next year on, as the academic year is now over. Therefore, the board decided it would be better for the thirty-third board to start

promoting him. This will be done through a page on the website under "Study Support", as well as a social media post.

4. Chair

The Chair is proud of the accomplishments of the thirty-second board of Babylon. Although not everything went according to plan, the Chair thinks that the board did a great job on most things. COVID-19 has made the past year a very challenging one, but the board members always did their best to make the best of it. The Chair is proud of the way the thirty-second board dealt with the setbacks. After the Commissioner of Activities resigned her board tasks, the Chair took over the coordination of the Sports Committee and the Weekend Committee, about which more can be read in 9.5 and 9.6.

4.1 Lead and coordinate the board

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. Throughout almost the entire academic year, these meetings took place every Tuesday morning. By far the largest part of the year, the meetings took place online. Apart from one or two physical board meetings in the beginning of the year, the board could have physical meetings in the last few weeks. It has happened that, because of personal circumstances or board-related events, the board meeting had to be rescheduled. When this happened, however, 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. In addition, almost all the meetings have been attended by the entire board from start to finish. When this was not the case, the board member who could not be present the whole meeting made sure to be present during the most important parts of the meeting. It has occurred a couple of times that the Chair or another board member showed up late to the weekly board meeting. Also, the Chair sent the agenda rather late a couple of times in the first semester. In the second half of the year, however, the agendas were always uploaded one or two days before the meetings in order to give the other board members enough time to prepare themselves for the meeting. In the beginning of 2021, the Chair proposed the idea of taking a short break during 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.

Another task of the Chair that is part of coordinating the board, is to monitor all the activities organised by Babylon's committees. The Chair strived to do so by reading through the minutes of all the committees and by keeping close contact with her fellow board members. Overall, this went well, although not all the minutes of all committee meetings were always sent to the Chair. She could have been more on top of this, especially in the first semester. During the second semester this went better. However, the Chair did strongly advise the Chair of the thirty-third prospective board to be more on top of this from the beginning.

Furthermore, the Chair helped out other board members if it was necessary. In addition, she was always available for her fellow board members if they had personal issues. If another board member came to her with a personal problem, she tried to help him or her to the best of her abilities.

4.2 General Member Meetings and public speeches

It is also a task of the Chair to lead all Babylon's General Member Meetings. The Chair has done so without any difficulties. In addition, the Chair is supposed to attend all General Member Meetings of SOFv and LETO together with the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. In the first semester, they were not present at every single of these GMM's (see section 3.1). In the second semester, however, they had a higher attendance rate. The Chair only

missed one SOFv GMM in the second semester, but the Secretary and Commissioner of External Affairs joined in her place.

In addition, one of the tasks of the Chair is to give speeches during several activities and ceremonies. During the Orientation Week, she gave a speech about Babylon towards potential new members. She was meant to give a speech about Babylon on the Family Day as well, but unfortunately this activity was cancelled (see section 7.5). Besides that, the Chair gave speeches during several Bachelor's graduation ceremonies, of which one took place online.

4.3 Application Committee

Last year, the thirty-first board created the Application Committee to make sure that the application procedure of the prospective board would be fair and unbiased. The use of the Application Committee appeared to be very successful, which is why the thirty-second board decided to continue with it. 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 Wopereis (current board member of Postelein, as an external board member). The committee was not concerned with the promotion and recruitment of members of the successive board, but only carried out the actual application procedure.

The committee met several times, of which the first meetings already took place before the applications for the thirty-third board had closed. The beginning of the application process went smoothly; enough members applied, the application letters were read thoroughly by all the members of the committee and the interviews were set. All interviews took place via Zoom, which went smoothly. After carrying out all the interviews, all committee members created several possible compositions and divisions for the prospective board, after which the committee discussed all the applicants and the formation of the thirty-third prospective board in just one meeting. After agreeing on the formation, the Application Committee gave strong advice to the thirty-second board and the board agreed on this formation.

4.4 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 was 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, four third-year students and one fourth-year student.

A permanent rehearsal place was found rather quickly and the band started rehearsing soon. Later on in the year, however, the regulations regarding COVID-19 no longer allowed the band to rehearse for a while. Towards the end of the academic year, it luckily was possible again for the band to come together and rehearse. The band has already given their first online small performance, in the form of a video that they recorded that was used during the Cantus organised by the Sports Committee. 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 academic year, the goal is to resume the rehearsal and continue the development of the band, although it is not yet certain whether all current band members will stay a part of the band, because it is not yet clear for everyone what the next academic year will look like for them.

4.5 Online Werewolves Game

In the last week of November 2020, the board organised the online Werewolves Game. This was an online version of the already known Dutch game “Weerwolven van Wakkerdam” and it was 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. 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 considered organising this activity again in the second semester, but unfortunately there was no room for it in the busy year planning.

Maud Weijers
Chair of Babylon 2020-2021

5. Secretary

5.1 Member File

The thirty-second board made use of the programme 'Conscribo' for the member administration. The Secretary was responsible for making sure the member file remained up-to-date. She ensured the right personal information of new members was included in Conscribo as soon as possible after they signed up and the personal information of members who wanted to unsubscribe, was removed from Conscribo as soon as possible. At the moment of writing, Babylon has 479 members. At the beginning of the year, when the Treasurer was collecting the membership fees, the Secretary, in collaboration with the Treasurer removed members of which there was too much information missing in Conscribo, from the member file. I.e. members whose IBAN and email address were missing, were unsubscribed from Babylon. At the beginning of the academic year, Conscribo was upgraded, so a direct plug-in from Concribo could be implemented on the website. This way, when members sign up, their information is directly in Conscribo and no longer has to be filled in manually. This, hopefully, saves the next Secretary much time.

5.2 Minutes

It was the Secretary's responsibility to write the minutes of all board meetings and General Member Meetings. In general, the Secretary managed to write and spread the minutes to the parties concerned in time. Throughout the year, less grammar mistakes occurred in the minutes. This was due to the more critical look all board members had when they checked the minutes. In order to create uniformity though all minutes, the Secretary created a template for the secretaries of Babylon's committees. This way, the secretaries had a standard template they could adjust, instead of having to think about what the minutes should look like. The templates were available both in Dutch and in English, so all committees could make use of this. The Secretary gave the committee secretaries the opportunity to send their minutes to her at the beginning of the year, in case they wanted to receive feedback on their way of writing minutes. A couple of secretaries did so and found it helpful, so it could be wise to offer this opportunity next year as well.

5.3 Social Media

This year, the Secretary was responsible for updating the Facebook and Instagram pages of Babylon. In this section, the important role social media had during the past year and how both channels have been used will be described. More information about the use of LinkedIn by the Commissioner of External Affairs can be found in section 8.4.

The role of social media became much more important this year in contrast to previous years. Especially in the beginning of the academic year, the board was not able to meet the members in person. It became harder to stay in contact with members and to include them within the association. Via social media, the board was able to stay in contact with members and to inform them about what Babylon can offer them, also in times of COVID-19.

During the weekly board meetings, the media planning was discussed and updated, in order to make it clear for each board member when certain things had to be published online.

Facebook

The Facebook page of Babylon has, at the moment of writing, 920 followers. Facebook has mostly been used for the promotion of activities. For each activity, a Facebook event was created and members were invited by board members to attend the activity. Next to the activities, the Member of the Months, some vacancies or promotion material of sponsors and new collaborations were posted on Facebook. In the first semester, the Babylon Facebook group was not used very often. During the second semester, however, the board tried to post reminders of events and updates about activities in the Facebook group more often. Last year (2019-2020), it already appeared that less and less new members have a Facebook account, which caused the thirty-second board to find alternatives to communicate with those members and to reach them in order to promote our activities in the most efficient way. This is why the use of Instagram became of bigger importance.

Instagram

At the moment of writing, the Instagram page of Babylon has 689 followers. Instagram was used mostly to communicate with members. For each activity, an Instagram post was made in order to ensure members that do not follow Babylon's Facebook page, are able to get informed about the upcoming activity. This way of promotion appeared to be successful. A week before each event took place, a reminder was posted on the Instagram Story in order to boost the number of sign-ups. Important announcements, cancellations of events, relevant activities from other associations or the university and vacancies were also shared via Instagram Story. The Member of the Months were also posted on Instagram.

The board started with an Instagram rubric called 'Guess the BABYlonian' at the beginning of the academic year. This way, members had something fun to do and members were able, to a small extent, to get familiar with some faces within Babylon, because it was not possible to meet and get to know other Babylonians in a physical way. This rubric was well received, which is why the board continued posting a Friday rubric on Instagram. At the beginning of the second semester, the board started the rubric 'Eco-Friendly Friday'. In this rubric, followers were informed about sustainability, were given tips on how to live more sustainably and were provided with sources they could use if they want to learn more about sustainability. The third and last Friday Rubric was called 'Foreign Friday'. International Babylonians provided the followers with information and tips about their home country they can use when visiting their country. This way, Babylonians got a little insight into the lives of other members. Overall, the rubrics were received very well and the polls and questions on the posts were filled in by many members.

Style

The thirty-second board aimed to create more unity in the style of the posts. They tried to do this by inserting one style and mainly using the Babylon colours in the posts. This caused the Instagram feed to have a more professional look. Besides that, posts are instantly recognisable as Babylon posts. The Secretary designed a format for the Member of the Month that was used throughout the whole year. Moreover, the Graphic Design Committee and the Secretary used the same orange and blue complexions in the posts to create more uniformity. The board heard a lot of positive voices about the feed, the design and the way of designing. This is why the Secretary created a stylebook for Babylon. In this stylebook, an overview of all guidelines for promotion is listed. The colour codes of the blue and orange colours used this year, for example, are stated in there. Also, the way of date and time notation and the requirements regarding logos of external parties that need to be on the promotion material for certain activities are stated there. This stylebook can be used in the future to maintain the unity in the posts.

5.4 Graphic Design Committee

The Graphic Design Committee of 2020-2021 consisted of eight members. A couple of them had some previous experience with InDesign. At the beginning of the year, two members attended the physical Photoshop workshop organised by SOFv. The rest of the committee got the opportunity to work through the documents of the workshop themselves, in order to get to know the software. At the beginning of the year, the committee made some drastic changes regarding the design of the Babylon Magazine (BM). The magazine looks cleaner and more professional now. By now, four editions of the magazine have been published this year, of which three in the new design. On each edition, three committee members worked together. A couple of meetings were scheduled when the deadlines were approaching, which resulted in enough moments to ask questions and to receive feedback. Before the BM was sent to the publisher, the Publication Committee and the board were asked for feedback, to ensure they were all satisfied with the result.

Since the third edition of the BM of this year, Babylon also provided members with an online edition of the magazine. Out of the end-of-the-year survey, it appeared that only about 20% of the respondents took a look at the online version of the magazine. Out of that percentage, only 25% actually read it.

Another task of the Graphic Design Committee was to create and design promotion material for all activities. The assignment requests were not always sent to the committee in time, which resulted in them having less time to design the material. Oftentimes, this was not a problem and a committee member was able to design it in less than two weeks. However, it also occurred that no committee member had time to design promotion material, when the assignment request was sent too late. In those cases, the committee that had to organise the activity designed something themselves or the Secretary helped out.

Final editing of the Babylon Magazine

The Secretary was also the editor-in-chief of the BM, so she had the ultimate responsibility for the magazine. This year, in contrast to previous years, the Publication Committee was coordinated by the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. Since both committees work together on the magazine, clear communication between the two coordinators was required. The coordinators experienced some difficulties regarding the planning of the BM for the first edition. The Graphic Design Committee already started editing the magazine, while the board still had to check the articles grammar wise. After the first edition, the Secretary and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs adjusted the planning for the next editions, so this problem would not occur again. All magazines were sent to the publisher on time hence delivered on time. This is due to the hard work and drive of the committees and the clear communication of the coordinators. Overall, the magazine was checked very well by the whole board, which resulted in no or few content and design mistakes. The Secretary is proud of the committee and the work they have delivered and she can say that the adjustments they have made to the magazine have been received very successfully.

Lieke Verhoofstad
Secretary of Babylon 2020-2021

6. Treasurer

Due to COVID-19, many activities had to be cancelled or have taken place in alternative form. Therefore, both the incomes and the expenses from this year differ much from other years.

Despite some minor setbacks within a few committees, Babylon and all committees have finished the past year financially healthy and there are no committees with significant financial issues. In the following paragraphs, the most important/relevant revenue and expenditures, the contact with committee treasurers, payment methods, the Study Trip Committee, Prom Committee and the merchandise will be discussed. Agreements with the thirty-second board in terms of financial policy will also be briefly discussed.

At the end of May 2021, the Treasurer took over the Committee of Informal Activities and the contact with the Molenstraat, due to the Commissioner of Activities laying down her tasks.

6.1 Budget

6.1.1 Revenue

- Contribution of the Department board of CIS

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 National Day of Communication and the Career Event. Both of these events took place online and for both events, a substantial amount of the received contribution was spent.

- Contractual sponsorships

At the time of writing, not all invoices for the sponsorships have been sent yet, since the thirty-second board found it decent and fair to check up with all involved parties how the sponsors were thinking about the sponsorship. The thirty-second board understands that sponsors might not pay the full sponsorship, since not all contractual agreements were possible to execute.

De Waagh will sponsor less money this year, since Babylon was not able to organise all activities that are normally organised in De Waagh, such as the Prom, the Active Member Evenings and the General Member Meetings. However, their amount of sponsor money will be increased from next year onwards. For other sponsors, it is not yet certain what exactly the amount of sponsor money will be. The Treasurer of the thirty-third prospective board has been notified of this development and together with the Treasurer, he will send the invoices to all sponsoring parties, if still necessary.

6.1.2 Expenditure

- Deconstitution drink

The constitution drink that is normally organised at the beginning of the summer holiday, could not take place this year due to COVID-19. However, the thirty-second board had decided to keep the money for the constitution drink aside, hoping that it would be possible to organise a constitution drink later in the year. Recently, other associations announced that they will organise a 'deconstitution drink', to congratulate the board with the end of their board year. The thirty-second board will organise such a deconstitution drink as well in the beginning of the academic year 2021-2022.

6.2 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 this meeting, the Treasurer has had contact with the treasurers of the committees when there were activities coming up. The treasurers have been requested to update their final budget to enable the Treasurer to finish the financial overview over the year 2020-2021, which will be presented by the Treasurer during the Financial General Member Meeting of the academic year 2021-2022.

6.3 Bookkeeping

The bookkeeping was done online (by filling in forms and keeping receipts) and in Conscribo, an online bookkeeping application. Due to COVID-19 and the related closure of the Babylon Room, all declaration forms and receipts have been saved online. Because the thirty-second board put emphasis on sustainability this year, the declaration forms have been digitised and have been put on the website for members to download and send via email.

At the start of the academic year, Conscribo was upgraded from the lite version to the premium version, because it costs the same. However, Conscribo has not been optimally used, because the annual Conscribo training by SOFv at the start of the academic year has not taken place. Therefore, the Treasurer was not fully aware of all possibilities that Conscribo offers.

6.4 Payment methods

Usually, members of Babylon would have been able to fulfil payments via five channels of payment this year. Paying by cash, paying by card with the iZettle, paying via a Rabobank payment request, paying via automatic collection and paying via iDeal on the website (for the merchandise). Practically all payments have been done via Rabobank payment requests this year. There have not been any problems with the Rabobank payment request.

In addition, the membership contribution has been collected via direct debit on Conscribo. There have been some problems with the collection, because the board did not have the required information of approximately 15 to 20 members. An email was sent to these members via the study advisor, but only two responded, so the others were signed out. The iZettle has not been used this year, because the Babylon Room has remained closed for the majority of the year. The thirty-second board has advised the thirty-third prospective board to continue working with Rabobank payment requests or Tikkie, since it is really easy to use, and since carrying cash is becoming a rarity more and more.

6.5 Study Trip Committee

This year's Study Trip was supposed to go to the province of Groningen. Due to COVID-19, the thirty-second board and the committee decided that it was not possible, due to safety reasons and COVID-19 measures, to travel abroad with a group of students. Therefore, the committee aimed for a trip in the Netherlands. However, after contacting the Radboud University about a possible Study Trip, the Department Board of Language and Communication strongly advised the committee to not plan a trip, even when staying in the Netherlands. Therefore, the thirty-second board had to make the tough decision to cancel the Study Trip.

6.6 Prom Committee

This year, the Prom has changed on several levels. First of all, since this year, Babylon does not organise the Prom with Bow and Mundus anymore. Those two associations did not want to organise a prom with Babylon anymore, since too many problems had occurred in the past. Therefore, Babylon will organise future proms together with study association Postelein. For next year, the current committee coordinators of Babylon and Postelein, together with the two prospective coordinators, are currently searching for a possible third association to organise the annual Prom with.

Secondly, the Prom that was organised this year, was different from the Prom organised in other years, due to COVID-19. It was not possible to organise a prom at De Waagh as usual. Therefore, Postelein and Babylon decided to organise an online Prom Dinner. Participants had the choice of several starters, main dishes and desserts from Proeflokaal Bregje, for a combined price of €15,-. All participants could pick up their meals on the day of the online Prom Dinner, on 18 February. Between the courses, the Prom Committee had prepared two Kahoot quizzes, which were related to dinner. In total, 63 people joined the activity, of which 28 were Babylon members. Many members told the board and committee that they had enjoyed the night, so the online alternative for the Prom can be called a success.

On 26 and 27 May, the Prom committee had prepared another Prom Dinner, but this time it would have been a physical activity on the terrace of De Waagh. Babylon would go to the terrace on 26 May, while Postelein would go on 27 May. However, the thirty-second board found the circumstances, such as the corona measures at the time and the weather forecast, not ideal. Therefore, the board decided to cancel the activity for Babylon. Postelein had their own reasons to not cancel it and still organised the dinner on the terrace. The thirty-second board strongly believes that the money that would have been spent on the physical Prom Dinner, can be used for better purposes. For instance, the saved money could be of great value next year, if Postelein and Babylon will not succeed in finding a third association, because then the expenses of the Prom might increase.

6.7 Merchandise

The Treasurer is responsible for the Babylon merchandise. Last year, all merchandise that was sold, was sold via the website. Without the mandatory closure of the Babylon Room during the majority of the year, people could have also bought merchandise in the Babylon Room. On the website, the merchandise can be paid for via iDEAL, PayPal, and Stripe. In the Babylon Room, the merchandise could have been paid for via iZettle, in cash, or via a Rabobank payment request.

The thirty-second board released one new merchandise item, namely the Babylon hoodie. This item was promoted when it was released. In addition, the thirty-second board made pictures of all other merchandise items, to give the merchandise a fresh look on the website.

The current merchandise consists of the following items:

- Babylon hoodie, €22,50;
- Babylon sweater, €15,-;
- Babylon socks, €7,-;
- Babylon cap, €7,-;
- Babylon Dopper, €10,50;
- Babylon 1989 shirt, €12,-.

This year, the total of sold merchandise consists of 29 Babylon hoodies, three Babylon sweaters, and a Babylon Doppo. The thirty-second board is happy with the amount of people that ordered the new merchandise item.

Sam Helmink
Treasurer of Babylon 2020-2021

7. Commissioner of Internal Affairs

7.1 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. Near the end of the second semester, Julia and Lucie left due to maternity leave. Therefore, two new study advisors started; Jamie and Sara. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs had foremost contact with Jamie. 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 them 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 lecturers in which she introduced the new board, Babylon and the Babylon Magazine. Furthermore, she asked if the teachers wanted to become a member of Babylon. The board did acquire two new members. 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 them for their hard work because of the Day of the Teacher. The original idea was to give the lecturers a physical present at the end of the year but the board decided to not do so. There still was no possibility to meet the teachers at the university due to the COVID-19 regulations. Furthermore, 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 card and a Merci chocolate. Furthermore, the lecturers were invited to the National Day of Communication. Unfortunately, no teachers showed up during this day.

The biggest factor in maintaining 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 later.

7.1.1 Podcast

The thirty-second board started - in collaboration with Jos Hornikx - making podcasts with lecturers. The board started with this to keep and strengthen the bond between lecturers and students of CIS during the COVID-19 situation. The students agreed with the lecturers about what subjects they wanted to talk about - which should be a mix of formal and informal subjects. The board uploaded four podcasts as they started with this the last period of the academic year.

7.2 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 consisted of four lecturers and five students. A high level of involvement with the Study Programme Committee is essential for our study association. Hereby, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs advises 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.

7.3 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 were 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.

7.4 Alumni

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. At the moment of writing, the Education Committee is busy with sending invitations to alumni in which they give them an opportunity to speak at the CIS in the Field event. Furthermore, alumni can also follow Babylon's LinkedIn page to stay up to date about matters that might interest them.

7.5 The 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.

The Education Committee organised and prepared an online version of the annual Family Day. They tried to stick to the original plan of last year, but had to make some changes. The Chair of Babylon and of the committee prepared a little talk after which Lucie should present a little Kahoot and Lieke Verheijen should give a lecture. Afterwards, the committee should switch to Gather. Gather is an online platform in which people can play games in different 'rooms'. Unfortunately, the online Family Day didn't take place as a result of insufficient sign-ups for the event. A suspected reason for this being that the event was to be held online due to corona restrictions. The committee's efforts to adapt the activity to an online setting evidently did not persuade the students to take part.

At the moment of writing, the Education Committee is working on their first event: The CIS in the Field event on 22 September 2021. They are sending potential speakers invitations to speak at the CIS in the Field via LinkedIn. The committee of last year made a table in which were speakers who were willing to speak but couldn't be there last year.

These potential speakers were invited first. Afterwards, the committee invited potential speakers via the LinkedIn group with Alumni of our study. The committee strives to arrange 9 speakers and strives to organise this activity physically at the university. The next Commissioner of Internal Affairs already helps with organising this activity, because the activity takes place in her board year.

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 place online this year due to COVID-19. 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 answer 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 was organised by the communication department of the Faculty of Arts. The members only needed to be present to answer questions and to tell the participants about e.g. their perception of the study, their student life, Nijmegen. These tasks were the same at the Study Choice Check. For the Study Choice Check, the study advisors made two different break out rooms for IBC and CIW in which the study advisors presented a Mentimeter to create interaction between the prospective students and the study advisor and the helping students.

The aim of the thirty-second board was to organise study afternoons this year, but since the university was closed almost the whole academic year, the study afternoons have not taken 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 study advisors before the first exam week where students were able to study 'together' online.

7.6 The Committee of Formal Activities

This year's Committee of Formal Activities consisted of five Dutch members. The committee proudly organised two Company Visits. It had to be arranged differently than other years because of the circumstances. Therefore, the two Company Visits took place via Zoom.

The first Company Visit was with Archetype, an international communications and PR agency. Three speakers from Archetype were present to tell us about their company. A couple of weeks before the Company Visit, the company 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 an 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. In total, there were 24 people present. 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 what the reason for the absence was but paid more attention to this issue in a next Company Visit. This online Company Visit was quite a success.

The second Company Visit was with Involve. This company consists of specialists in change and communication. The Company Visit was quite comparable with the Company Visit from Archetype. They also made a short video for the Instagram Stories of Babylon to attract members to the Company Visit. During the Company Visit, they spoke shortly about what

their company does and what it stands for. After that, they covered an interactional case study. The speakers were young and told their story with pleasure which made it nice to listen to. A lot of members asked questions at the end of the Company Visit which makes it likely that the members appreciated the Company Visit. In total, there were about 15 people present. This time, there were less people who did not show up compared to the last Company Visit. The Company Visit at Involve was also a success.

The former committee laid some groundwork for a Company Visit for this year's Committee of Formal Activities. The company they had arranged was Swinkels (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 corona. This year's committee is at the moment of writing also planning a company visit for the beginning of next academic year. Because the committee liked the idea of visiting Swinkels, they contacted them again and tried to arrange this as the first company visit of next year's Committee of Formal Activities.

7.7 Publication Committee

This year's Publication Committee consisted 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 made 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 flaws 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 the 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. With this in mind, the Publication Committee and the Graphic Design Committee continued with creating the Babylon Magazine in the new format.

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.

Alyce Hoeben

Commissioner of Internal Affairs of Babylon 2020-2021

8. Commissioner of External Affairs

The Commissioner of External Affairs is proud of the things that have been achieved this year, although it has been a challenging year. Things didn't go as planned but the activities she had to organise still took place, which required a lot of creativity from her committees. Moreover, three new deals were added despite the challenges, of which she is also proud. After the Commissioner of Activities resigned her board tasks, the Chair took over the coordination of the Orientation Week Committee, about which more can be read in 9.6.

8.1 Sponsors

As mentioned in part 1.4.2, not all collaborations have stayed intact over the past year. This was mainly due to the measures in place for COVID-19. Hopefully, the Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-third board is able to restore the collaborations with FIKA and Popocatepetl.

However, at the moment of writing the Semi-Annual Report, it was unclear whether the Rabobank would continue sponsoring Babylon, which they now confirmed to continue for one more year, but for a lower sum of sponsor money. Moreover, due to COVID-19, the activities that were supposed to take place physically in De Waagh could not take place. This has impacted the amount of sponsor money Babylon will receive, which is €750,- instead of €1.450,-. Although this is significantly less, it is still more than expected. Moreover, next year Babylon will receive €200,- extra on top of the standard €1.450,-. This will probably compensate for the fewer amount of money Rabobank will pay us. Babylon has to post extra vacancies for De Waagh for the extra €200,-, which is now included in next year's contract.

More information about current sponsors and the details of the three new collaborations established by the Commissioner of External Affairs this year can be found in section 1.4.2.

8.2 Membership Benefits

The board is happy to announce that three new sticker deals have been added to the list of membership benefits, which are with The Fresh Factory, Fresca and Dekker van de Vegt, which are further elaborated on in section 2.4.2.

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.

8.3 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 provided 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 on 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 on Instagram stories. The vacancy will be saved in the story highlights on Babylon's Instagram page.

In June, two companies have made use of the vacancy policy and they have both picked the most extensive package. The Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-third board

has also made some adaptations to the current vacancy policy, which will be implemented from next year on.

8.4 LinkedIn

In accordance with the Policy Plan, the thirty-second board, and specifically the Commissioner of External Affairs, has made efforts to use the LinkedIn page of Babylon more over the past year. She tried to upload onto the page every two to three weeks. These posts varied from sticker deal announcements, to vacancies, to evaluations of activities. The Commissioner of External Affairs did not succeed in posting every two to three weeks. This was due to the fact there sometimes was nothing to post, and one time it was forgotten. All in all, the use of LinkedIn has increased over the past year and this has led to some positive reactions. Therefore, the Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-third board will continue posting more regularly on LinkedIn next year.

8.5 Career Committee

Throughout the past year, the Career Committee has organised three activities besides the Career Event, which were the Workshop Resume and Cover Letter, the Guest Lecture provided by SterkWerk and the Workshop Sustainability. The Workshop Resume and Cover Letter was well visited, as there were 21 members besides the board and the committee. Moreover, it was provided by the Career Service of the university and they were really enthusiastic while presenting. The Guest Lecture was visited by 30 members, which is also a lot for an online activity. The story told by the company was really interesting and the activity was well-received by the members. Lastly, the Workshop Sustainability was not well visited, as only two people signed up. This could have been due to the fact that the subject was not interesting enough for the members, or that they have had enough of online workshops. Luckily, the board, prospective board and committee were present so there were still 18 people.

The Career Event took place on 29 April 2021, and it was held online. It became clear quite soon that the event could not take place physically, so the committee decided to focus on an online event. The committee experienced some challenges with organising the event, as it was fairly difficult to come in contact with speakers and find goodies for the goodie bags. This resulted in some members of the committee finding it hard to stay motivated for the committee and do their tasks. However, after the coordinator and chair of the committee made multiple efforts to get them motivated again, these members were willing to do more for the committee again. In the end, enough speakers were found and also enough goodies for the goodie bags. These bags could be picked up by one of the committee member's houses and this was done by nearly all participants.

Speakers from several branches attended the event, which included a Marketing and Communication employee from the university, the founder and director of Stampa Communications, the CEO of De Presentatiegroep and a representative from RvN@. The committee decided to only invite four speakers to the event instead of five, as they expected that to be too much for an online event. All speakers provided a presentation, however two did not have a PowerPoint presentation, which they were supposed to have. In general, the event went well and the speakers provided interesting presentations. Although it was online, it was visited by 30 members, which is quite good for an online event.

8.6 Congress Committee

The National Day of Communication is a congress that is held every year by one of the associations from the National Council of Communication Sciences (NCCS). This year, NDC was organised by Babylon and Mycelium. This event replaced the Congress this year and,

therefore, the Congress Committee organised it. The NDC took place on Wednesday 19 May 2021 and it was held online, as it was not possible to organise it online due to the COVID-19 measurements. The theme of this year's NDC was 'The Digital (R)Evolution' and had everything to do with the digitalisation of communication, Generation Z and social media. Therefore, the committee tried to find speakers that were in connection to that specific theme.

The event consisted of three main speakers, and of two rounds of workshops with in the first round four workshops to pick and in the second round three workshops. In addition, the entire event was presented by Eva Eikhout, who is a program maker at BNN. She did this in a fun way and introduced every speaker well. The first speaker of the event was Marcel Molenaar, the Country Manager of the Benelux at LinkedIn. Moreover, the second speaker was Jan Paul Dekker, the CTO at NL-ix, whose presentation was all about the internet and connected well to Marcel's story, as well as to the theme. The final speaker was Carly Egter, who is an Influencer Marketeer for some well-known Dutch influencers. These three speakers were all very interesting and the participants of the event had a lot of questions for them.

With regards to the workshops, the committee decided these did not necessarily all have to be about the digitalisation of communication, but just had to be connected to communication in general. This would then be a fun "break" from the theme and a moment to learn some more about communication in general. The workshops were about chatbots, PR, fact checking, digital media, expressing yourself and, lastly, a motivational speaker. The participants could sign up for a workshop beforehand and were then divided into these separate breakout rooms. The workshops were perceived as really interesting and fun, and also the interactive part was really appreciated.

The event took place from 10 am until 3 pm, which is relatively long for an online event. Despite that, the committee received only positive reactions on the event and also from people who felt like it did not take that long. Moreover, everything went well with the speakers and the breakout rooms. Overall, the NDC was successful.

8.7 International Committee

This year was the second year of the International Committee, which was created by the thirty-first board. Three of the members are international students, and two members were also members 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 was this year 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. 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 main focus of the International Committee over the past year has been the Dutch Lessons. In total, there have been 16 online Dutch lessons which were visited by approximately 10 international members each time and they were provided by the three Dutch members of the International Committee. 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. In the second semester, the Dutch Lessons elaborated on the topics introduced in the first semester and the level of Dutch became a bit more difficult. At the end of each lesson the participants were asked to give some input on what they wanted to learn or

what was difficult so the committee members could elaborate more on those topics in the lesson after that. In general, the Dutch Lessons were evaluated positively and as useful, interactive and fun. Next year, the committee will continue with the lessons.

Apart from the Dutch Lessons, the committee tried to organise an online activity twice. Unfortunately, both times, there were only two sign ups and the committee felt like the aim of the event, which was bonding with the international students, was gone if only two members showed up. Hence why the event was cancelled twice. However, in May, the committee organised a physical picnic and game afternoon in Kronenburgerpark. Eight international students showed up to this event, and along with the committee there were 12 people. This was a really fun afternoon and it was fun to meet the international students in real life. This is definitely something that can be done by the committee next year as well.

There is also a 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 in the beginning of the year, despite the fact they were hard to reach. The group now contains 34 members and is the main form of communication for the international students. This group will be continued next year and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs and the Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-third board will coordinate this together.

The board is glad with what the committee did for the international students this year, although they wished it could have been more. In general, the students were very hard to reach and they were not open to the activities organised by the committee. This is probably due to the online aspect of the activities, which makes it much harder to really get to know new people. Hopefully this will not be a problem anymore next year and the committee is able to reach more international students.

Renée Christophe
Commissioner of External Affairs of Babylon 2020-2021

9. Commissioner of Activities

The main task of the Commissioner of Activities is to coordinate the corresponding committees. These four committees and their corresponding activities will be discussed extensively. End of May 2021, the Commissioner of Activities of the thirty-second board, Marlon Gerrits, unfortunately had to decide to relinquish her board tasks due to personal circumstances. Of course, this was done in consultation with the other members of the board. The other board members took over her tasks and committees. Who took over what tasks and/or committees can be read below.

9.1 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). 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. Towards the end of the academic year, the board was able to organise a number of physical activities again, such as the Weekend and *borrels*. 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 were 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 November. Every Tuesday of November, an online (informal) activity was hosted. More on this can be found in section 9.4. 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.

9.2 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 – as the board expected less applications due to COVID-19. 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.

9.3 Contact with the Molenstraat

Until the end of May, 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*. At the end of May 2021, the Treasurer took over the contact with the Molenstraat.

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 coronacrisis, the prices for beer during a *borrel* went up to €2.50, the price for wine went up to €2.70, the prices for a mixed drink went up to €4.00 and for a shot to €3.00. Next to this, the agreements in the contract concerning the sponsor money have changed, and the thirty-second board is currently still discussing with van Buren about it. 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 could not take place (in physical form). 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,- over the year 2019-2020 (two *borrels* less because of COVID-19).

In early 2021, the contact person of the Molenstraat changed. The contact with this new contact person has been going predominantly smooth. The person is easy to contact via WhatsApp or through phone calls. More information about the activities organised together with the Molenstraat will be discussed in the paragraphs of the concerned committees.

In June 2021, the Treasurer, the Commissioner of External Affairs and the prospective Commissioner of Activities had an appointment with the contact person of the Molenstraat, where the contract for next year has been discussed. The Molenstraat wants to go back to a fixed amount of money, instead of the 7% of the revenue that they came up with at the beginning of the year.

9.4 Committee of Informal Activities

The Committee of Informal Activities (hereafter: CIA) consisted of three first-years students, one second-year student and one third-year student. At the time of writing, the committee has organised several online activities, namely: two online *borrels*, Pubquiz, Music Bingo, Drinkopoly and a Christmas Beer Tasting.

To start with the online *borrels*, which were a success. One took place in November, and one in April. Approximately 30 people attended the first *borrel*. 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, new breakout rooms were created so the participants would get in contact with different people. The *borrel* in April was called the 'Après Ski *Borrel*'. This *borrel* was organised together with Café Tappers. They hosted the evening, and provided all attendees with two bottles of Weizen beer, four shots, a bingo card, little gadgets, and a tote bag. During the night, there was a quiz and a bingo, which were well received by the participants. 28 members participated.

Next to the *borrels*, 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 along with three people from Café van Buren. In total, 37 members signed up for the event. The event was a great success. Many people participated and everyone had great fun.

Furthermore, 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 small 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.

Lastly, the CIA organised an online Drinkopoly. Despite the fact that there were only 13 sign-ups, the activity was a success. All participants had a really fun evening, and most of them stayed after the activity was finished, which was really nice. The DIESweek was also fully online, which will be further discussed in section 9.4.1.

From May 2021 onwards, the regulations regarding COVID-19 allowed it to organise physical *borrels* again. At the moment of writing, two physical *borrels* on the terrace at van Buren have been organised, and one more will take place on 6 July. During the first two *borrels*, the *borrel* was divided into two shifts, to make sure that all members that wanted to participate could come. These two *borrels* have been a huge success, since they were the first physical activities in a very long time. During each shift, there were 30 spots at the terrace of Van Buren. Each shift has been fully booked, so that is really nice.

The last *borrel* will take place on 6 July. It is not yet certain whether this *borrel* will take place on the terrace of van Buren, or on the terrace of Sjors en Sjimie. That is depending on the amount of available spots on both terraces.

9.4.1 DIESweek

This year, the DIESweek has been fully organised online. In the DIESweek, the Committee of Informal Activities organised the Crazy Carnival Challenge, a Wine Tasting, a Murder Mystery, and the Cocktail Workshop 2.0. The evaluations will be provided in the paragraphs below.

On Monday, the DIESweek started off with the Crazy Carnival Challenge. All participants were divided into groups and those groups were put into different Zoom breakout rooms. The groups had to finish a 'Crazy 50' list, with all challenges being related to carnival. Although there were not many participants, the people that were present had a lot of fun. Therefore, the activity can be called a success.

On Tuesday, the committee organised a Wine Tasting via Zoom. For €9, people could enjoy 3 different types of wine, while some committee members provided some information about the wine in dispute. The participants could pick up the wine tasting packages on the Monday and Tuesday before the activity, which did not result in any problems such as participants not being able to pick up their package. Most participants enjoyed the evening, so this activity can be marked as a success.

On Wednesday, the committee organised a Murder Mystery. The participants were divided

into two Zoom breakout rooms, where they played the game. Several committee members led the participants through the story. There were not many sign-ups for this activity, probably because it was the third online activity in a row. However, the committee and the board believe that all present people enjoyed the evening.

On Thursday, the last day of the online DIESweek, the committee organised the Cocktail Workshop 2.0. The committee prepared three different cocktails for the participants, and explained for each of the cocktails how to make them. The participants could pick up the cocktail packages on Wednesday and Thursday, which did not give any problems. Everybody enjoyed the workshop very much, so this activity can, once again, be seen as successful.

9.5 Sports Committee

From the end of May onwards, the Chair has been the coordinator of the Sports Committee. However, she was already involved in the committee since April. The contact between the committee and the Commissioner of Activities did not always go very smoothly. Therefore, the board decided that it would be a good idea for the Chair to become a part of the committee as well. Usually, the Ski Trip is the big event for the Sports Committee to arrange. This year, however, the Ski Trip to Avoriaz could unfortunately not take place due to COVID-19. The thirty-second board of Babylon decided to cancel the Ski Trip in november 2020, 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 for 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, such as "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.

Later in the academic year, on 12 May, the Sports Committee organised an online Cantus. It is not the most obvious activity to organise for this committee, but the committee members and the board were very enthusiastic about the idea, so it was decided to let them organise it. Goodie bags with all the necessities were prepared for the participants that they could pick up prior to the activity. A total number of 48 people participated and the activity was a great success.

9.6 Orientation Week Committee

From the end of May onward, the Commissioner of External Affairs coordinDue to COVID-19, last year's Orientation Week unfortunately could not go on like other years. It took only four days and most activities were held online. Due to bad communication from the university, the online program had to be created at the very last minute and not everything went as planned. However, apart from some difficulties the committee managed to put

together a nice online program for the first-year students. Some small things did not go as planned, but this was mainly due to the fact everything had to be arranged at the last minute. 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 has been done and all committee members now have received the same amount of money granted to the mentors.

With regards to next year's Orientation Week, it is almost certain that everything can be organised physically again. The week will take place from 22 August until 29 August. One downside is that the Orientation Week of the HAN is organised in the same week as our Orientation Week. Hence why the committee had to make sure to already secure some activities, such as the Cantus at Carolus and dinner and lasergaming at Ovum. Other than that, most activities are arranged at the moment of writing this Annual Report. The BaMyPo will continue during this Orientation Week, however it is unclear whether the Inglorious will happen during this week. This is due to the fact that the other associations did not keep into account having to organise the Inglorious during this week. They are not sure at the moment whether it fits their program.

The Weekend Festival will take place again, however this will only be a one-day activity. Multiple associations are divided over Friday, Saturday and Sunday to spend only one day at the festival. Moreover, instead of taking place in Germany, this year it will take place at the Honigcomplex, which is easier to reach for everyone. Babylon is trying to organise an activity during the Weekend Festival again this year, the details for this are not clear yet at the moment of writing this report.

The committee is also still busy trying to find sponsors for the week, as it is hard to reach companies at the moment and it is hard to get responses. The committee is in contact with some companies that have sponsored us before during the Orientation Week. Moreover, the committee is also still trying to find goodies for the goodie bags. The committee is still in contact with two external parties that are most probably going to sponsor the bags again this year. Moreover, it is also almost certain that Bascafé will sponsor the T-shirts again this year.

All in all, the committee is busy organising everything for the Orientation Week this year and at the moment, the board is optimistic about the fact that most, if not all, of the activities can be organised physically again.

9.7 Weekend Committee

From the end of May onwards, the Chair has coordinated the Weekend Committee. Due to the regulations regarding COVID-19, the Weekend could not completely take place in its usual form. Instead, the Weekend consisted of only one day of physical activities on Saturday 22 May 2021. In total, 35 members participated in the Weekend, although some participants joined after the first activity. The regulations at the time did not allow a higher number of participants, so the board was satisfied with the number. The day started off with a sports tournament at the Beachfabriek, where several beachsports such as beachvolleyball were played in teams of two or three people. Afterwards, all participants received lunch that was eaten at the Beachfabriek as well. After a break of approximately two hours during which participants could go home to freshen up, the day continued at the Thiemeloods. Initially the plan was to go to Café van Buren, but they told the committee they had to cancel the reservation that the committee had made only a couple of days before the event. Luckily the committee managed to make a reservation at the

Thiemeloods, where a beer bingo was organised. The committee had arranged lottery tickets and several fun prizes for the bingo. Dinner was taken care of by the Thiemeloods, which was fine as well. All in all, the day was a great success and all participants had a lot of fun.

10. Conclusion

In general, the thirty-second board is satisfied with Babylon's progression in reaching their short-term goals. It was a weird and at times disappointing year due to COVID-19, but the board feels they have done everything in their power to connect to Babylon's members and potential new members, even online. In the past year, the board has been working hard to improve the professionalism of Babylon mainly by creating a professional, nice style for the social media that was used very consistently. Moreover, the Babylon Magazine was completely renewed with regard to both design and content. The board has received a lot of positive feedback on both the social media style and the renewed Babylon Magazine, which was very satisfying to them. Also, the board managed to have a nice balance between formal and informal activities, even though almost all activities had to take place online. The bond between Babylon and external relations has been well maintained and the board recruited several new deals the past year. All the board members look back at the past year with gratitude and content. Even though it was a very challenging year and not everything went perfect or according to plan, the thirty-second board did its utmost best to give an extra dimension to the student lives of the Babylon members.

Sincerely,

The thirty-second board of Babylon 2020-2021