



BABYLON

STUDY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

ACCESSIBLE, AMBITIOUS, ABIDING

Foreword

This is the Annual Report of the thirty-third board of Babylon. In this report, the board looks back on this past academic year with a thorough reflection on the processes regarding Babylon in terms of its management during the academic year 2021-2022.

During the past year, the thirty-third board has aimed to fulfil the long-term and short-term goals to the best of its ability. One of the big goals for this academic year was to furtherly strengthen the bonds between all members of Babylon after the period of COVID-19. Furthermore, the board has focused on making the carbon footprint of Babylon as small as possible. Lastly, the thirty-third board has aimed to safeguard the professionalism of Babylon. 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 results of the annual survey, conducted in June 2022, are used for this evaluation.

The board is devoted to providing its members with an honest and genuine evaluation of their work. Besides, the thirty-third board would like to thank all members and external parties that have supported them throughout the year. Hopefully, this report provides a sufficient overview of Babylon's line of work.

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| Anna Bos | - | Chair |
| Imke Janssen | - | Secretary |
| Job Coehorst | - | Treasurer |
| Sanni Granqvist | - | Commissioner of Internal Affairs |
| Rianne Zwarts | - | Commissioner of External Affairs |
| Nathan Miango | - | Commissioner of Activities |

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1. Proceedings in the short-term goals

The thirty-third board has written a Policy Plan at the very beginning of the academic year, which has been approved during the General Member Meeting on 8 July 2021. 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 the bond between the association and external relations;
- Improve the professionalism of Babylon;
- Improve and strengthen the image of Babylon.

The following paragraphs will 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.

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

A strong connection between the members of Babylon and the association is essential, because the members are the reason that Babylon exists. Therefore, the thirty-third 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.

1.1.1 Bonding of members

The board has always aimed to be as approachable as possible for her members. During the past year, they have gotten to know their fellow Babylonians as well as possible. This paragraph contains an analysis of the separate groups within Babylon and a critical examination of what went well and what could have gone better.

First-year students

The board has noticed a significant difference between students who had joined the Orientation Week and students who did not. The students that participated in the Orientation Week had a better idea of what Babylon was and participated in more activities than members who had not done so. During the Orientation Week, the board aimed to attract new members as much as possible. Moreover, they had an open attitude and got to know a lot of future Babylonians.

Second-year students

As an aftermath of COVID-19 in the academic year of 2020-2021 and the middle of the academic year 2021-2022, the board has noticed that the second-year students were a difficult group to reach. At the beginning of the year, the Second-Year Activity had been organised so that the board could bond with this group. During the rest of the year, the board had aimed to include all members of Babylon and therefore did not want to organise separate activities anymore. However, the university gave Babylon the opportunity to organise an activity for second-year and third-year students on their costs to improve bonding between the two groups. Thus, the board organised the B2 + B3 Activity in April. Later in the year, the presence of second-year and third-year students increased a bit, but not as much as the board would have liked to see.

Masters

The thirty-third board of Babylon aimed to maintain good contact with (pre-)master students. Due to Radboud University's decision of prohibiting (pre-)master students to participate in the Orientation Week, the thirty-third board wanted to put extra effort into reaching out and trying to bond with pre-master and master students. A separate Master Welcome Day was organised especially for these students by the university. During this day, the Chair of the thirty-third board told them about Babylon.

Additionally, the board has made a WhatsApp group for (pre-)master students. In this way, the (pre-)masters were able to ask questions about Babylon and the study and the thirty-third board could promote their activities. However, this group has not been used a lot.

Furthermore, the thirty-third board organised a (pre-)Master Activity, since they tend not to bond that well with Babylon. The thirty-third board organised the Master Trivia Night. The board believed this would be a good way to appeal to them. It was organised at Tappers, at the beginning of the academic year. The turnout for this activity was low. Only eight members participated in this activity. However, the board got three Active Members out of this activity. Even though the participation rate was low, the activity proved to be a lot of fun. The members that participated gave the board a lot of positive feedback.

International members

Having an international board member has massively helped the thirty-third board to bond with its international members. The board has aimed to use English in both spoken and written contexts as much as possible. During all activities, the board made sure that external parties did their presentations in English. All written forms of communication, except for the statutes, have been in English. The English-spoken rule was enforced as much as possible. However, during the questionnaire for the Semi-Annual Report, there were still a few remarks that the English-speaking rule was not always lived up to. During the second part of their board year, the board has aimed to improve this, so that all internationals feel welcome within the association.

This year the board decided to start a new initiative, the Buddy System. The system was set up to improve the integration of internationals via the help of Dutch students and to reduce the gap between them and the Dutch students. This year, a total of three first-year internationals and one international master student signed up for the programme and they were all connected with a Dutch student. Even though the number is not that high, the board is very happy to have some people signed up for the programme. However, there is a lot of room for improvement and things could have been done better this year too. A more detailed evaluation from the coordinator can be read at 2.4.4.

In May, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs sat together with internationals to look at which aspects Babylon can focus on more to be as internationally oriented as possible. The results included a forced Buddy System, an International Reception, a weekend away, a tour through Nijmegen and a Christmas Dinner. The results have been shared with the thirty-fourth board. Hopefully, this proves to be yet another step in the direction of internationalisation.

Active Members

The thirty-third board of Babylon has had the possibility to bond with the Active Members of Babylon during the Active Member Evening organised in March. They played games of jeu de boules, and ended the evening with a pub quiz. In June, the Active Member Activity took place at Waalhalla to do graffiti and stunts on BMX bikes. These activities were fun and original, and a great way to thank the members for their efforts. Furthermore, the board introduced the Crazy 100 this year, to give the committees fun challenges to do. However, the participation rate was quite low, so the board has suggested their successors to come up with a different system. During the year, some members, especially members new to Babylon, dropped out of committees. This made it hard for the board to keep the committees filled and running. Luckily, the dropping out of a member was always solved, but this did not go without bumps in the road. As promised at the beginning of the year, the Member of the Month has been continued. The Wall of Babylon has not been continued, because the board wanted to focus on as little printing as possible.

Babylon Festival

For the first time, a Babylon Festival was organised, and Babylonians and their friends had a good time partying together. The aim of this event was to enhance the bonding between the different years of CIS students. Moreover, the board wanted to organise a fun activity after COVID-19. At the General Member Meeting of 8 July, the board was advised to also look at the possibility of inviting plus-ones to make sure the selling of the tickets went well. The board decided to follow up on this idea. As a result, all 160 tickets were sold quickly. The Festival was a success, and the board thinks that in the following years the number of tickets could be increased.

1.1.2 Communication tools

WhatsApp groups:

As mentioned in the Semi-Annual Report, the WhatsApp groups that were made were not very much in use. The thirty-third board added an announcement group chat in the second half of the year, as was suggested in the Semi-Annual General Member Meeting. This chat

was used for reminders and information that had to be spread to the members, for example, information about events or ordering merchandise. It has been a nice addition. However, there are still not many members in this group chat. The board has advised the thirty-fourth board to continue with this chat and to promote it so that more members join this chat.

Lecture talks:

The thirty-third board has used the lecture talks for activities and concerns that needed extra attention. This includes the Committee Market, signing up for the thirty-fourth board and the Babylon Festival. This helped to highlight matters regarding Babylon. The board had chosen to do lecture talks only for special occasions so that they receive extra attention. However, the results of the Annual Report show that members would have liked to see more communication about activities. Therefore, the board could have used more lecture talks.

Babylon Magazine:

The thirty-third board decided to continue publishing the Babylon Magazine in a printed, paper format and an online format on the website. Regarding the results of the Annual Survey of the thirty-second board, most members of Babylon were not aware there was an online version of the BM on the website. Therefore, the board has put the online version of the BM on the homepage of the website and has promoted the online magazine on Instagram. However, the annual survey has shown that 54% of the respondents still prefer a physical copy of the magazine.

Additionally, the thirty-third board has ended the current contract with BladNL. The board had decided to only print three editions in the year 2021-2022. The last edition of the BM was in April. This edition contained a QR-code which allowed members to unsubscribe from a printed version of the Babylon Magazine. Nine members have unsubscribed from the paper version. The board chose this option since a lot of people still like to read it on paper according to the Semi-Annual Survey. In the upcoming year (2022-2023), there will only be two versions of the BM printed, which will contain 40 pages each. One will be a winter edition and the other one a summer edition.

1.1.3 The recruitment of the new board

The thirty-third board had started the application procedure together with the Application Committee (see 3.1.1) in February 2022. The candidates had to send their application letter a week before the third exam week (14 March). At the beginning of the year 2022, the potential candidates were approached personally. In addition, the Board Interest Lunch

was organised in February to provide potential candidates with the required information. Seven people signed up for the Lunch among which one was international. Even though international members had the opportunity to apply for the position of Chair, Treasurer, Commissioner of Internal Affairs or Commissioner of Activities, no international member applied for the board. The application period was extended, during which two more members applied for a board year.

1.2 Strengthen the bond between the association and external relations

Strengthening ties with external relations was of vital importance for the thirty-third board of Babylon. The contracts that were ending at the beginning of the year of the thirty-third board were evaluated and extended where wanted. In addition, the thirty-third board has actively looked for companies that would like to support Babylon and help facilitate its activities through financial and material sponsorships.

1.2.1 Recruiting new sponsors

The focus did not only lie on maintaining the collaborations with current sponsors, but the board also strived to find new sponsors during the past academic year. In addition, sponsor members of committees also looked for sponsors concerning their committees. For example, a few committees approached Coop Burghardt van den Berghstraat for groceries.

This past year, the goal was to find a new, formal sponsor for Babylon. This formal sponsor needed to be a good addition to the current sponsors, which are a mixture between formal and informal. The board managed to find a new formal head sponsor for Babylon. This benefits the association in multiple ways, for example, having more financial stability.

1.2.2 Strengthen bonds with (sister) associations

The board of Babylon has tried to go to as many Constitution Drinks of sister associations as possible. However, this was not always the case due to COVID-19, other important Constitution Drinks in Nijmegen, or activities of Babylon. The board has visited the sister associations in Groningen, Enschede and Nijmegen, which resulted in surprised, excited reactions from the boards outside of Nijmegen. Moreover, they have had drinks with SV Contact of Utrecht and have made a lot of contact during the National Day of Communication that took place in Groningen this year. Due to COVID-19, the Sister's Day was planned for one occasion this year instead of two. The board attended this activity and socialised with the other boards.

This year, Babylon has cooperated with different study associations during the Prom, BaMyPo, Inglorious, the Congress and GMMs of SOFv and LETO. The tasks of these collaborations were divided between different board members. The Treasurer was in charge of organising the Prom with Postelein and Mundus. The Commissioner of Activities organised the BaMyPo, with Mycelium and Postelein and Inglorious with Mycelium, Postelein, ESV, SVN and GSV. The Commissioner of External Affairs worked together with Mycelium for the Congress. Lastly, the GMMs of LETO and SOFv were visited by the Chair and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. Right now, the board of Babylon is in contact with RUIS to build a foundation to organise an activity in the next academic year.

The blog of the sister associations, ToCommunicate, has helped to strengthen the bonds between the sister associations even more. The participating associations have met up online regularly to discuss the progress of the blog. The social media has been kept up to date and articles have been posted regularly. The participating members are currently looking for a date to meet up in person.

1.2.3 Business gift

The board decided to go for a personalised piece of grow paper (recycled paper with flower seeds in it) combined with a personalised sustainable Babylon notebook as a business gift. In addition to the grow paper and the notebook, high-profile speakers at bigger events also received a bouquet of flowers or a box of chocolates. There are enough business gifts left for the thirty-fourth board to hand out to the speakers. If the next board decides to come up with their own gifts, the leftovers can be used as gifts for members.

1.2.4 Local pub

Due to an external party taking over the Malle Babbe, the thirty-second and the thirty-third board decided to move to the Stretto. The original plan for the Stretto was that it would be renovated and renamed. It would have a similar concept as the Malle Babbe used to have. However, that was not the case. No renovation has taken place, and instead of Stretto getting a new name, the Malle Babbe got a new name. This leads to Stretto not having the feeling of a local pub.

The board changed the start time of the *Borrel*. Instead of 9.00 pm, the *Borrels* began at 9.30 pm. The thirty-third board believed this would cause the *Borrels* to be better visited earlier after the start time. However, changing the start time of the *Borrel* seemed to have little to no effect. People still decided to come later. It would be better to have *Borrels* start at 10.00 pm - just like the BaMyPo parties. This has been advised to the thirty-fourth board.

All board members and the members of the committee organising the *Borrels* were obliged to be present at 9 pm so that the party already started well-visited. This proved to be challenging in the first half of the academic year for the Committee of Informal Activities. However, after the board worked with sanctions to stimulate committee members to be on time, improvement was shown throughout the second half of the academic year.

1.3 Improving the professionalism of Babylon

The professionalism of the association shows through the association's communication and behaviour. It is important to come across as professional as possible, because this will make the association more appealing to both internal and external partners, as well as to potential members. To achieve this, the thirty-third board has handled the matters as follows.

1.3.1 Professional communication

The thirty-third board of Babylon has aimed for professional communication towards both internal and external relations throughout this academic year. Just like in previous years, the thirty-third board of Babylon used British English in their written communication. English was spoken as much as possible. In external communication, the use of Dutch was still necessary as the board was mostly approached by Dutch companies. After every formal event, a LinkedIn post including a description and a thank you note to all external parties was made to contribute to the network that Babylon is building. Overall, the board is satisfied with the level of professionalism in their communication towards internal and external parties for the past year, except for the communication towards the teachers and the Department regarding the Study Trip. The board should have been more assertive in terms of their communication towards the external parties involved.

1.3.2 Privacy

On 25 May 2018, the privacy policy changed. Due to the new legislation, various changes have been made. Currently, Babylon has a safe, an external hard drive and a shredder to store and destroy confidential documents. Moreover, the board and committees cannot upload any personal information, such as birth dates or email addresses, onto the cloud. In addition to this, the minutes and agendas of board meetings and committee meetings will be shared via Word and WhatsApp. As far as the board can tell, this has happened in the past year.

The thirty-first board adjusted the privacy policy on the Babylon website. When registering as a member, the members must permit the processing of their data. Moreover, they decided to create personal accounts for members so that they could view photos and buy the merchandise. The thirty-third board continued with this modification.

1.3.3 The Babylon Room

Due to changes in the policies surrounding COVID-19, the Babylon room has been handled in the following methods throughout the year:

- Fully open but with a maximum amount of people;
- Open on appointment only (conformity to the 1.5m distance rule);
- Fully closed (during lockdown);
- Fully open (after regulations allowed it).

This means that the practice for members to hang out in the Babylon room during visiting hours has been handled very differently throughout the year, which has led to a reduced number of visits during COVID-19 regulations. When the Babylon Room could finally reopen totally, the tradition of members hanging out during visiting hours was still reduced as a lot of students chose to follow their courses from home instead of physically on campus. In the last months of the year, the visits to the Babylon room have increased again as more members were back on campus. However, most visitors were Active Members of Babylon. Therefore, there is still a lot of room for improvement to make sure that the Babkam is a well-known hotspot for members.

Furthermore, the thirty-third board has aimed to keep the Babkam clean and organised. The cleaning schedule that was proposed in the Policy Plan has not been put into practice and thus responsibility for cleaning up was not always taken as was planned. Despite this fact, the Babylon Room has still been quite clean and organised and very much presentable to members and external parties.

The board has tried to divide the open office hours equally. When needed, another board member would take over the Babylon room shift.

In conclusion, the thirty-third board is slightly disappointed about the number of visitors during the open office hours. In hindsight, the open office hours could have been communicated better via our social media channels.

1.3.4 Clothing

To warrant the professional image as well as the accessibility of the board, the board has adapted their clothing to suit the activity attended. The board suits were worn during the most formal activities, such as Constitution Drinks and the General Member Meetings. The blouses have been worn during all formal activities, like workshops, the Career Event, company visits and other activities where external speakers have attended, but where

members of Babylon wear their 'normal' clothes. The board t-shirts and vests have been worn during all informal activities of the past year.

Concerning the committees, the informal committees that needed t-shirts or blouses had the freedom to choose their own design, as long as the name of the committee and the Active Member's name were on the front of their shirt/blouse and the Babylon logo was on the back. However, all formal committees needed to choose the official Babylon blue t-shirt. Due to some committee members dropping out and others going abroad, a few shirts and blouses have been made that have never been worn.

In addition to all the events organised by Babylon, the thirty-third board has tried to be representative in wearing either the board t-shirt/vest or Babylon merchandise during open office hours in the past year. This contributed to the recognition of the board member in the Babylon Room and the professional image the board wanted to carry out.

1.3.5 Business cards

The thirty-third board of Babylon ordered business cards to hand out to external parties. To save costs, it was decided to include the contact information of the Chair and the Commissioner of External Affairs. In the past year, about fifteen cards have been handed out to external parties.

1.4 Improve and strengthen the image of Babylon

Over the past years, a lot of effort was put into strengthening the positive image external parties and members of Babylon have of the association. The board aimed for a positive connotation of Babylon. This was, among other things, achieved by improving and strengthening the bond with external contacts.

1.4.1 Companies and organisations

During formal activities such as the Career Event, the Congress and Company Visits, organisations and individual speakers were spoken to in a neat and friendly, yet professional way. The board members made sure to be approachable to participants. This improved the bond Babylon had built with different companies and it improved the image of Babylon. This went very well and speakers were welcomed accordingly by the board members.

1.4.2 Potential and current sponsors

Potential and current sponsors need to have a positive and professional image of Babylon. This was realised by having personal contact with them, keeping them up to date about the developments within Babylon, and inviting them to various formal activities. Potential sponsors were contacted in a professional and approachable manner to make sure that they had a good first impression about Babylon and what the association has to offer.

1.4.3 SOFv and 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 joined LETO to strengthen the bonds with the other study associations from the Faculty of Arts. Furthermore, LETO keeps Babylon up to date about faculty-related affairs and organises several activities for all the associations of the Faculty of Arts throughout the academic year.

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs and the Chair have participated in all SOFv and LETO meetings this academic year. In case one of them could not attend for valid reasons, another board member stepped in. In previous years there was a lot of overlap

between the activities organised by SOFv/LETO and Babylon activities, but this year it was not a problem at all. The only activity that ended up colliding was the rescheduled Prom, which was at the same time as one of the SOFv General Member Meetings.

1.4.4 Lecturers/professors CIS

Throughout the year it has been of high importance that Babylon has a positive image among all lecturers/professors of Communication and Information Studies. The more mature and professional Babylon behaves, the more support the association may expect. This year, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs and the Chair made visits to all lecturers/professors of CIS on the Day of the Teacher (5 October) to present themselves and to hand out chocolates and a thank you card for their hard work. This has had a very positive impact on the relationship between Babylon and the professors, as many thank you emails were even sent afterwards for the kind effort.

Normally, the lecturers and professors of CIS are invited to multiple events and so they were this year too, but COVID-19 made this complicated during the first semester. Many of the professors showed interest in the Christmas Lunch but did not feel comfortable participating due to COVID-19. This, of course, was a shame but understandable.

Additionally, there were also some bumps on the road regarding the relationship between Babylon and the professors. The first instance happened at the very beginning of the academic year. Namely, there was a collaboration between Babylon and Stuvia, who sell summaries for students. The collaboration had not been accepted by the university and caused a lot of friction between Babylon and the professors. Therefore, it is strictly prohibited by the Faculty of Arts to form such contracts in the future. Furthermore, issues arose due to the Study Trip and the subsidies connected to it. There was a lack of communication between the board and the Department, which caused some irritation among the Department and some teachers of the study programme. These issues have been discussed with the parties involved, but it is still advisable for the next board to make sure that these types of problems do not arise again and that there should be more focus on the communication with the professors. Moreover, the thirty-third board has suggested to their successors to communicate the planning of Babylon thoroughly with the university, so that the university could offer the members of Babylon a chance to go to a formal event instead of a lecture.

1.4.5 Sustainability

As recommended by the thirty-second board, the thirty-third board decided to put focus on the sustainability of the association. The thirty-second board had a meeting with the Green Office but mentioned that they did not receive many useful tips from their end,

hence only emails have been exchanged between Babylon and the Green Office this year, but no meeting has taken place. Additionally, the board has reached out to sustainable study associations in Nijmegen, but nothing fruitful has come out of their conversations. The thirty-second board also signed the Sustainability Covenant offered by the Green Office in which it is stated that Babylon has the intention to be more aware of being sustainable and the thirty-third board has kept up with this matter. The thirty-third board has added a few initiatives to make Babylon as sustainable as possible.

Firstly, all of the monthly Babylon Lunches have been made vegetarian and offered in paper plates/cups instead of plastic ones. Furthermore, the board has used whiteboards instead of paper during activities. Besides, the declaration forms were filled in online, so no additional printing was needed. The board has only used sign-up papers for the merchandise in the Babylon Room and members have reacted positively to them, as seeing the paper gives them an active reminder about the merchandise. Additionally, vegetarian recipes have been shared on Babylon Instagram during the Foody Friday rubric and recycling has been encouraged by e.g., the Book Exchange initiative that took place before Christmas. Moreover, the Study Trip Committee had chosen a destination to which they travelled by train. The board thinks that the choices they made have been a good addition to make Babylon more sustainable. Most of the things that were introduced have been received well. However, the choice to travel by train was unfortunately not that well received, because the travel by train was not going according to the plan due to cancellations and delays. This should also be taken into account next year when choosing a sustainable way to travel.

Furthermore, in the upcoming year (2022-2023), there will only be two versions of the BM printed, which will contain 40 pages each. One will be a winter edition and the other one a summer edition. Therefore, we will print less paper for our magazine. Additionally, the board aimed to reduce all excessive paper usage and one thing they wanted to change was the one-use Cantus Codex booklets that in the past had been printed separately for each Cantus organised by Babylon. The thirty-third board has resolved this issue by creating a long-term Cantus Codex booklet with durable paper that can be used for many years. The Department Board agreed to fund a large part of the costs as they liked the project and the idea behind it. They have been received well by the members. They are easy to clean and do not break that easily. It is a nice way to not waste as much paper as Babylon did during the previous canti.

2. Policies per functionary

This section discusses the individual policies of each board member. Both short and long-term goals will be elaborated on, and the tasks and responsibilities of each functionary will be described.

2.1 Chair

2.1.1 Lead and coordinate the board

Looking back to the beginning of the year, the Chair has grown into her role of leading the meetings. The meetings during the second part of the half-year were structured and efficient. The agenda was always sent a day beforehand. During the second half of the year, the weekly meetings took place in the Babkam, as opposed to the online meetings in the first half of the year. As mentioned in the Semi-Annual Report, at the beginning of the year there had been a few instances where a meeting was forgotten or where somebody ran really late. During the second half of the year, this has not happened. All six board members took the board meetings seriously and the whole board was present during every meeting. All six board members were always involved in decisions that were made. Besides, the Chair always tried to create an open atmosphere and to motivate her board members to perform their tasks to their best ability. The board members knew that the board year had to be their top priority, but it was also very clear within the board that mental health was also very important.

2.1.2 Supervise committees

Another task of the Chair is to monitor all the activities organised by Babylon's committees. During the first half of the year, all minutes of all committees were checked weekly. After the Ski Trip, minutes were not always sent in and the Chair lost a bit of the overview. However, the Chair was up to date with what was going on in the committees through the updates of her board members and she read the minutes for big events. Looking back, the Chair should have been more on top of the Study Trip committee. Due to miscommunications with the Treasurer and the rest of the board, the tasks got a bit complicated and not everything was finished before the trip.

At the beginning of the year, the Chair introduced herself to the committees. This proved to work well since she has been approached by members of different committees on several occasions where she was asked for advice or help.

2.1.3 General Member Meetings and public speeches

One of the tasks of the Chair is to be the face of Babylon during presentations. The Chair has led all the General Member Meetings without any difficulty. She and the rest of the

board made sure to be prepared beforehand to be able to answer all kinds of questions that might arise. Moreover, Babylon was represented during all General Members Meetings of SOFv and LETO. This was mostly done by the Chair and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs, except for a few instances where the board also had to be present somewhere else and thus had to split up.

In addition, the Chair has to give speeches during several activities and ceremonies. She has done so during the Orientation Week, Bachelor graduation ceremonies, Master graduation ceremonies, Master's Day, Active Member Evening and the Family Day. There have been a few instances where the Chair was not able to give a speech at a graduation ceremony, and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs stepped in to do so.

2.1.4 Confidant

The Chair has been the confidant of the association together with the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. As mentioned previously, she has been approached by committee members asking for help or advice. However, this has not occurred very often. The board has advised their successors to approach a Babylon member outside the board who would want to take on this task. This way, there is one board member and one Babylon member that can be approached, to make sure the offer of confidants is diverse.

2.1.5 Babylon Bangers

The Babylon Bangers, i.e. the band of Babylon, has had a few bumps in the road this year. The thirty-third board had planned on asking the band for an occasion where they could play, but the band turned out not to be ready yet. The Chair has advised the thirty-fourth board to continue with the band, but to look if new members can join the band as well.

Anna Bos

Chair of Babylon 2021-2022

2.2 Secretary

2.2.1 The member file

The automatic function of signing up via the website saved the Secretary a lot of work. The Secretary only had to check all the data and approve a membership. Sometimes the data was not complete, for example, it missed a bank account. The Secretary did not approve those memberships yet and emailed the person first to make sure no members were added with missing data. The Secretary also created a new folder with all the Contributing Graduates.

2.2.2 Minutes

As mentioned, it is the responsibility of the Secretary to write the minutes, and this has been going well. The other board members write their own updates before every board meeting for more efficient meetings. The board always checked the minutes before sending them to the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board sometimes addressed that a little more information could be given in the minutes. The Secretary has therefore asked the board to give as much information when addressing something in a board meeting. After asking the board members to give more detailed information about their updates, it has been improved during the meetings and the minutes were more elaborate. Everything that was discussed during the meetings was in the minutes, this made sure that the board and the Advisory Board could read everything that was going on.

2.2.3 (E)mail

The Secretary has been checking the email almost every weekday. The Secretary has made concept birthday emails for the whole week. Emails regarding a date were sent in the planner WhatsApp group chat. Other important emails were addressed during the board meetings. The Secretary has tried to respond to all emails as soon as possible.

2.2.4 Website

As mentioned in the Semi-Annual Report, the website has been improved in various ways. The Secretary has made sure to keep the website up to date for the rest of the year. The rest of the board also kept an eye on the website to make sure that there were no mistakes.

2.2.5 Social Media

Instagram has been used regularly. The thirty-third board has received a lot of positive feedback about its Instagram usage. Instagram was used almost every day; however, the board has made sure that it was not too overwhelming for the followers. The reels were also doing well and created quite some exposure. The number of followers has also

increased, even in the last few months, there were a lot of new followers. The board has also noticed that a lot of members approach them via Instagram DM. This is an easy way to get into contact with Babylon and the board is responding to them as quickly as possible. The content for the social media has been mostly made by the Secretary and the Graphic Design Committee. However, other committees and board members have also contributed to the division of the work. Everyone that has contributed with making designs for the Instagram and Facebook posts have used the Babylon house style. This made sure that the colours of Babylon were used and that the posts matched each other. In general, the feed of Instagram looks nice, some posts are more exciting than others. For next year, it would be an idea to add some extra features in posts. The Graphic Design Committee can work on this, by using all the features Canva has to offer. For example, using shade, making things transparent, using different layers etc. to make the posts more exciting. However, it should not be too much, because the posts should give a clear overview of what needs to be shared. At the beginning of the year, the content was not checked carefully enough, which resulted in some grammar and/or spelling mistakes. Often, a board member or an Advisory Board member pointed those mistakes out, after which they were corrected. In the second half of the year, the content was checked better, and flaws occurred less often. Furthermore, Babylon usually posts stories during the activities. This was not always done correctly as it was sometimes forgotten. When it was noticed that it was forgotten to make a story, the board thought of a solution to avoid this from happening again. Most of the activities were captured on Instagram and it resulted in positive feedback from the members.

Imke Janssen

Secretary of Babylon 2021-2022

2.3 Treasurer

Despite a minor setback during the year with COVID-19 making a large return and thus having to postpone some activities, most activities have taken place as in the pre-COVID-19 years. The income, expenses and sponsor money, were therefore, more comparable to the pre-COVID-19 era. Despite some setbacks within a few committees, Babylon and almost all committees have finished the past year financially healthy. There was one committee with financial issues, namely: the Study Trip Committee. In the following paragraphs, the most important revenue and expenditures, the contact with committee treasurers, payment methods and the merchandise will be discussed. Agreements with the thirty-third board in terms of financial policy will also be briefly discussed.

2.3.1 Budget

The budget that has been presented at the Financial General Member Meeting has been the red thread for all financial plans that Babylon has made at the beginning of the year. In the next part, some of these expenses that were less clear at the beginning of the year are specified.

2.3.2 Revenue

Contribution of the Department board of CIS

The Department of Language and Communication contributes to Babylon every year. This contribution is meant to help Babylon organise its largest formal events: Congress and the Career Event. Both of these events were held successfully and the Congress even turned out cheaper than expected due to the speakers not wanting any form of payment.

Contractual sponsorships

The contractual sponsorships have almost all been received and are as stated in the budget from the Financial General Member Meeting. Some of these sponsorships will be received later in the year due to contractual reasons. The exact amount of sponsorships that we have received will be presented in the Financial Annual Report. The only change that was anticipated was the amount of money sponsored by the Rabobank, we received more than was originally expected from them.

2.3.3 Expenditure

Festival

One of the larger expenses of the year was the Babylon festival which was a new concept introduced by the thirty-third board of Babylon. It was a large success and a small profit was made due to unforeseen cuts of expenses with the third parties that were involved.

The ticket sale of the event was handled by Ticketkantoor which proceeded very well. The only slight problem that occurred was the fact that the event on the app closed too early, which meant that no changes to the ticket amount could be made afterwards. This problem happened due to the unfamiliarity with how the Ticketkantoor system works, but luckily it turned out not to be a problem.

Cantus Codex

This year the thirty-third board decided to make a sustainable version of the Cantus Codex. The university decided to sponsor a big part of the costs. The codices have been a large project and the thirty-third board is very satisfied with the way they turned out. The estimation that was made for this expense was lower than the actual expense. But with the help of the University, the costs were significantly lowered.

2.3.4 Contact with committee treasurers

The Treasurer met with most of the committee treasurers personally to discuss their plans and give them training on the treasurer procedures. Because a lot of the treasurers were still inexperienced, they made a committee budget together. The Treasurer has also trained them in Microsoft Excel. After this meeting, the Treasurer made sure to check up on events and asked for updates on activities. The Treasurer has finalised all budgets with respective committees, the outcomes will be presented by the Treasurer during the Annual General Member Meeting of the academic year 2021-2022.

2.3.5 Bookkeeping

For sustainability reasons, the bookkeeping was done online by filling in forms and keeping receipts and updating Conscribo. However, Conscribo has not been optimally used, because the Treasurer could not attend the annual Conscribo training by SOFv at the start of the academic year. Yet, the Treasurer in collaboration with the Till committee has made changes in Conscribo to make it more efficient. Instead of two different head accounts, they have now been fused into one head account. All the income and expenses are now next to each other on the budget and thus easier to comprehend. They have also taken out the mistakes that occur when an automatic collection payment is handled. Conscribo is more concise now and can be used to more of its potential.

2.3.6 Payment methods

Members of Babylon have been able to fulfil payments via four channels of payment this year: paying via a Rabobank payment request, paying via automatic collection, paying via iDeal on the website (for the merchandise) or through Ticketkantoor (Babylon Festival). Most of all payments have been done via Rabobank payment requests this year. There

have been some problems with the Rabobank payment request as they do not work for members without a Dutch bank account. These payments have been made by a transfer to our account. Ticketkantoor is a nice new way of making a ticket for something and it keeps track of sales and revenue. It is very useful for larger activities but it requires a small fee. We have used this system for the Babylon Festival. 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, but this did only get five responses of people. All the others were signed out. The thirty-third board has advised the thirty-fourth board to use the same payment methods as were used over the past year.

2.3.7 Merchandise

The Treasurer is mainly responsible for the Babylon merchandise. On the website, the merchandise can be paid for via iDEAL, PayPal, Stripe or via the QR code in the Babylon Room.

Last year, there were six items in the merchandise of Babylon: a sweater, a T-shirt, a cap, socks, a hoodie and a Doppo. After the last Doppo's were sold, the thirty-third board decided to discontinue this item. The caps and socks are still in stock and will continue to be sold until stock runs out. The sweaters, hoodies and T-shirts are bought per order, which means there is no stock of them. The thirty-third board placed an order approximately every two months for these items. This year the board added two new items to the merchandise: The Babylon blanket and a Babylon mug. When they were first introduced, they were sold as a 'winter deal' in which both items were sold together for 22.50 euros instead of the total combined price of 25 euros. Both items are now sold separately at their price (see below). Throughout the year, the thirty-third board has promoted the merchandise on social media and through word-of-mouth promotion in the Babkam. The thirty-third board feels like the sale of merchandise has gone well in this past year and a large number of orders have been placed.

The current merchandise consists of the following items: Babylon hoodie, 22.50 euros; Babylon sweater, 15 euros; Babylon socks, 7 euros; Babylon cap, 7 euros; Babylon blanket, 17.50 euros; Babylon 1989 T-shirt, 12 euros; Babylon mug 7.50 euros.

In total we have sold: two doppo's (last in stock), one pair of socks (thirteen left in stock), twenty-four hoodies, nine sweaters, one cap, five mugs and ten blankets.

2.3.8 FC Babylon

The Treasurer was responsible for the football team FC Babylon. The first sign-up period for the competition was missed and thus the team has only played the second half of the year. Trying to find recruits for the team proved to be very difficult. It was promoted in the Babel and on Instagram. Because of the low number of players, it was hard to get a team together for a lot of the games. FC Babylon only ended up playing four of the seven games that were planned because of this. For next year, attracting new players to the team will be a point of significance for the continued existence of the team. Therefore, the thirty-fourth board has been advised to promote this during the Orientation Week already. In addition to this, a message can be made in the announcement chat and on Instagram.

Job Coehorst

Treasurer of Babylon 2021-2022

2.4 Commissioner of Internal Affairs

2.4.1 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 lectures throughout the past year. Since the beginning of the year, she has had regular meetings with the study advisor Jamie van Aert to discuss matters regarding the study programme and also how the board was doing. There is a further explanation of the relationship between the lecturers and the study association in part 1.4.5.

Additionally, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs has sat in the Study Programme Committee this year and therefore knows what is going on within the study programme with great detail. The Study Programme Committee this year consisted of five students and five teachers. Together they went through the course evaluations after every period and took action in case they noticed something was not going so well. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs has also advised her successor to apply to the committee, and he will be sitting on the Study Programme Committee during the upcoming year. Moreover, she has taken part in the Open Days and Study Choice Check Days and therefore connected with many members of the department or the study programme itself.

2.4.2 Alumni

There has been contact with alumni multiple times throughout the year. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs has had access to a LinkedIn group with alumni of the studies. Through LinkedIn, alumni have been contacted, for example, for the CIS in the Field, Speeddating Event and the Company Visits. Luckily, alumni have always seemed happy to help out and wanted to participate in Babylon events. It has been advised to her successor to continue using the LinkedIn group as it has proven itself useful. At the moment of writing this report, the Education Committee is sending out invitations to alumni to participate in the CIS in the Field the upcoming September.

2.4.3 Book sales

This year Babylon has renewed its contract with Studystore. The book lists were composed last June for this academic year by the current Commissioner of Internal Affairs. The communication with StudyStore has been smooth and all issues, such as no books being available, have been solved fast. The only issue regarding the book sales has been receiving the lists from the department for the academic year 2022-2023 too late. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs requested the list for the first time at the end of April and

kept approaching the people in charge to receive the lists, but the final list was received first in the middle of June. At the moment of writing this report, the prospective Commissioner of Internal Affairs is working on the book lists for Studystore to confirm the books for the upcoming year.

2.4.4 Buddy System

The Buddy System was a new initiative started by the thirty-third board. In this part, a thorough evaluation will be given from the perspective of the Commissioner of Internal Affairs, who was in charge of the project. Firstly, the project had three sign-ups. This number could have been higher, but it was nice that initial interest was there from the beginning. If continued, the buddy system should be promoted even better and hopefully already during the Orientation Week.

All the buddies were encouraged to meet at least once in person and afterwards decide how to stay in touch. Moreover, a meeting for all the buddies was in the planning for autumn, but it was pushed to spring after all due to the tightening COVID-19 rules. However, in the spring due to the sickness of the Commissioner of Internal Affairs and her not being able to do all of her tasks, this common meeting was also cancelled and left out of the planning. Understandably, this is very unfortunate and the project was therefore slightly left behind. For the common activity, a picnic or a city tour could have been organised among the buddies. In retrospect, a common meeting should have been organised at the very beginning of the academic year, when the internationals did not know the city that well. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs will suggest to her successor to do so in the upcoming year if the new board decides to continue with the initiative.

Sanni Granqvist

Commissioner of Internal Affairs of Babylon 2021-2022

2.5 Commissioner of External Affairs

2.5.1 Image

The Commissioner of External Affairs was the main contact for all external relations of the association, and she ensured to maintain a professional working climate between Babylon and all its external relations. In addition, the Commissioner of External Affairs made sure that external relations such as speakers or contacts from companies were welcomed accordingly during formal events organised by Babylon. By establishing smooth and professional contact at all times, being present at physical meetings in a professional and approachable manner, being reasonable and precise during contract matters, she made sure that the image of Babylon was maintained. This increases the chance that current sponsors maintain existing relations with Babylon and that possible sponsors enter new agreements. In addition, she supported other board members during meetings with external relations, such as the meetings of the Commissioner of Activities with the Molenstraat.

2.5.2 Contact with external affairs

To ensure smooth collaboration between Babylon and its external relations, it is crucial to maintain frequent contact. In addition to physical meetings, communication with external relations was done through phone and email. The Commissioner of External Affairs managed the account for LinkedIn as another way of staying in contact with external relations. One way to do this was by sharing a post after every formal event, in which the speakers that were present are mentioned. With this, she hoped to maintain positive contact between the associations and the speakers, as well as with the rest of Babylon's online network. She thinks she succeeded with this since especially the last post about the Congress was reposted and liked a lot also by the external parties.

2.5.3 Sponsor Members and Contact File

The Commissioner of External Affairs has trained, guided and supported the sponsor members within the committees for the academic year 2021-2022. At the beginning of the year, the sponsor members had a meeting with the Commissioner of External Affairs in which they received sponsor training. During this training, they gained the necessary skills to appropriately approach a possible sponsor. After this session, members were provided with a handout that includes a case to which members can refer later on. Additionally, the Commissioner of External Affairs created a group chat on WhatsApp with all the sponsor members so she can contact them easily and they can help each other out.

To support the sponsor members as adequately as possible, the Commissioner of External Affairs intended to keep a file indicating which sponsors have already been approached,

and which of them have shown interest in certain activities or would like to engage in a sponsor agreement in the (near) future. This aimed to help sponsor members to find the right company for the right situation more quickly. Although the Commissioner of External Affairs remained responsible for the file, all sponsor members were allowed to use and adjust this file. Unfortunately, this has not been done as much as she hoped.

In addition, she kept a contract file that consists of important contacts that have an ongoing contract with Babylon. Only the Commissioner of External Affairs and other board members may use this file.

2.5.4 Vacancy policy

Because there was a large increase of companies that sent requests to share job openings on the Babylon website and social media channels, the thirty-third board decided to adapt the previous Vacancy Policy, since the former one was not used often. All requests fitting the study that were sent to the board and fit the study were posted on the website. The following packages served as an option for extra promotion for the vacancy or company. This policy exists in the two packages stated below:

- **Package A. €30,-:** Posting the vacancy on the website (1279 visitors), and LinkedIn (350 connections). The company may post a second vacancy on LinkedIn and the website at a later time.
- **Package B. €45,-:** Posting the vacancy on the website (1279 visitors), LinkedIn (350 connections), Facebook (900 likes) and Instagram stories (750 followers). The vacancy will be saved in the story highlights on Babylon's Instagram page. The company may post a second vacancy on the social media channels of Babylon at a later time.

In the past year, Package B has sold 16 times at the moment of writing. Therefore, the board believes that they can conclude that the new policy was a success.

2.5.5 Membership Benefits

Every year, Babylon has a new Babylon sticker that can be put on the members' university cards. The Commissioner of External Affairs has put effort into expanding the benefits members receive from these stickers. She has actively searched for new deals, preferably ones that could be very useful in the life of a student. By doing this, she has added a Sticker Deal with: Strandbar Stek, Boules Bites Bar Nijmegen, Cotton Elements, The Lobby and De Professor. The deals with the Escapeboot Nijmegen and Fresca were terminated.

2.5.6 Vice-Chair

Should the Chair unexpectedly be unable to execute her tasks, the Vice-Chair is meant to take over her responsibilities. Within the thirty-third board, Rianne Zwarts took on this position. Luckily, this position was not needed much in the past year. The Vice-Chair has attended the GMA of SOFv twice and has spoken a few times on behalf of Babylon during one of the Constitution Drinks. Other than that, she performed the evaluation conversation with the Chair.

Rianne Zwarts

Commissioner of External Affairs of Babylon 2021-2022

2.6 Commissioner of Activities

2.6.1 Annual Planning

The Commissioner of Activities was responsible for the Annual Planning of all the activities organised by Babylon. Besides some complications because of COVID-19 in the winter, most activities from the Annual Planning could go on as planned.

To ensure the planning throughout the year would not be too dense, the thirty-third board of Babylon decided to keep the total number of activities more or less the same. The Commissioner of Activities continued with the plan of the thirty-second board: organising one formal activity every month. However, this was not possible for December and June due to too little space in the Annual Planning for it. For all the other months, at least one formal activity was organised. Normally, the CIA is free to organise one free activity. However, due to shifting in the Annual Planning because of COVID-19, there was no space for a free activity. The Commissioner of Activities urged his successor that the CIA will be able to organise one free activity. This way they get to be creative and free outside the organisation of the *Borrels*.

The thirty-third board of Babylon strived to carry out a professional image for which the formal activities were very important. Therefore, the Commissioner of Activities tried to take the schedules of all the students into account, to make sure that the attendance of all the activities would be as high as possible. Even though this was hard to do, sometimes, the Commissioner of Activities believed that he found the best dates and times possible for the activities.

2.6.2 Organising the Committee Market and composing all committees

In the first week of the academic year, the Commissioner of Activities organised and coordinated the Committee Market. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the thirty-third board decided to organise an Online Committee Market. Through Zoom and the Breakout Room function, the thirty-third board made it possible for members to visit committees they were interested in and get to ask the necessary questions. This method proved to be effective: 69 members signed up to be Active Members. After extending the due date for the committee applications a total of 75 members signed up to be Active Members.

Furthermore, the Commissioner of Activities was responsible for composing the committees. The committees were composed based on the preferences and experiences of the applicants. The Commissioner of Activities also tried to mingle students of different years in every committee. This proved to be difficult since most students that were interested in doing a committee were first-years. He also tried to divide the international

students equally over the committees. Nine of the thirteen committees included an international student. A total of fifteen international students decided to be Active Members.

2.6.3 Contact with the Molenstraat

The Commissioner of Activities has noticed that communication between the parties has improved. He scheduled meetings with the managers of the Molenstraat mostly alone. However, during the renewal period of the contract, the Commissioner of Activities went to meet together with the Commissioner of External Affairs, the Candidate Chair of the thirty-fourth board and the Candidate Commissioner of Activities of the thirty-fourth board.

During the year 2019-2020, it appeared that many members visited the *Borrel* late, which resulted in a well-visited *Borrel* later in the evening, but fewer attendees at the beginning. The thirty-third board strived for more members visiting the *Borrel* earlier. Therefore, the board provided members with a free keg of beer at the beginning of a certain number of *Borrels*. The thirty-third board was permitted to use four free kegs during the academic year. They were used at the first *Borrel* of the year, during the DIESweek, during the Reveal of the 34th board and the last *Borrel* of the year. As mentioned before, this solution did not seem to have that much effect.

2.6.4 Organising activities for Stichting RAGweek

The Commissioner of Activities was also responsible for organising activities to collect money for Stichting RAGweek. The thirty-third participated in the hallway lunch of the Faculty of Arts and made a board photo for the 'Sexy met Stijl Bestuurskalender'. The board also decided to organise a cantus for the RAGweek called 'kRAGtig zingen Cantus'. By making the cantus price higher than normal, the board would make sure that the earnings could go straight to RAGweek.

The Cantus took place in the Basement, with the members of RAGweek as our Senate. The activity had an okay turnout, but the participation rate was lower than normal at a cantus. A total of 18.50 euros was earned for the RAGweek. Besides that, in collaboration with CognAC, the thirty-third board stood at the RAGmarket. The members of both Babylon and CognAC were able to throw sponges at board members. A total of 60 euros was earned for the RAGweek.

Nathan Miango

Commissioner of Activities of Babylon 2021-2022

3. Committees

3.1 General information

In 2021-2022, Babylon had sixteen active committees. The coordination of these committees was divided among the six board members.

3.1.1 Application Committee

The Application Committee of the academic year of 2021-2022 consisted of five people: the Chair, the Vice-Chair, two Advisory Board members and one external board member. The committee was responsible for the entire application procedure, including reading the motivation letters, resumés, conducting the interviews and drafting advice for the thirty-third board of Babylon. 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. The first meetings took place before the application of the thirty-fourth board. The application letters were read by all members of the committee. It was difficult to find times when the whole committee was present. Therefore, the dates were selected where most members were available. The interviews were conducted with at least four out of the five committee members present. After all the interviews were done, the committee came together to discuss the division for the thirty-fourth board. The definite advice has been taken over by the thirty-third board.

3.1.2 Publication Committee

The Chair was responsible for the Publication Committee. In total, two editions of the Babylon Magazine have been made by the Publication Committee of 2021-2022. As decided at the beginning of the academic year, both versions contained formal and informal articles. The articles were checked by the committee members and the board members, to make sure the articles were appropriate and grammatically correct. Google Drive was used as the platform on which all articles were downloaded.

The collaboration of the Chair and the Secretary for making the content and design of the magazine went well. All deadlines were made, and the magazine always arrived on the planned date.

As stated in the Semi-Annual General Member Meeting, the Chair and Secretary wanted to start up a different project for the committees so that they would have something to do.

Unfortunately, this project has never been set in stone due to the fact that the committees have not found a date to meet up.

3.1.3 Graphic Design Committee

The Secretary was responsible for the Graphic Design Committee. The committee has worked very hard on the Babylon Magazines and all the content regarding social media. Not every form was handed in on time by committees which resulted in the Secretary having to make the content herself. This was a lot of extra work. Therefore, the committee made an extra information form and emphasised that forms should be handed in on time or the committee who requested it should make it themselves. From that moment onwards it went better.

3.1.4 Study Trip Committee

The Treasurer was responsible for the Study Trip committee. The planning of the trip started in October. The chair of the committee dropped out early in the year and this position was taken over by another member of the committee. After the position switch, the committee decided on going to Vienna and Budapest. But, during the preparations, several issues arose. The committee had asked two teachers to join the trip. But due to a lack of communication, they were not informed properly. Secondly, communication with the department was neglected from Babylon's side due to all the planning that still had to happen on short notice. After the information on the activities was clear, the Pre-Study Trip Borrel was held on 25 April and the programme was shown to the participants.

The weekend before the trip, the payment request for the remaining amount was sent out to the participants. This was very late, but because of uncertainty regarding the confirmation of the last activity, it could not be done earlier.

The trip was hectic due to delays with the trains. The train from Frankfurt to Vienna got cancelled at the original station which caused a delay. There were also some complications during the train ride back from Budapest. A complaint letter asking for compensation has been filed with the Deutsche Bahn after all the trouble. Despite all difficulties, both locations were very much liked by the participants and the trip was very enjoyable.

Moreover, during the trip, the committee received the news that one of the activities would not be able to host us. As a result, the committee and the board had to come up with a replacement activity during the trip. This activity was not as fun as the committee and the board would have hoped.

In hindsight, a lot of parts of the Study trip could have been improved. The final planning of the activities and the booking of the train tickets should have been pursued way earlier. The later the tickets are booked, the harder it is to reserve a seat on the train. The same goes for activities; it is easier to book further in advance. These problems ended up causing too much stress close to the departure of the trip. Additionally, the contact with the teachers and the Department should have been handled much more thoroughly than it was.

On May 10 the After Study Trip Borrel was held. At this *Borrel*, the committee showed an aftermovie and made a quiz about fun things that happened on the trip.

3.1.5 Prom Committee

The Treasurer is in charge of this committee. This year, the Prom has changed on several levels. First of all, Babylon renewed her collaboration with Mundus. The prom was now held together with Mundus, Postelein and Babylon. Usually, the Prom is hosted in February, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was postponed until April 20.

The committee was already done with all the preparations back in February, so there was very little stress regarding the planning. One of the problems that did occur was a switch of the coordinator of another association, so the committee had to adapt to this. The Prom itself was spectacular and there were little to no problems. The payments were handled through an automatic debit collection for members and payment requests for non-members. All associations handled their payments separately and the Treasurer of Babylon would handle all invoices after all payments from the associations had been received. There was one problem regarding another association that did not pay on time and had to be asked numerous times for it to happen. At the end, it all worked out and the event was a success. For next year, the thirty-fourth board needs to decide if they still want to host the Prom with all three associations, because the Waagh will no longer offer their full capacity.

3.1.6 Education Committee

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs was responsible for this committee. The committee organised the Family Day, Study Afternoons and is currently working on the upcoming CIS in the Field in September 2022. Additionally, the members of the committee participated in the Open Days and also the Study Choice Checks.

At the beginning of the year, it was not the idea to organise Study Afternoons, but the results of the Semi-Annual Report yielded that additional study support was needed. The committee organised two afternoons for the exams in the third period, but the turnout was low, only two people showed up to study together. The committee had used a lot of time

to prepare for the Study Afternoons, so this was of course disappointing and hence, no new Study Afternoons were organised.

3.1.7 Committee of Formal Activities

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs was responsible for this committee. The committee successfully organised three Company Visits during the year and is currently planning a new one for the upcoming October. There were complications for the December Company Visit and unfortunately it was cancelled due to COVID-19-related reasons and last-minute cancellation of a local company. Luckily, another Company Visit was organised in February to compensate for this.

3.1.8 International Committee

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs was responsible for this committee. The committee organised the Get-Together event, an Ice skating event and was planning on going to Efteling, which unfortunately had to be cancelled last minute due to very bad weather. Moreover, the committee is in charge of the Dutch classes. The Dutch classes were planned every week at the beginning of the year. Unfortunately, the classes had to be cancelled a lot due to last-minute sign-outs. The committee decided to cancel the Dutch Lessons in the last period of the year because of the low turnout and the busy schedule. The committee advises for next year to give fewer lessons than once a week to lighten the workload and raise the participation grade.

3.1.9 Career Committee

The Career Committee is under the responsibility of the Commissioner of External Affairs. This committee was responsible for organising the Career Event, as well as multiple Workshops. The Career Event was hosted on 25 April 2022 at De Waagh. Unfortunately, the turnout was a little disappointing. For next year, the board advises to organise something completely different from the Congress and CIS in the Field to attract more people. This can be done via a Job Market. Moreover, this year, a new activity was introduced to the Career Committee: The Alumni Speed Dating Event. During this event, former CIS students came to the Cultuur Café to talk in small groups about their careers and life after CIS. The committee advises to host this event again next year. Besides the Career Event and the Alumni Speed Dating Event, the Career Committee also organised Workshops. The first Workshop was from Argus Productions, a company that specialises in the replay of sports. The second Workshop was from the Dutch newspaper 'De Gelderlander'. This Workshop took place during lunchtime. The turnout of this second

workshop was higher than the turnout for the first workshop. The committee advises hosting the Workshops during lunchtime next year.

3.1.10 Congress Committee

The Commissioner of External Affairs coordinated the Congress Committee. This year's theme was "Out of the Box". With this theme, the goal was to show a broad variety of possibilities besides companies in the field of communication. Although the Congress went very well, the advice for next year would be to arrange a possibility for people to join without having to attend their lectures that day. This year, some students had lectures that they could not miss, so they were unable to attend. It would be great if the university would grant everybody the opportunity to join this formal event.

3.1.11 Committee of Informal Activities

The Commissioner of Activities was in charge of the Committee of Informal Activities (CIA). The CIA was responsible for organising most informal activities, such as the monthly themed *Borrels* and several other informal activities throughout the year.

Normally the CIA is free to organise one of these activities again or to come up with another idea for an informal activity. However, due to shifting in the Annual Planning because of COVID-19, the CIA this year did not have the chance to. The CIA also organised the Pub Quiz and the DIESweek. The participation rate during the DIESweek was okay - per activity, a minimum of 20 members decided to partake. The cantus was the most visited activity with 55 members.

In collaboration with committee members of the study associations Mycelium and Postelein, the CIA has organised four BaMyPo theme parties, as was planned. Another collaboration between study associations is Inglorious. In collaboration with study associations ESV, GSV, SVN, Mycelium and Postelein, they are normally responsible for organising three parties. However, due to late planning and lack of proactiveness from all participating study associations, only one party was organised: GODINGlorious.

In previous years, it was often the case that these parties took place shortly before the exam weeks, which possibly led to the lower attendance of the parties. Because Babylon had made her year planning way before Mycelium and Postelein finished theirs, some of the suggestive dates of Babylon were blocked by activities from the other respective associations. Thus, the dates of the BaMyPo were not as optimal as they could have been. The Commissioner of Activities vocalised to the other associations that the new boards should already take a look at their year planning and see which dates will fit best.

3.1.12 Sports Committee

The Commissioner of Activities was in charge of the Sports Committee. The biggest event of the committee was the Ski Trip, which took place from 1 January until 9 January 2022. A full review of the Ski Trip can be found in the Semi-Annual Report.

Furthermore, Babylon usually participates in the Batavierenrace. However, the thirty-third board missed the deadline for the Batavierenrace. This is because the registrations closed in December already and during that time, the Commissioner of Activities was trying to fix the residing problems with the Ski Trip.

The thirty-third board decided to have the Sports Committee only focus on the Ski Trip during the first semester and, therefore, gave them only one free activity to organise at the end of the academic year. However, due to miscommunication from both the committee and the external party, and the low turnout, the committee and the thirty-third board of Babylon decided to cancel the free activity. The Sports Committee wanted to organise a Boxing Clinic, since they wanted something different than the Beach Volleyball that normally takes place at the end of the year.

3.1.13 Weekend Committee

The Commissioner of Activities was in charge of the Weekend Committee. This year, the thirty-third board organised a normal Babylon Weekend again. This weekend took place in Eersel, at accommodation d'n Hazelaar. This location proved to be a very fitting location for the Babylon Weekend.

Because there were many experienced members in the committee, the preparation for the committee went well. Sponsorships were handled on time, transportation was fixed on time and they were able to find a good location.

The Weekend consisted of various informal activities such as a Cantus and a Game Afternoon. Even though there were some instances where the programme could be improved and the internal communication between both board and committee could have been better (e.g. beer incident during the Cantus), the 45 Babylonians who joined in Eersel had an amazing weekend and a memorable song paired with it.

3.1.14 Orientation Week Committee

The Commissioner of Activities was in charge of the Orientation Week Committee. This committee is responsible for organising the Orientation Week for the soon-to-be Communication and Information Studies students. The Orientation Week of this year takes place from 21 to 27 August. The thirty-third board hopes the Orientation Week can be

organised physically again with no problems. However, they cannot be sure, as at the moment of writing, the COVID-19 cases are increasing a bit again. Since the board will change in July, the upcoming Orientation Week will already be the responsibility of the Commissioner of Activities of the thirty-fourth board. Therefore, he has already joined the Orientation Week Committee full-time.

The committee is in the progress of finalising the programme. Most of the activities are arranged and will be finalised over summer vacation.

3.2 Babylon Crazy 100

The thirty-third board wanted to change the format of the Weekly Challenges. The thirty-second board noticed that not that many committees participated in these challenges, so the thirty-third board came up with a solution: the Babylon Crazy 100. Every month, committees had to complete ten challenges. These challenges were organised in a way that the thirty-third board could attract people to several activities (e.g. show up with X members to the *Borrel*, come to have a drink at the Babylon Room, etc.). In the beginning, it proved to be effective. However, as the year went on, Active Members were less motivated to do these Monthly Challenges. This is partly due to board members not activating their committee to do them. In the future, every committee can assign a 'Crazy member', which proved to be effective, since the committee with this member, the Career Committee, won the Babylon Crazy 100 of this academic year.

4. Conclusion

The thirty-third board of Babylon has done everything in its power to make the year 2021-2022 an unforgettable year for every member of Babylon. The board believes that they did a good job on the long-term and short-term goals. The board strengthened the bond with both students and teachers, associations and other external parties to the best of their abilities, aimed to improve the professionalism of the association, and maintained the image and reputation of Babylon. Furthermore, the thirty-third board has worked very hard on the cantus codices and House Regulations, which can also be used by the upcoming boards of Babylon. The two new activities, namely the Alumni Speed Dating Event and the Babylon Festival proved to be a success and are recommended to keep in the planning for the upcoming years. Moreover, the board has found a new head sponsor that helps keep Babylon financially stable for the upcoming year.

All board members look back at this year with pride and gratitude. They have learned a lot and have developed themselves greatly. The board hopes that Babylon has been an addition to the lives of its members during this academic year.

A special thanks to the Advisory Board, the committees, external parties, and all of those who have contributed to Babylon this year. The board is grateful for all of your hard work and support.

Here's to the place where we belong

- Babylon.

Sincerely,

The thirty-third board of Babylon