



BABYLON

STUDY ASSOCIATION

**CONCEPT ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020**

ACCESSIBLE, PROFICIENT AND AMBITIOUS



Foreword

This is the annual report of the thirty-first board of Babylon. This report is meant to describe and reflect on the processes that concern managing Babylon during the academic year 2019-2020. 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 2019-2020, were kept in mind. Emphasis was laid on attracting new members, strengthen 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 we expect our 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 so far. The results of the annual survey, conducted in May 2020, are used for this evaluation. In addition, COVID-19 and its effects on Babylon will be discussed in detail.

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

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

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1. COVID-19

1.1 General information COVID-19

On 16 March 2020, the government took measures surrounding COVID-19 (coronavirus). Examples of these measures were forbidding group activities and closing stores until 31 March 2020. In addition, Radboud University decided to suspend all physical education until the same date. At the end of March, the government decided to prolong these measures until 1 June. In response, Radboud University also prolonged its measures until further notice. This had a huge impact on everyone in the Netherlands, and thus on Babylon. Activities had to be cancelled, the Babylon Room had to be closed and new, creative solutions to maintain the connection between Babylon and its members had to be found. This chapter will provide a deeper insight into the cancellation of the physical events and the organisation of online activities. The use of social media and the financial situation during the COVID-19 period will be briefly explained in this chapter. More detailed information on these matters will be given in paragraph 2.5 and chapter 5.

1.2 Cancellation events and activities

The thirty-first board found it difficult to cancel all events and activities after the DIESweek, but fully understood the importance of the situations and supported, and is still supporting, the decisions that had to be made by the government and the university. The events and activities that had to be cancelled are the following:

- Active Member Evening (17 March)
- Company visit Rabobank (20 March)
- CFA Activity (15 April)
- Family Day (23 April)
- Study Trip (25 April – 3 May) (Including pre- and after-Study Trip *borrel*)
- National Day of Communication (7 May)
- Babylon Weekend (15-17 May)
- Workshop Career Committee (26 May)
- Activity International Committee: Efteling (29 May)
- Activity Sports Committee (2 June)
- Active Member Activity + Barbecue (30 June)
- *Borrels* (21 April / 19 May / 30 June)
- BaMyPo (23 April / 4 June)

As can be seen, many events and activities had to be cancelled. The thirty-first board regrets that they could not present them to its members, because it would have been a great addition to their professional career and social life. The board especially regrets the cancellation of the formal events, like the Company visit at the Rabobank, the Study Trip to Moscow and St Petersburg and the National Day of Communication. These were the events where Babylon could put the link between the CIS students and the work field. Partly due to COVID-19, this did not happen to its full extent this academic year.

The thirty-first board would like to thank all the active members of Babylon, even if their event was cancelled. They put a lot of effort into organising their events and activities, and this did not go unnoticed.

1.3 Online activities

The thirty-first board of Babylon wanted to maintain the connection between Babylon and its members. Therefore, online activities were being organised. From 16 April until 14 May, the thirty-first board organised an online activity every Thursday. The plan was to do this until 21 May, but the activity on 21 May (Game Night) had to be cancelled due to a lack of

sign-ups. Hereafter, two more activities were organised to maintain the connection to the Babylon members. The reason to not organise an online activity every week after 21 May was the increasingly good weather and the lack of enthusiasm of the members for an activity every week. The purpose of these online activities was not only to maintain the connection between Babylon and its members but also to act as a platform where Babylon members could connect with each other. In addition, it was meant to amuse the Babylon members during times that sometimes could be very boring. The following online activities have been organised by the thirty-first board:

- Babylon FIFA-Tournament (13 April)
- Babylon Netflix Party (16 April)
- Babylonline Pub Quiz (23 April)
- Online Active Member Evening (30 April)
- Babylon Bingo Night (7 May)
- Babylonline Escape Room (14 May)
- Babylon Murder Mystery (4 June)

The Babylonline Pub Quiz, the Online Active Member Evening and the Babylonline Escape Room were the most successful activities. The thirty-first board assumes that the reason behind this is that those activities were the most interactive. This seems to attract members more than less interactive activities. Besides that, members could sign up in groups (except for the Pub Quiz). This seems to attract members more than less interactive activities. This also appeared to be more appealing to the members.

Overall, the thirty-first board of Babylon was happy with the online activities. The average number of sign-ups was between 25 and 30 people and the board is satisfied with this number. The members seemed to enjoy it and the feedback was mostly positive. The thirty-first board maintained the connection with its members, the members had a platform to connect and the members were amused. Therefore, it can be stated that the online activities achieved their purpose.

1.4 Social media

Social media played an even more important role than before the announcements of the COVID-19 measures since this was the only communication towards the members. At the beginning of the COVID-19 period, the communication on social media was mostly about the decisions of the government and university, and the measures that were taken by them and Babylon. The thirty-first board created a news page on its website where two updates about the COVID-19 measures were posted. In addition, the thirty-first board sent an email to all its members in which was mentioned and announced that physical activities were going to be cancelled and that online activities were going to be organised. These messages were also posted on Facebook and Instagram.

After the first weeks of the COVID-19 period, Babylon's communication towards its members mainly went through Instagram. The purpose of this communication was maintaining the connection between Babylon and its members. The thirty-first board strived to do this by sharing and creating fun content. Examples of this are a small Babylon quiz, a 'which-board-member-are-you-quiz', 'My Babylon profile' and the '#stayfitchallenge'. The social media during this period will be explained in further detail in paragraph 2.5.

1.5 Financials

The COVID-19 measures also had financial consequences for Babylon. Think about committees that could not spend their entire budget because of the cancellation of their event, and money from some sponsors that will vary from what is agreed upon in the contract, since it was not possible for both parties to comply to the agreements in the contract. Overall, Babylon suffered no financial damage and the association saved money rather than lost it to COVID. More information on the financial consequences of COVID-19 can be found in chapter 5.

2. Proceedings in long-term goals of Babylon

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

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

The following paragraphs will briefly reflect on the progress that has been made within these goals and attention will be paid towards the most important short-term goals that belong to them.

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

2.1.1 Bonding of members

The bonding of members was carried out in various ways. Active membership was stimulated by organising a Committee Market in the second week of the academic year. One Active Member Evening (AME) and one online Active Member Evening (AME) were organised to thank the active members for their efforts. Unfortunately, the Active Member Activity (AME) could not be organised due to COVID-19. Instead of this activity, all active members will receive a Thank-You-present and they will all be invited for next year's Active Member Activity. Furthermore, the Member of the Month and the Wall of Babylon were kept. The Wall of Babylon is located at the Babylon Room and consists of active members that earned the title of Member of the Month. The Member of the Month was announced on Facebook and Instagram at the beginning of each month and he or she was invited to pick up a treat at the Babylon Room.

Furthermore, the thirty-first board continued the longer open office hours that were implemented by the thirtieth board. The Babylon Room was open from 10.30 am until 4 pm from Monday until Thursday and from 12.30 pm until 2 pm on Fridays. Members could always come along when they had questions, when they wanted to sign up for an activity or if they just wanted to have a chat. The long open office hours have been received very well by the members. The Babylon Room was very busy on most days and there was always a great atmosphere.

Besides that, monthly lunches were organised to motivate members to come to the Babylon Room. The International Committee provided Babylon members with a free internationally

themed lunch each month. The lunches took place the day after the monthly *borrel* (informal drink). Some members seemed to appreciate it that they did not have to worry about their lunch the day after the *borrel*, but others rather stayed at home. However, a lot of members that usually did not show up at activities, did come to the Babylon Room during these lunches. Since there was a high attendance, the thirty-second board is advised to continue to offer free lunches. Next year, the International Committee will not organise these lunches anymore. More on this topic can be found in paragraph 3.2.

The thirty-first board decided to continue the weekly challenges for the Committee Games. Every week, a challenge was posted in the Active Member Facebook group. Each week, the winner(s) of last week's challenge could be found on the pinboard at the Babylon Room. It turned out that some committees really enjoyed taking part in the Committee Games, which contributed to the involvement of the committee members. However, other committees did not feel the need to participate. Even though not all committees participated in the Committee Games, it is a good way to break the ice at the beginning of the year, so it is recommended to think of committee games again next year.

2.1.2 Pre-masters

In the past years, it became clear that pre-master students are often not interested in becoming a member of Babylon. Last year, however, it turned out differently. The thirtieth board had nine active pre-masters. Because of enthusiastic mentor parents during the Orientation Week, among them a previous board member, the thirty-first board was able to continue the enthusiasm of the pre-master members within Babylon. This year, thirteen pre-master signed up for a committee. The pre-masters were mostly interested in the formal side of Babylon. Most of them joined a formal committee, like the Career Committee, and were present in large numbers during formal activities. Besides being interested in formal activities, the pre-masters also joined informal activities like *borrels* from time to time. The amount of active pre-master members has never been so high before, and the thirty-first board is very proud to have achieved this.

Unfortunately, pre-masters will not be able to join the regular Orientation Week anymore due to new rules of the university. This means that future boards should put extra effort in the university's special pre-master day to keep this important group involved in Babylon

2.1.3 International members

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

Internationalisation has been an important matter over the last four years and continues to be of high importance to future Babylon boards. It is necessary to get an insight in what international members think of Babylon in order to improve this process. Therefore, questions about the process of internationalisation in Babylon were asked to international members in the annual survey. A total of twelve internationals filled out the survey and the most important results will be discussed below. Because of COVID-19, not a lot of feedback from the semi-annual survey regarding internationalisation could be implemented in the second semester. Therefore, the results of this survey regarding

internationalisation were quite similar to the results of the semi-annual survey, such as speaking more English during activities and at the Babylon Room. However, the results of this survey also show some different feedback than the results of the semi-annual survey. The international respondents mentioned that Babylon needs to be more active in showing that the international members are welcome in a committee. Besides that, Babylon should put more effort in the integration of international members in Babylon and the Netherlands. Things that went well, according to the international respondents, are similar to the ones mentioned in the Semi-Annual Report. These are the creation of the International Committee, trying to include all members, organising many activities for international members and trying to speak more English.

Steps have been taken to make international students feel more welcome in Babylon and a part of the international students notice and appreciate this. However, this is not the case for all international CIS students. Not many steps could be taken anymore, but attention should be paid to make the current processes better in order to include even more international students in the upcoming years.

2.1.4 Third-year students

During the first semester, many third-year students are absent due to their term abroad. The past years have shown that third-year students are less active after they come back from this term abroad. If they get a warm welcome back, these third-year students might become more active in Babylon again. Therefore, preceding boards of Babylon have organised a Welcome Back Activity for third-year students. The academic year 2018-2019 showed that the activity should not be too expensive, because the third-year students do not have a lot to spend after their Erasmus experience. Therefore, the thirty-first board decided to organise a Welcome Back Pub Quiz in Tappers which was only €3-. Participants could decide if they wanted to have dinner together for a few euros more. However, this was optional and not obligatory. In addition, third-year students who stayed in the Netherlands for an internship or a minor were also more than welcome. A total of 31 third-years participated in the Pub Quiz, 6 third-year students also joined for dinner. This is a significantly higher amount than the year before. Therefore, the thirty-first board considers this activity a big success.

Many third-year students who were active before their term abroad visited the few physical activities in the second semester. Besides that, quite some third-year students visited online activities. The thirty-first board is happy with this result and hopes the thirty-second board will even get even more third-year students excited for Babylon again in the second semester.

2.1.5 Recruitment of the new board

The methods used to recruit the new board were very similar to previous years. The Board Interest Lunch, social media promotion and word-of-mouth are examples of this. In addition, the thirty-first board of Babylon introduced something new regarding the acquisition of the new board. This was an open board meeting, available for everyone who showed a severe interest in becoming a board member. During this open board meeting, the potential applicants could get an image of what a board meeting actually is and what is discussed during it. In this way, the potential applicants could get a better insight into what the board of Babylon exactly does. This open board meeting was well visited and the potential applicants mentioned that it was helpful for their decision.

Eventually, there were enough applications to fill all six places on the board. Therefore, the thirty-first board considered the promotion successful. The new Application Committee was responsible for the application procedure. More on this can be found in paragraph 3.4.

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 members and partners. The following paragraphs provide more information on how and to what extent the thirty-first 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. Unfortunately, this balance has not been optimal over the last semester. The number of formal activities had been lacking, and the planned (semi-) formal activities such as the Congress, the Study Trip and the Company Visit at the Rabobank were cancelled. One of the causes for this lack of formal activities was an insufficient effort to organise a new company visit. Another cause for the lack of formal activities has been the COVID-19 situation. Due to the pandemic, all formal and informal activities have been cancelled.

The annual survey showed that multiple students noticed the lack of formal activities, but they understood the powerless situation the pandemic put the thirty-first board into. The thirty-first board has been striving to keep a healthy balance between formal and informal and unfortunately, they did not succeed in this. The thirty-second board will strive to keep an ultimate balance between informal and formal activities as well and the thirty-first board will aid them in whichever possible manner.

2.2.2 Professional communication

After a somewhat troubled start of the academic year, the board strived to maintain a high level of clear communication towards its members and external parties. It believes it has maintained that level, and the annual survey showed that members were satisfied with the level of communication given concerning COVID-19 and what that meant for Babylon and its members. However, there were still some grammatical flaws in Babylon's communication throughout the entire year. The board tried to reduce these flaws to a minimum level, but this did not always work out.

The Commissioner of External Affairs has contacted all parties involved around the 'sticker deals' and other forms of relationships with Babylon, to check up on their wellbeing as a business as well as their point of view regarding the ongoing contractual relationship with Babylon. The board was delighted to notice the businesses were overall stable, and the sent email was received positively.

Babylon's social media channels have been managed by the Secretary, the Chair and the Commissioner of External Affairs. The Secretary has been overseeing Facebook and Instagram, while the Commissioner of External Affairs has been taking care of LinkedIn and Twitter. This was done to separate the more formal and the more informal social media, which in turn partially made sure that professional communication was used where necessary. This division was made as an experiment and has proven to be a good one since it has also taken off some of the workload of the Secretary. The Chair assisted the Secretary in the second semester due to an increase in the use of social media platforms.

The more formal social media Twitter and LinkedIn have been used less frequently than Facebook and Instagram. LinkedIn has mainly been used to share job openings at companies within Babylon's field of study, and the use of Twitter has been very marginal. The Commissioner of External Affairs does check up on Twitter feeds, but the amount of

posts has been very limited so far. The thirty-second board has, advised by the thirty-first board, decided to end the Babylon account on Twitter since no account is better than a non-active account.

2.2.3 Maintaining the corporate identity

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

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

Over the last year, Babylon has gained several new partners, such as Chidoz and Domino's. More information about new partners can be found in paragraph 1.4.2. However, to keep portraying the association as a professional entity to the outside world, the thirty-first board went actively searching for a new partner in the field of communication, since all newly started relations offered informal goods or services. The board found a first new partner in LOGEION, which is a professional organisation for communication professionals. However, the thirty-first board has advised the thirty-second board to continue the search for other 'formal parties' since this will only increase Babylon's reputation as both professional and accessible.

2.2.4 Privacy

In their efforts to comply with the new privacy regulations, the thirty-first board has been strict in handling personal data. Registration lists have not been visible for non-authorized people. This means that, after a list is used, it is stored safely or destroyed after it serves no further useful purpose.

The privacy has also been upgraded on the platform of the newly created Babylon website. Members have to create a personal account with a personal password. It is only possible for members to create an account, and with that account, the members can access private information such as photos of Babylon activities etc..

There have been some minor occurrences regarding the privacy regulations. A few sign-up sheets were shared between the board members on Google Drive. After the board was notified by the Advisory Board that this was not in line with the privacy regulations, the board stopped doing this. Besides this, there were no occurrences where the privacy regulations have not been entirely adhered to. The board has kept up their efforts to protect the data of their members in compliance with the privacy regulations and has advised the thirty-second board to do so as well.

2.2.5 The Babylon Room

The thirty-first board wanted the Babylon Room to be a welcoming and accessible place for all members. The Babylon Room has undergone some changes in the last year. The layout has been altered, to create more space for people to meet and relax. The feedback on this change has been unanimously positive.

The Babylon Room exists in the service of all members, and by maintaining an open-door policy, the thirty-first board made the members feel welcome.

2.3 Improve and strengthen the image of Babylon

2.3.1 Companies and organisations

The thirty-first board set a goal for themselves to receive and welcome speakers in a neat, friendly and professional way during formal events. This should improve the bonds with the companies and improve the image of Babylon. The board believes this has been done successfully. For example, speakers at the Career Event had a pleasant experience. The Congress Committee planned to invite several companies to the National Day of Communication, which had to be cancelled.

In addition, all email contact with possible speakers and companies went smoothly and professionally. One setback in this matter was that the Committee of Formal Activities accidentally used their private email to approach companies. As soon as the board found out, they reminded the committee to use their committee email. The board believes they have remained in the good graces of every approached company and speaker and will continue to do so for CIS in the Field.

2.3.2 Potential and current sponsors

Potential and current sponsors also need to have a positive and professional image of Babylon. This has been achieved by having an adequate amount of personal contact with them, by keeping them up to date and by inviting them to formal activities. It has been especially important to maintain contact with partners during the lockdown. They must know what Babylon is and what the association could offer. By clearly transmitting this information during meetings, the thirty-first board of Babylon has contracted new relations and strengthened the existing relations over the past year. More information on the new and strengthened existing relations can be found in paragraph 1.4.2.

2.3.3 Study and student associations

The thirty-first board believes that regular contact with other associations can be of great value for Babylon. Therefore, proactive behaviour is encouraged. This year, Babylon cooperated with other associations in Nijmegen to organise Inglorious, BaMyPo and the Prom. Unfortunately, after finding multiple speakers for the National Day of Communication, it had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. However, all of the sister associations agreed on letting Babylon and Mycelium organise this event next again. Also, due to COVID-19, multiple versions of BaMyPo and the Inglorious during the Orientation Week 2020 had to be cancelled. The annual Prom was again a great success and a very well-visited event. In addition, the thirty-first board actively socialised with other boards. Throughout the year they actively exchanged ideas and experiences with other boards in a formal setting as well as an informal setting. Several board members were asked by other boards to take part in their Application Committee. This shows the good bond between Babylon and the other associations as well.

The contact with the sister associations, also called the National Council of Communication Sciences (NCCS), went well this year, especially in the second semester. A meeting was held every month via Skype and later Zoom, and these meetings were led by the Chair of Babylon. In addition, a new association will join the NCCS next year. This is the International Faculty Association ACE. This is the faculty association for Communication, Culture and History students at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Because of the addition of I.F.A. ACE to the NCCS, the contract had to be renewed. 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 should have taken place on 20 March 2020, was cancelled due to COVID-19. Therefore, no Sisters Day has taken place during this academic year. Babylon and all of the sister associations would like to still organise one when this is possible. Though, due to COVID-19, there is currently no specific plan being made.

The thirty-first board also wanted to get into contact with RUIS (HAN Communication) to make way for possible future collaborations. Therefore, they would have been invited to the National Day of Communication on 7 May 2020. This should have been a small start in creating new connections with RUIS. It is unfortunate that this bond could not have been created this past year, though next year there will be another chance. RUIS will be invited to the National Day of Communication 2021.

2.3.4 Members and other students

Preferably, members and other students regard Babylon as an organisation from which they can expect support and where they can ask questions about various subjects. Moreover, their perception of the association should include terms as 'professionalism', 'innovative' and 'unity'. The overall public perceived opinion appears to be good. However, the results of the annual survey showed that members would like Babylon to organise more formal activities. This was also the case in the semi-annual survey, after which the board did everything they could to organise multiple additional formal events in the second semester. One workshop could be held. Another one was cancelled along with a company visit. Therefore, this goal has been difficult to reach this year. CIS in the Field will take place in September, possibly online. That will be the last formal activity of this year.

The Committee of Formal Activities, the Career Committee and the Congress Committee tried their best to propagate a professional image, as they are the committees who organise the formal activities and events on Babylon's behalf. The Committee of Formal Activities wore their committee t-shirts in the original Babylon colours to maintain a professional image. Companies who were approached by the Career, Congress and Formal Activities Committee were approached in a formal, polite and professional manner.

2.4 Strengthening ties with external relations

2.4.1 Keeping in touch with sponsors

Strengthening ties with external relations has been of vital importance to the Commissioner of External Affairs and the thirty-first board of Babylon as a whole. Over the past year, maintaining ties with external relations has generally been successful. The Commissioner of External Affairs has maintained contact with all collaborating parties, and has intensified contact with collaborating parties in the catering industry after the measures for COVID-19 were installed. This includes collaborations with companies such as Tappers, Chidoz, De Waagh and Popocatepetl, since these are the businesses that are most likely to suffer from the measures. The Commissioner of External Affairs has also maintained contact with all other external relations, including StudyStore this year. The Commissioner of External Affairs has been working together with StudyStore to include other study associations within the Faculty of Arts in Babylon's book contract, in order to further establish Babylon as a leading association within the Faculty of Arts. This contract has now been signed by all participating study associations and has been sent to Studystore. As of the moment of writing, Babylon is waiting for the contract to be signed by Studystore.

The Commissioner of External Affairs has made a contact file, as was mentioned in the Policy Plan of the thirty-first board. There are currently over 40 entries in the contact file, so progress is being made. It has to be said that the majority of the entries has been filed by the committees of the Commissioner of External Affairs, so the file should have been promoted more actively amongst all committees.

2.4.2 Recruiting sponsors

Apart from FIKA, every existing relation has been maintained, and several new relations have been established over the year. Tappers, UniPartners, Chidoz, Escape Boot Nijmegen and Popocatepetl have all been added to Babylon's repertoire of collaborations. The

Commissioner of External Affairs has also finalised the collaboration with Domino's. All new collaborations have been discussed in the Semi-Annual Report but will be briefly discussed again below.

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

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

The collaboration with Chidoz has started on 1 December 2019 and has recently been extended until 1 January 2021. This collaboration is a sticker deal, where members receive a discount on burritos. Members will gain a larger discount when they make a bigger order. The new, extended deal has changed slightly. Because of COVID-19, Chidoz now has to ask €1,- extra when ordering a burrito with beef or pork. The price for a burrito with chicken will stay the same.

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

The collaboration with Popocatepetl has started on 1 January and is Babylon's latest sticker deal. Members of Babylon can choose a three-course meal from a special Babylon Menu for €18,-. Upon showing the Babylon sticker in the restaurant, members will be provided with the physical menu, which is also available on Babylon's website.

The new collaboration with Domino's has been finalised. This new collaboration applies to all three Domino's branches in Nijmegen. The contents of the deal, as currently agreed, are that every member of Babylon receives their own discount card. With this card, members can order pizzas where they receive a discount of 10% when ordering one pizza, 20% when ordering two and 30% when ordering three pizzas or more. Of the net worth of all orders Babylon members make with the cards, 5% will be paid to Babylon. Note that the deal can be used while ordering on their app, website or physically. The deal does not count when ordering through [Thuisbezorgd.nl](https://www.thuisbezorgd.nl) or other third parties.

Over the past six months, the Commissioner of External Affairs has been focusing on maintaining and nurturing the established and new relations and on searching for a new formal relation. This was seen as a priority, given that almost all newly started relations are informal. This search ended with LOGEION, a professional organisation for communication professionals. They were willing to sponsor the NDC for €100,- and are willing to do so next year as well.

The Commissioner of External Affairs has also started a collaboration with BijlesHuis as of 23 June 2020. BijlesHuis offers (online) tutoring for various subjects of our study programme. BijlesHuis also offers our members the possibility to become a teacher there. For every student that signs up through Babylon as either a member or a teacher, Babylon

will receive €20,-. The Commissioner of External Affairs will advise the Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-second board to continue the search for formal collaborations.

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-first board has continued offering Doppers as a business gift. At CIS in the Field, speakers have received a Dopper. However, for the most formal occasions or when receiving high profile speakers, the Commissioner of External Affairs has offered a more deserving gift, namely a bottle of wine and a notebook. This has been given to speakers at the Career Event and would have been given to speakers at the NDC.

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. At least two board members of Babylon have attended every SOFv meeting this academic year.

Babylon is also a member of LETO, an association that stimulates collaboration and transfer of information between study associations of the Faculty of Arts at Radboud University. Following the policy of the thirtieth board, the thirty-first board has decided to join LETO to strengthen the bonds with the other study associations from the Faculty of Arts. Furthermore, LETO keeps Babylon up to date about faculty-related affairs. LETO organises several activities for all the associations of the Faculty of Arts.

In the first semester, the General Member Meetings of both umbrella associations were held physically on the university. In the second semester, the meetings took place online via Zoom, Discord and/or Jitsi due to COVID-19. These meetings were proven useful since there was a platform for all the associations on which they could discuss topics regarding COVID-19 with each other. Technical difficulties sometimes made it difficult for a meeting to go smoothly. However, this was not a big deal and the board members present at those meetings always received all the information.

3.2 Advisory Board

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

This year, the thirty-first board only had one meeting with the advisory board in order to discuss and receive feedback on the ongoing business within Babylon. The plan was to schedule more meetings in the second semester, but this did not happen due to COVID-19. Usually, the Chair of Babylon is always present at those meetings and two additional board members join him or her. Next year, more than one meeting between the board and the Advisory Board needs to 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 pleasant and sufficient this year. They have proven to be a valuable source of information and advice.

The Advisory Board of 2020-2021 will consist of at least three and no more than six members. Since last year, it is possible for a Babylon member who has played an active role within the association, to take place in the Advisory Board. However, no active member has applied for the Advisory Board this year. From the thirtieth board Suzanne Klein Wolterlink, Susanne Luijf and Dominique Paulissen will apply. From the thirty-first board Max Ploemen, Tessa Stolte and Quirijn Somers will apply for the Advisory Board.

3.3 General Member Meetings

The academic year's first General Member Meeting was held at De Waagh on 11 September 2019. During this meeting, the thirty-first board evaluated the Orientation Week and the Information Session, provided updates about ongoing board matters and presented their

budget for 2019-2020. In addition, the thirtieth board presented their Financial Annual Report. Both the budget and the Financial Annual Report were accepted.

The second General Member Meeting was held on 17 February 2020 in De Waagh. The thirty-first board presented their Semi-Annual Report during this meeting. Besides that, the thirty-first board gave some updates regarding the website, the new camera and temporary change of the coordinator of two committees.

The last General Member Meeting will be held on 2 July 2020. During this meeting, the thirty-first will briefly present their Annual Report, there will be voted on the thirty-second prospective board of Babylon and if voted in, the thirty-second board will present their concept Policy Plan. In addition, the Advisory Board and the Till Committee will be changed. This GMM will be held online via Zoom due to COVID-19.

3.4 Board grants

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

3.5 Website

The thirty-first board implemented a new website this year. The process in the first semester is described in the Semi-Annual Report. The final phase of the Babylon website went very smooth, in contrast with the previous phases. This phase included updating the most recent activities, posting all the photos that had been taken the previous months and finalizing certain aspects. After the website officially launched, the thirty-first board tried to improve the website even more, whenever the board saw fit. This happened for example with the layout of the homepage, as well as the decision to post more on the website to encourage students to visit the website and familiarise themselves with it.

Furthermore, the Treasurer created board-member-accounts, which means the particular board members do not have to upgrade their personal account to be able to edit the website. This way, whenever a post is shared on the website, the members will see what board member posted it, instead of only their name.

At the moment of writing, the website is up and running and the next board can take over control easily. A handbook will be created to support the board members and to ensure the website will be used to the full extent of its capabilities. Furthermore, the Secretary and Treasurer will be available next year for extra help whenever asked for, also to ensure the website will be fully used.

Looking back, the thirty-first board find the website a new asset of Babylon of which it can be proud. Even though the road towards the finalisation was not always very smooth, the result is something Babylon will be able to use for the upcoming years. More information about the technical changes can be found in paragraph 5.1.2.

4. Chair

The Chair is proud of the accomplishments of the thirty-first board of Babylon. Although not everything went according to plan, the Chair thinks that the board did a great job on most things. He is especially proud of the board during the COVID-19 crisis. The board reacted fast and came up with new ways to keep the connection between Babylon and its members.

4.1 General tasks and responsibilities

The main task of the Chair is to carry ultimate responsibility for everything that is organised and published under the name of Babylon. Besides that, he leads and coordinates the board and Babylon in general. One of the main tasks of the Chair is to lead the weekly board meetings. In the first semester, these meetings took place every Tuesday. It has happened that, because of personal circumstances or board-related events, the board meeting had to be rescheduled. When this happened, the Chair made sure that the meeting would take place as close to Tuesday as possible, so the weekly meetings would not occur shortly after each other. In addition, almost all the meetings have been attended by the entire board. When this was not the case, the board member who was not present provided updates by text or through Facetime.

At the beginning of the second semester, the board meetings always took place physically and on Monday. However, this changed due to COVID-19. After the lockdown, the board meetings took place via Zoom and Tuesday evening was the new time for these meetings. This did not always work out and the board meetings sometimes had to be rescheduled to Monday or Wednesday. The Chair would have wanted that it was possible to meet every week at the same time, but this was unfortunately not possible. In the beginning, the board had to get used to the online board meetings. After a few meetings, the board got used to online meetings and the meetings went better. The efficiency during all the Zoom board meetings could have been better. They still took quite long and this was not always necessary. A possible explanation for this is that the board meeting was almost the only time that the board was actually talking to each other instead of texting, while they almost saw each other every day before that. This means that the board meetings were not only used to talk about board-related matters, but also to talk about the board members' personal life. 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.

Another task of the Chair is to monitor all the activities organised by Babylon's committees. He was doing this by reading through the minutes of all the committees and by keeping close contact with his fellow board members. Overall, this went well, but he could have been more on top of certain activities in the first semester. The second semester was completely different since most committees did not have to do many things due to COVID-19.

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

Throughout the year, especially in the second semester, the Chair positioned himself as a flexible board member. He took over the coordination of the Committee of Formal Activities from February until April when the Commissioner of Internal Affairs had some health issues. In addition, he assisted the Secretary in the second semester during the COVID-19

crisis with social media since it was used more frequently than before COVID-19. He helped to create new content and to post this content on Facebook and Instagram. Furthermore, he helped out other board members if it was necessary. In addition, the Chair was always available for his fellow board members if they had personal issues. If another board member came to him with a personal problem, he tried to help him or her to the best of his abilities.

4.2 International Committee

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

As can be read in the Semi-Annual Report of the thirty-first board, the committee had a strong beginning. However, along the way of the second semester it faced some difficulties. There was no clear goal and the committee was drifting away from its purpose. The board and the committee decided to set a clear mission and vision: *'Our main goal is to organise activities to help international students integrate more easily in Babylon and the Netherlands. We would like to show that we are an internationally oriented study association. To accomplish this, we need more dedication and use the Facebook group more frequently. Besides, personal contact is also one of the key elements of accomplishing this.'* This means that all activities of the International Committee need to help the international members integrate in Babylon and the Netherlands. Dutch lessons, cooking or tasting Dutch food, visiting museums about Dutch culture, etc. are all examples of activities that the committee could organise.

The International Committee organised one activity in the DIESweek, the Culture Rouler. It is the same concept as the well-known Diner Rouler or Beer Rouler, but cultural elements were added to make the activity more internationally minded. Unfortunately, the Babylon members were not excited about this activity since the number of sign-ups was low. The reason for the few sign-ups is probably the unclear promotion and the unattractive name. People said that they did not know what to expect from it and that they preferred to sign up for other activities during this week. However, the participants in the activity all liked the activity and they were positively surprised that it was really fun. If this activity will be organised another time, it needs to be promoted differently and clearly.

In March 2020, the committee was organising weekly Dutch lessons. Only five people signed up for this, but they were all happy that Babylon provided Dutch lessons for them. Another positive note was that more people mentioned that they were interested, but they could unfortunately not join the lessons due to busy schedules. Therefore, the International Committee of this year and the thirty-first board would advise its successors to continue providing Dutch lessons next year.

As mentioned in the Semi-Annual Report as well, the International Committee organised unofficial Babylon events. The focus of these activities was on international students, but everyone was welcome to participate. The unofficial activities held by the committee were

the City Trip to Maastricht, the *Kuukse Kroegentocht* during *Carnaval* and a board game night. These activities were being promoted via the Facebook group for international students in Babylon. This Facebook group was made at the beginning of the year to create a platform where international members of Babylon could contact each other. Currently, it is mostly used to promote these unofficial events. Only a few people came to the game night and it can, therefore, be seen as not very successful. The City Trip to Maastricht, however, was very successful. A group of seventeen people, including a few members of the committee, visited Maastricht in December. Many attendees were positive about this City Trip and because of this success, the committee was planning on having another city trip in the second semester. The location, Rotterdam, was already chosen by the international students themselves via a poll in the Facebook group. Unfortunately, this city trip could not take place due to COVID-19. Fortunately, the *Kuukse kroegentocht* took place right before the COVID-19 crisis. Seven people joined, including a few committee members. Although there were only a few sign-ups, the international members who were present had a great time.

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

The past year, the International Committee organised the free monthly lunches. The committee organised lunches with a new country as a theme each month, in order to attract more international students to the lunches. Mexican, German, Vietnamese, Italian, Hungarian/Romanian and American lunches have been organised. However, not many international students did show up at the lunches. The thirty-first board noticed that people spoke too much Dutch during the lunches. The board believes that this is one of the reasons that not many international members showed up. Since the lunches did not have the desired effect on the internationalisation of Babylon, the International Committee and the thirty-first board decided that it is not useful for this committee to organise the lunches. Therefore, the lunches will not be organised by the International Committee anymore next year.

Some questions about the International Committee were asked in the annual survey. The results show that international respondents appreciate the existence of the committee. They think the committee can help them integrate better, can help them get in contact with people, and can help them getting used to Dutch habits. Some things the committee can do better according to the international respondents are to focus more on the integration part, to let international students know better that they can ask questions to them, and to organise more activities for international students only.

The evaluation of the committee from both the thirty-first board and the International Committee showed that the committee still has to focus more on the integration of the international members. Activities organised by this committee could still be informal, but it needs to have a bigger focus on the integration part than it had the past year.

The thirty-first board is happy with the introduction of the International Committee. Not everything went well this year, but these are learning moments for the future. There are still steps that have to be taken, but the board thinks there is a good basis now. The thirty-

first board is convinced that the International Committee will help many international students integrate better in Babylon and in The Netherlands in the upcoming years.

4.3 Prom Committee

This year, the Prom was organised in collaboration with the study associations Postelein, BOW and Mundus. The Prom Committee consisted of three members of each association: two regular members and one board member. The Prom took place on 19 February from 8.30 p.m. until 1.30 a.m. at De Waagh. The theme was 'a lovely night', referring to Valentine's Day. In total, 450 tickets were available of which 113 were reserved for Babylon. The tickets included access to the Prom and unlimited access to beer, wine, sodas and vodka plus two rounds of snacks. The price was €27,50 for members of one of the four associations and €32,50 for non-members. All members were allowed to buy a maximum of two tickets.

One day before the Prom, all 450 tickets were sold out. However, on the day of the Prom, a few people from all four associations cancelled. Eventually, this led to an unclear overview because some tickets were traded between the associations. Therefore, the committee lost track of how many tickets were sold per association exactly. However, the thirty-first board of Babylon knows that 111 tickets were sold by Babylon. The Prom itself was a great success. It was (almost) sold out and everyone had a great time.

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

At the beginning of the year, there were some problems within the committee because the location was already set. The committee would have wanted to pick the location themselves. However, the Prom is part of the contract between Babylon and De Waagh. This is not the case for the other associations. In the evaluation of the Prom, the committee mentioned again that they do not want the location to be set for the next committee, because it gives less freedom to the committee. Since the Prom is in the contract between De Waagh and Babylon, the thirty-second board of Babylon needs to make a difficult decision. They could decide to leave it out of the contract and receive less sponsor money, they could decide to leave the collaboration with the current association and try to find a new collaboration between associations, or they could try to convince BOW, Mundus and Postelein to keep the Prom at De Waagh. The Chair of the thirty-first board will help the Prom coordinator of the thirty-second board during the negotiations with the other association.

4.4 Application Committee

The thirty-first board created the Application Committee to make sure that the application procedure of the thirty-second board would be fair and unbiased. Therefore, the committee consisted of two current Babylon board members, one former board member, one member of the advisory board and one external board member of a different association. The two current board members were the Chair and the Vice-Chair. The Application Committee met once in the first semester. In this meeting, it was decided that the Application Committee would not be concerned with the promotion, but would only carry out the actual application procedure.

In the second semester, the committee met a couple of times. 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. Unfortunately, the interviews had to be postponed due to COVID-19. Besides that, the interviews had to be held online due to the same reason. Eventually, the interviews were carried out via Zoom, which went smoothly. After carrying out all the interviews, the committee discussed all the applicants and the formation of the thirty-second prospective board in a few online meetings. After agreeing on the formation, the Application Committee gave a strong advice to the thirty-first board and the board agreed on this formation.

The thirty-first board thinks this committee is a great addition to Babylon. The former board member, the member of the Advisory Board and the external board member have a more unbiased perspective on the applicants than the board would have.

4.5 Personal goals

The Chair set the following six personal goals at the beginning of the year:

- Carry out tasks correctly and professionally, to ensure that the set goals are met;
- Monitor all activities within Babylon, to maintain the quality, the image and the professionalism of the association;
- Maintain and strengthen contact with (active) members and striving to intensify the bond between the (active) members and the association;
- Lead and guide the daily board and the coordinators to establish a board that functions to the best of their ability;
- Becoming a familiar face for the entire association Babylon;
- Maintain and establish contact with external parties in the interest of the bond between the association and the industry, as well as increasing the network of Babylon.

The Chair is proud of the progress that he has made on a professional and personal manner this year. Not everything went well, but he learned from those mistakes and tried to not make them again another time. He thinks that he has met all the set goals to a certain extend. He always tried to carry out his tasks in a professional, transparent and flexible manner. Besides that, he made sure that all activities within Babylon were monitored and he tried to help when necessary. As a familiar face of the association he, together with his fellow board members, tried to maintain and strengthen the connection between the (active) members and the association. This went well for a particular group of members and this group is very committed. However, more effort could have been put into strengthening the bond between the less active members and Babylon. The Chair knows this and regrets that this did not happen. The Chair always tried to encourage his fellow board members to work hard and stay motivated, also during the COVID-19 crisis. This was not always easy, but he did his utmost best. Overall, the Chair thinks that he led the board in a way that it functioned to the best of its ability.

Lastly, the Chair tried to maintain and/or increase the network and reputation of Babylon. He did this, together with his fellow board members, by attending many constitution drinks of other study associations and by socialising with other boards during General Member Meetings of SOFv. Next to that, the Chair kept contact with the sister associations. This year, the Chair took a leading role in the sister meetings and he is proud that he represented Babylon as a professional, hard-working and fun association.

Max Ploemen
Chair of Babylon 2019-2020

5. Secretary

5.1 Tasks and responsibilities

The general tasks of the Secretary were, among other things, managing the member administration, the (e)mail, updating the boards' shared calendar with the upcoming activities and managing various social media channels of Babylon. Furthermore, a very important task of the Secretary was to write the minutes of board meetings and General Member Meetings and to distribute these minutes. Some of the tasks of the Secretary will be further explained below

5.2 The member file

The thirty-first board used the programme 'Conscribo' for the member administration, just like previous years. The Secretary was responsible for making sure the member file in Conscribo remained correct and contained complete and correct information only. At the moment of writing, Babylon has 495 members. This year, the students were immediately directed to Babylon's own website if they signed up for Babylon while ordering books. This way, the board already received all of the information directly, instead of via StudyStore, which made it easier to include all these new members in the member file.

5.3 Minutes

It was the responsibility of the Secretary to write the minutes at all Board Meetings and the General Member Meetings. The Secretary wrote minutes at all the aforementioned meetings and spread these to the appropriate parties. Throughout the year, the minutes of the board meetings were sometimes distributed later than the planned 48 hours after a meeting. However, in general, they were in time.

5.4 (E)mail

The board members all have their own email account via the programme 'Roundcube'. The board is still satisfied with the use of Roundcube, despite that some of the email accounts receive a lot of spam messages from time to time.

The email addresses of the board members have changed after the first semester when the new website was revealed and taken in use. All email addresses changed from @svbabylon.nl to @babylonnijmegen.nl. Thus, the new email address of the Secretary is secretary@babylonnijmegen.nl. All emails sent to either of the old accounts (secretaris@svbabylon.nl and secretary@babylonnijmegen.nl) are forwarded to the new email address. This way, no correspondence can be missed, even when people send an email to a former account. So far, the board has not yet experienced any problems with this. When the board started using the new email addresses, the Secretary sent an email to all members, sister associations, associations in Nijmegen and all university contacts. This way, everyone should be aware of the change in contact details. A message about the new website and new email addresses were also posted on all social media channels Babylon has. Sometimes, the Secretary still received emails via one of the older addresses, when this happened, he mentioned this in his response email and asked them to update their contact details of the association.

All members, including contributing graduates and lecturers/professors received an email from Babylon this year, to congratulate them with their birthday. All general members could also get a free cocktail during the Babylon *borrels* in the Malle Babbe. Contributing graduates and lectures/professors received a different 'Happy Birthday' email than the general members. For lecturers/professors, the email is more formal. For contributing graduates, the email was still informal, but they did not receive a free cocktail. This is because more than half of the contributing graduates are 25 years or older, or not even

live in Nijmegen anymore. Therefore, it might be weird to offer them a cocktail at the next Babylon *borrel*, since they most likely will not attend these anymore.

To send emails to all the members of Babylon, such as the monthly 'Babbel' or invitations for General Member Meetings, the Secretary of the thirty-first board continued the use of the programme 'Mailchimp'. The Secretary always made two versions of the 'Babbel' or other emails: one in Dutch and one in English. The thirty-first board considers the monthly newsletter very important to Babylon. The 'Babbel' is also a very useful tool to inform members of events that are coming, apart from all promotion via social media. According to the statistics that can be seen via Mailchimp, more than 60% of all Babylonians have read the 'Babbels' in the past year.

5.5 Website and social media

The Secretary of the board of Babylon has been responsible for updating and maintaining the website and the social media channels Facebook and Instagram. The thirty-first board created and implemented a new website (www.babylonnijmegen.nl). More information on this matter can be found in paragraph 2.5. During and after the new website was created, all written texts from the previous year(s) have been checked and updated where necessary. The new website is clearer, more professional looks fresher, and works better. The Secretary, together with the Treasurer, took it upon himself to look into all new possibilities of the website, and to incorporate a few new features. These features include, among others, a webshop with all merchandise items and an incorporated agenda including all upcoming events. On the new website, members have to create a personal account, with a separate log in, to access certain parts of the website. These accounts have to be approved by the board. This was done to safeguard the privacy of members, for example regarding the photos. This also means that when people sign out for Babylon, their account will be deleted.

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

The Facebook and Instagram pages were relatively more informal, and more aimed towards our members and other students. The social media pages were taken care of consistently. During the first semester, Babylon's Instagram page could have been used more frequently, since more response often came via this platform, instead of Facebook.

Especially in the second semester, the role of social media became a lot more important, because of the crisis surrounding COVID-19. Because of this, several social media channels were used more frequently, most importantly being Instagram. During a majority of the second semester, Babylon's Instagram was used (almost) daily. This way, members that were not able to see each other physically still had a way to interact with one another and with Babylon. Besides that, members were entertained for a bit, which was something that proved to be necessary. Several interactive contents were created and posted, such as 'the Babylon #stayfitchallenge', 'the Babylon profile', 'the Babylon five-day-challenge', etc. During this period, partially because of the increased demand for content, the rest of the

board also helped the Secretary regularly. Especially the Chair did a lot for the social media, in the form of creating and posting new content, but also checking responses of members.

Throughout the year, the Secretary wrote most of Babylon's social media content but was also helped by other board members and/or committee members. For example, the descriptions of Facebook events were often written by the organising committees themselves. This made sure that texts are always complete, correct and that these descriptions are varied. The board noticed that all committees found it satisfactory to write their own texts. It did remain the task of the Secretary (and/or the Chair) to check and, if necessary, improve or correct all communicative expressions. Before posting messages on social media, the text or post was always sent in the board WhatsApp group, so that the entire board was able to check them. Unfortunately, flaws and/or grammatical errors still occurred at times. After the first semester, the board put in place some changes for themselves, so that they could and would always check everything more easily.

The Secretary also made sure that he was and is connected with as many Babylon member as possible on Facebook, so he could invite everyone for all Babylon activities and events. He also added all the new member to the Babylon Facebook group, so everyone received all messages and was aware of all events.

5.6 Final editing of the Babylon Magazine

This year, the Secretary was the coordinator of both the Publication Committee and the Graphic Design Committee. Therefore, he was the editor-in-chief of the Babylon Magazine and the ultimate responsibility for the Babylon Magazine. The choice to continue this policy of the thirtieth board was made because this way, the Secretary was in charge of all main means of communication towards its members. Because the position of the Secretary in the board is already very time consuming, not everything regarding the Babylon Magazine went according to plan. Most issues regarding the Babylon Magazine were found in the graphic design process. Not everything was done perfectly, small mistakes were overlooked, and the and the Babylon Magazine did not always look as professional as it should have looked.

The themes of this year's Babylon Magazines were the following: 'Beautiful world' (sustainability), 'let's start fresh' (New year's and beginning of the year), 'Quarantine edition' (about the positive aspects of quarantine and what to focus on) and 'Holiday at home' (summer edition). Because of some setbacks with the Graphic Design Committee, the process was not always on schedule. Also, with the first edition of the year, a misprint was made by the publisher (BladNL). This resulted in the Babylon Magazine being even later because all magazines had to be printed again. Other than that, the collaboration with BladNL has been very pleasant and helpful.

The end of the year survey showed that not all Babylonians always (fully) read the magazine and that the biggest improvements were to be made regarding the graphical design. That is why the thirty-first board advised the thirty-second board to focus more on this part, and to (re)create a certain style which can be followed, so that the magazine will improve in those regards.

5.7 Publication Committee

The Publication Committee of 2019-2020 consisted of four members. Although this is not a lot of people for this committee, all members worked very well together and always finished all articles in time. The (English) writing skills of the committee were great and improved greatly during the year. This was also partially the case because of the chair of the committee, who had been part of the committee before. The committee members,

together with the Secretary, always checked all articles for mistakes and improvements, pushing each other to a higher level of writing. Besides that, the members of the thirty-first board also often checked all articles. Despite this, there remained some occasional mistakes, although these were not big.

This year, the blogs were discontinued, which turned out to be a wise choice. This way, the committee could put their full focus and attention to the Babylon Magazine.

Every magazine contained certain standard aspects such as a scientific article, a 'glance at the future', and a 'spots on' article. This way, the content of the magazine was both formal and informal, making the reading worthwhile for all parties.

5.8 Graphic Design Committee

The Graphic Design Committee of 2019-2020 consisted of seven members. Only two members had some previous experience with InDesign, although this was not much. At the beginning of the year, Babylon organised a Photoshop workshop, for which the Secretary highly encouraged all members of the committee to join. Also, at the beginning of the year, SOFv organised an InDesign workshop. Every association was only allowed to attend with a maximum of four members, so the Secretary went there with three members of the committee. At the workshop, a document was shared with practice assignments for basic InDesign practices. This document was shared with the rest of the committee so that they could still practice with the programme. For most magazines, two members of the committee worked together to create the magazine. The Secretary himself, however, also had to help out a lot. This was mostly because of the inexperience of most committee members with the programme. This caused some problems in creating the Babylon Magazine in the most professional way as possible. After the first semester, both Photoshop and InDesign were not available via the university computers anymore, which also did not help. This is a reason why the magazines were not always on time according to the planning. The committee did, however, do a great job designing most Facebook banners, flyers, and other promotional material. For next years, it is important to have members of this committee with experience or to train them better in the uses of programmes such as Photoshop and InDesign. Another thing that did not totally go according to plan was the creating of a new roll-up banner. This banner had to be replaced because of the change in website and contact details of Babylon. This banner was created and ordered, but something went wrong, and a small part of the text was cut off. Because of this, a new banner had to be ordered.

Quirijn Somers
Secretary of Babylon 2019-2020

6. Treasurer

Due to the cancellation of all activities after the DIESweek, Babylon has neither spend nor received much money. Part of this saved money will be passed onto the next academic year. More information about these particular badges is stated below.

All committees have finished 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 and the merchandise will be discussed. Agreements with the thirty-second board in terms of financial policy will also be briefly discussed.

At the start of the second semester of the academic year, the Treasurer briefly took over the coordination of the Education Committee, due to personal issues concerning the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. In April, she took over the coordination again and the Treasurer stayed present in the background, to help out whenever needed.

6.1 Budget

6.1.1 Revenue

- Contribution of the Department board of CIS

The Department of Communication and Information Studies contributes to Babylon every year. This contribution amounts to €1500,- and is meant to help Babylon to organise its largest formal events: the Congress and the Career Event. The National Day of Communication (Congress) has been cancelled and planned for 2021. The Department Board contribution for this event will be passed to the next year. The thirty-first board is unsure whether the Department Board will supply Babylon with the 'normal' contribution next year again since the Department Board has not made up their mind about this issue at the moment of writing. To ensure full financial support for the NDC 2021, the thirty-first board, in review with the thirty-second prospective Treasurer, has decided to pass the budget for the NDC 2020 to the next year since it has not been spent.

- Contractual sponsorships

The invoices for the sponsorships have not yet been sent because the thirty-first board found it decent and fair to check up with all the parties on how these businesses were doing during the COVID-19 crisis. Some of the agreed amounts of money will be lowered due to a lack of fulfilling on either end of the contract. These new amounts will be based upon a mutual agreement, after which the invoices for the academic year 2019-2020 will be sent. The Treasurer of the thirty-second prospective board has been notified of this development and together with the Treasurer, he will send the invoices to all sponsoring parties.

6.1.2 Expenditure

- Website

This year, Babylon has been busy creating a new website. The new website is www.babylonnijmegen.nl and has had its official release. To ensure proper functionality of the website, the server data pack has been upgraded. Since the website was launched, the pack consisted of 5GB of data that costed Babylon €55,- per year. The upgraded pack consists of 10GB of data and costs Babylon €100,- per year. This was paid from the 'website maintenance' item on the budget which means it results in no financial problem. The Treasurer of the thirty-second prospective board has been advised to take a possible expansion of the data pack into account, in case the website's data usage, as well as the email trafficking, will grow more.

Furthermore, to reach a wide enough audience, the thirty-first board decided that the new website had to be bilingual again. Indicate that Babylon is an international association, the first and standard language is English. However, the website is also still available in Dutch. Since the website had to be translatable into either Dutch or English, whilst eliminating future possible problems, the purchase of a powerful and well-working plugin was required. WPML (Wordpress Multilingual) is a plugin that translates the website properly while having a very customer friendly interface. The thirty-first board ought this to be important since the average student of the study Communication and Information Sciences is not very technically skilled. This plugin has an annual price of €70,- and has been added to the budget of the thirty-second prospective board.

- Camera

Since the camera of Babylon was in such a bad state, the thirty-first board had been exploring options for a new camera. This camera has been purchased in the second semester of the academic year of 2019-2020. The budget is formed from extra revenue that resulted due to the widely calculated budget. The website has been purchased in combination with a hardcover and two extra battery packs. The total price of this purchase was €622,-.

6.2 Contact with committee treasurers

At the start of the academic year, the treasurer training sessions took place. The second half of the year, the committee treasurers have not had much to do since all activities were cancelled. This means for all the committees, that the budget has not changed since the DIESweek in March 2020. The treasurers have been requested to update their final budget to enable the Treasurer to finish his financial year overview that he will present at the start of the academic year 2020-2021.

6.3 Bookkeeping

The bookkeeping is done on paper (by filling in forms and keeping receipts) and in Conscribo, an online bookkeeping application. All financial administration can be found in both the files at the Babylon Room and in Conscribo. There have not been any problems with the administration this year. The Treasurer found out that Babylon has been using the Conscribo Lite version, which disables Babylon from using many useful features that will save much time when used. The Conscribo Lite edition has not been upgraded since the first initial purchase of Conscribo by Babylon, and Babylon has been paying the same amount ever since. The current premium edition costs the same as the Lite edition that Babylon uses, dissolving any financial disadvantage. The premium version will, among others, enable the Treasurer to update the annual budget much faster and with the help of an app. The upgrade also has advantages for the Secretary since the upgrade will enable the use of website forms that will register members automatically. At this moment, this is done manually.

6.4 Payment methods

This year, members of Babylon were able to fulfil payments via five channels of payment. Paying by cash, paying by card with the iZettle, paying via a sent Tikkie, paying via automatic collection and via iDeal on the website. The latter has not yet been used to the full extent of its possibilities since the activities were cancelled for which one would have to have paid. The majority of the payments done in past academic year were via Tikkie since this proved very easy and user-friendly.

The automatic collection has been used for events such as the Babylon Christmas Dinner, the Ski Trip and the prepayment of the Study Trip. The iZettle has been used twice in the entire year because the use of Tikkie was faster and easier. Babylon does not pay annually

for iZettle which means there is not a financial reason to stop using iZettle. At last, the use of Tikkies proved the usage of cash to be less relevant since carrying cash is becoming more and more a rarity among students. The thirty-first board has advised the thirty-second prospective board to continue using Tikkie for reasons mentioned above.

6.5 Study Trip Committee

This year's study trip was planned to go to Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia. The trip would have lasted for 8 days and would have taken place from 25 April to 3 May. Forty students (including the board and the Study Trip Committee) and two lecturers were to join the trip to form a total of 42 participants. Because of the rapid spread of COVID-19, accompanying teachers as well as the university gave the thirty-first board and the Study Trip Committee a strong advise against continuing the Study Trip. Even though it was a tough decision, the thirty-first board alongside the Committee decided to cancel the trip because the risk of one of the participants getting sick was too large. In hindsight, this seemed to be a very good decision and the thirty-first board considers itself lucky for how this situation turned out, opposed to how it could have turned out.

Since the Study Trip Committee already fulfilled prepayments for the accommodations and one activity, it was unsure whether or not these prepayments were refundable. The Treasurer and the chair of the Study Trip Committee have contacted every party involved in the planned Study Trip and requested if needed, the possibilities for a refund. Due to the early cancellation, Babylon received all prepayments back. Only the flight tickets via KLM were €20,- per ticket for administrative costs. In total, the Study Trip Committee determined the costs per person joining the Study Trip after all the cancellation to €37,-. The thirty-first board filled a request at the Department Board to cover these costs, which the Department Board ultimately granted.

As said before, the thirty-first board considers itself lucky for how this situation turned out, as opposed to how it could have turned out since many other associations had large financial problems because of the cancellation. This does not straighten the fact that it was very disappointing for the Committee, as well as all participants that were to join. The thirty-first board wants to thank the Study Trip Committee for their hard work.

6.6 Merchandise

The Treasurer is responsible for the Babylon merchandise. The past year, members could order the merchandise online or at the Babylon Room. If the merchandise was ordered online, the money was collected by direct debit. When the new website was launched, the members could have paid by iDEAL. However, no merchandise items were sold after the website launch since the board decided not to promote the merchandise due to COVID-19. If the merchandise was ordered at the Babylon Room, the members could have paid by debit card with iZettle or with cash. They could also have asked for a payment request.

The current merchandise consists of the following items:

- Babylon baseball jacket, €25, -;
- Babylon sweater, €15, -;
- Babylon socks, €7, -;
- Babylon cap, €7, -;
- Babylon Dopper, €10,50;
- Babylon 1989 Shirt, €12, -.

This year, after January, only one more sweater has been sold up until this moment. The total of sold merchandise of this academic year consists of three Babylon sweaters, two pairs of Babylon socks, a Babylon Doppo and one Babylon shirt.

Niek van de Minkelis
Treasurer of Babylon 2019-2020

7. Commissioner of Internal Affairs

Due to the Commissioner of Internal Affairs' physical illness, her duty as coordinator of the Education Committee and Committee of Formal Activities was taken over by respectively the Treasurer and the Chair. This choice was made to give her enough rest to recover and to ensure that the committee work could continue seamlessly. During this time, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs stayed up-to-date about the committee work and reclaimed her position in April.

7.1 Consolidate the link between Babylon and the study programme

Throughout the year, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs has done her best to improve the contact with the study programme and the lecturers. To realise this, during the second semester, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs continued her regular meeting with student advisor Julia Pick to evaluate the thirty-first board's proceedings.

The improvement and personalisation of the relationships with lectures have unintentionally been put on hold. This is partly because of the Commissioner of Internal Affairs' absence, but also because neither teachers nor board members were present at university during the second semester. The only contact that was preserved was via the Study Programme Committee, the study advisors and was due to curriculum/book consultation. The board did have small interactions via Babylon's social media and kept their deliberation with the study advisors light. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs does not feel Babylon's relation with lecturers has been negatively affected by this situation.

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 next.

7.2 The Study Programme Committee

This year, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs was a full member of the Study Programme Committee. Even though she missed one meeting in the second semester, she kept in contact with the committee and did her best to carry out her tasks. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs' seat in the Study Programme Committee signals that Babylon actively cares about the quality of the education.

In the second semester, the OLC has given its advice regarding changes in the Education and Examination Regulation (EER). These changes were quite minimal and therefore the committee agreed on approving the changes. In addition, the committee processed all course evaluations.

This year, the committee consisted of five lecturers and five students, two of whom stayed abroad the first semester. A sixth student, one that could physically be present at meetings, was brought to the OLC to temporarily fill the student gap. After this year, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs will advise her successor to join the Study Programme Committee to stay up to date about the study programme, but not to specifically support Babylon's interests.

7.3 Book sales

At the end of the first semester, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs discovered that students could order their books with the member discount, without completing their Babylon membership. With the release of the new Babylon website, this problem has been resolved by placing the book order page behind a user sign-up. This means that students now have to create an account, prior to ordering their books. These new sign-ups can

either be verified or denied by board members, which gives them time to check their membership status in Conscribo. This way it is ensured that all current Babylon members are also paying their membership fee before ordering books or signing up for events. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs' idea to personally check if all students who ordered books via Babylon are already listed in Conscribo as a member, could not be carried out. In contrary to her beliefs, there was not a clear list of students that had indicated that they are a Babylon member. However, with the release of the new website, this is not of great importance.

The preparation of the book lists for semester 2 originally went smoothly. The only difficulties arose when the university closed due to COVID-19. Suddenly, students had ordered books which were not needed. This information was not given to the Commissioner of Internal Affairs, which was the reason the book was still on the list. After some email contact, the problem was resolved, but the Commissioner of Internal Affairs still felt like she should have been updated on this change. Therefore, an agreement has been made with Berna Hendriks and Frank van Meurs: in August, an email will be sent out to all lecturers of CIS' academic year 2020-2021 that if any changes occur in textbook use in their courses, they should contact Babylon. This email will also give a short explanation of what Babylon entails, because lecturers from other faculties may not know of Babylon's existence. This information has been given to the prospective Commissioner of Internal Affairs of the thirty-second Board so that she can make sure this email will be sent when the time comes.

7.4 The Education Committee

This year's Education Committee consisted of Dutch members only: IBC and Premaster. At the beginning of the second semester, this committee was coordinated by the Treasurer. During the third quarter of the academic year, the committee was well and ready for three "Study Afternoons". Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, they had to be cancelled. At this moment, some lecturers are experimenting themselves with extra seminars closer to the exam. If they continue this next year, "Study Afternoons" may not be necessary anymore for some courses. The thirty-second board will have to sense whether or not it is still useful next year.

The committee has also worked hard to organise the Family Day on 23 April, which was cancelled as well. There was no online alternative for this event, because there was not much time left and things such as a campus and/or city tour could not be held online.

A selection of committee members has assisted in the organisation of the (online) Study Choice Check day. For this, they prepared a Mentimeter quiz and did a presentation about Babylon. Many prospective first-year-students showed enthusiasm for Babylon and the committee members were able to answer many questions.

At the moment of writing, the committee is preparing CIS in the Field 2020. This event will take place in September 2020, which means there is no certainty it can be held physically. Therefore, the committee is also looking into ways to let the event take place online. This will most likely be via Zoom. All speakers will be kept up to date about the possibility of an online CIS in the Field.

7.5 The Committee of Formal Activities

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

really liked it and would like to be there if it will be organised in 2020 as well. At the beginning of the second semester, this committee was coordinated by the Chair.

As stated in the Semi-Annual Report, the committee had some difficulties with organising a company visit this year. During the first semester, it was hard to get committee members actively approaching companies. When they did, most would decline, often due to lack of time. Finally, the committee was in contact with Ajax for a company visit at the stadium, which seemed to be a great possibility. After about two months of trying to set a date and sort everything out, it turned out that there were no interesting speakers that had time or were willing to give a presentation. In combination with the slow communication and references to different employees of Ajax, the committee was forced to rethink other companies.

During the second semester, the committee has worked hard planning a company visit at Rabobank. This event had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. However, this company visit remains a possibility for when it is allowed again. This will be passed on to next year's Committee of Formal Activities. The committee has also had promising contact with other companies to lay some groundwork for next year. No definitive agreements have been made yet since we cannot set a date until we know when a company visit will be possible. Therefore, the contact information of these 6 companies will be passed on while the committee tries to keep in touch. This way, they hope to have given enough foundation for next year's committee to be able to organise multiple company visits.

7.6 Alumni

During the first semester, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs has not had any contact with alumni. This is because she was not able to find the CIS alumni page on LinkedIn, but also because there was no specific reason to contact alumni.

In the second semester, with the organisation of CIS in the Field, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs, together with the Education Committee, professionally contacted many alumni. To find speakers for CIS in the Field, the study advisor Lucie Botterhuis agreed to post a message on the LinkedIn page of CIS alumni as well as her personal page. This was a big success and quickly gave the committee multiple interested parties. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs believes this contact with alumni had a positive influence on the relationship between Babylon and the CIS alumni. For instance, Babylon showed interest in their current work life and the communication with the alumni has gone very smoothly. All approached alumni seemed honoured to be invited and showed interest not only to market themselves but also to help Babylon and the current CIS students. This willingness to help shows that the bond between Babylon and CIS alumni has been well preserved.

Tessa Stolte

Commissioner of Internal Affairs of Babylon 2019-2020

8. Commissioner of External Affairs

8.1 Sponsors

Even with all the measures in place for COVID-19, Babylon has managed to maintain all standing deals over the year, except for one. FIKA has decided not to prolong the sticker deal with Babylon. However, FIKA is prepared to possibly resume the sticker deal when they are operating at their full capacity again. The Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-second board will take it upon herself to contact FIKA after the summer.

While no other collaborations have ended due to COVID-19, the virus has had an impact on the collaboration with De Waagh. Because Babylon was unable to organise the Family Day and the final GMM this year, it has been agreed upon that the amount of sponsoring by de Waagh will be decreased. Babylon will receive €1.350,- instead of €1.400,-. It is possible that the amount of sponsoring will be lowered again since the activities at De Waagh during the coming Orientation Week will likely not take place. The Commissioner of External Affairs is still in contact with De Waagh at the moment of writing.

So far, Chidoz has agreed to prolong the sticker deal with Babylon for another six months. The deal now has an end date of 1 January 2021. Popocatepetl has requested to resume talks about the sticker deal in August since they would like to wait until they can operate more normally again. All other collaborations need to be prolonged after the summer. The Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-second board will contact these parties at the relevant time after the summer.

At the time of writing the Semi-Annual Report, the Commissioner of External Affairs was in advanced talks with Domino's and had started five new collaborations. The five new relations were UniPartners, Popocatepetl, Chidoz, Escape Boot Nijmegen and Tappers. The deal with Domino's has finally been completed and is now active. Finalising this collaboration took several months since the headquarters of Domino's had made some mistakes regarding the discount cards each member would get. All Babylon members have since received their discount cards together with the Babylon Magazine in May 2020. The deal is valid until 31 August 2020, after which it will have to be prolonged. Domino's has chosen for this date because they can only offer the current deal to members of Babylon. This means that when the new academic year begins, all discount cards will expire. New discount cards will then be sent to all members of Babylon, so people who have cancelled their membership at Babylon will no longer be able to make use of the deal.

8.2 Sponsor training

Each sponsor member of Babylon's committees has received a sponsor training along with a small sponsor guide, and all members of the Orientation Week Committee have received a training as well. In this guide, they could find the important matters that were mentioned during their training and some tips to keep in mind.

8.3 Career Committee

In the first semester, the Career Committee has arranged the Photoshop Workshop and they organised the Acquisition Workshop in the second semester. The Photoshop Workshop was completely full, and the general sentiment was very positive. The Acquisition Workshop was less well-visited, unfortunately. This may have been due to the last-minute nature of the workshop, since it was announced fairly late. Around 10 members attended.

Luckily, the Career Event still took place just before measures for COVID-19 were installed. COVID-19 did put a stop to preparations for workshops in the second semester, but this was of course unavoidable. Since the Career Committee did organise two other workshops, this loss is very manageable.

The Career Event took place on 5 March 2020 at De Waagh, and can be considered successful. Apart from two cancellations, the event was sold out. Speakers from several branches attended, such as a representative from Heinz, the founder of Gloedcommunicatie and an employee of the RadboudUMC news team. A representative from the Vierdaagsefeesten also gave an interesting workshop on how to reduce the CO2 footprint of this event. All speakers gave insightful presentations. The general sentiment was that the speakers were interesting and that everything was organised properly. The lunch went without a hitch as well. There was, however, one downside. One speaker cancelled fairly last-minute which meant the committee had one less speaker for the Event. When participants of the event were asked about this, they said that they did not mind as we already had four speakers. Some were even glad as they thought five speakers would have been a bit much.

8.4 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 would have been organised by Babylon and Mycelium. This event would have replaced the Congress this year and, therefore, the Congress Committee would have organised it. It would have taken place on 7 May 2020. Sadly, the NDC had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. This was especially painful since almost all preparations had already been made, and the committee managed to secure some high-profile speakers, such as the Benelux CEO of LinkedIn. The associations of the NCCS agreed that the NDC will be organised by Babylon and Mycelium again next year. To make sure the efforts for the committee were not in vain, it has been agreed upon that the next Congress Committee will take this year's theme and preparations and build on these to organise an even better NDC. The speakers that would have attended this year have been asked if they would be willing to attend next year, and all of them agreed. Of course, they have to be available on the date of the next NDC.

8.5 Membership benefits

According to the results of the annual survey, 26 persons have made use of one or more sticker deals. This is not a lot, but it has to be kept in mind that no sticker deal was available over the last few months due to COVID-19. There is more potential to the use of membership benefits, especially since Domino's had been added to Babylon's portfolio of collaborations. The Commissioner of External Affairs therefore firmly believes that the use of membership benefits will only increase over the coming year(s).

8.6 Vacancy policy

This year, the board has experimented with the use of the following vacancy policy due to an increased amount of requests from companies:

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

- Package D. €100,-: Posting a vacancy for the company on the website, LinkedIn and Facebook. The company may post a second vacancy on these media at a later time.

This policy has been used only once by a company, so changes will have to be made. It is the intention of the Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-second board to use this policy again next year, albeit with the necessary tweaks such as lower prices. There is also a dedicated Vacancies page on the new website where job openings can be posted. This can be kept in mind when designing the new vacancy policy.

Thijs Buisman
Commissioner of External Affairs of Babylon 2019-2020

9. Commissioner of Activities

The main task of the Commissioner Activities is to coordinate his committees. These four committees and their corresponding activities will be discussed extensively.

9.1 Year planning

The Commissioner of Activities was responsible for making the year planning of all activities of Babylon. The Commissioner of Activities strived to find the right balance between informal and formal activities and to plan the right amount of activities. The results of the end of the year survey show that the division between formal and informal activities was not sufficient. A lot of members missed some extra formal activities. There were more formal activities planned, but they were cancelled for various reasons. There could have been more formal activities in the year planning, especially in the first semester. The planning of more formal activities, especially in the first semester, has been strongly advised to the Commissioner of Activities of the thirty-second board. Besides that, the aim was to make an even distribution of activities throughout the year, so that all months offer roughly the same amount of activities (except for the months with exam weeks or holidays). Until the COVID-19 crisis, the attendance of the activities has (with some exceptions) been great, which probably means that the distribution of activities was good.

This year, some new activities were introduced. For instance, the Pieten Olympics and the Cocktail Workshop, organised by the Committee of Informal Activities and the Meet and Greet, organised by the International Committee. These activities were all well-visited and could be considered a success.

9.2 Committee market

Furthermore, the Commissioner of Activities has been responsible for organising the Committee Market. Due to the renovation of the Erasmus Building, the event could not take place in the Erasmus Hall again. Therefore, the Commissioner of Activities organised the Committee Market in the hall of EOS, which was a good alternative. The Committee Market was very well-visited and resulted in enough applications to fill all committees. 91 members signed up for a committee. Thirteen of them were pre-master students and twelve were international students, resulting in the fact that five of the thirteen committees were international.

9.3 Contact with the Molenstraat

The Commissioner of Activities has been responsible for all the contact with the managers of the bars at the Molenstraat and other cafés. He went to all contract evaluations and negotiations, he formed the new contracts and arranged deals and locations for activities that take place in the Molenstraat, such as the *borrels*, the BaMyPo and Inglorious parties. The general BaMyPo and Inglorious contracts stayed the same. The only change is that all Inglorious parties will take place at Drie Gezusters. However, the general Molenstraat contract changed quite a bit. Babylon will get a discount of €4,- per person on the Barbecue during the Orientation Week; the price will go from €5,- to €1,-. Babylon will also get a free Barbecue at the end of the year. A mixed drink for €3,- and a shot for €2,- can be selected for each *borrel*. More information on the activities in the Molenstraat can be found in the following paragraph. The contact with the Molenstraat has been going smoothly. The managers of Van Buren, El Sombrero and Malle Babbe are very easy to contact and they always respond quickly to WhatsApp messages or phone calls.

Especially the contact with the Malle Babbe has been and still is, very smooth. Since October, there has been a new manager, Frank. He responds very quickly to texts or calls and is willing to help with all the ideas of the committee and he often comes up with ideas of his own.

As it stands now, the COVID-19 crisis will not affect our contract with the Molenstraat. There might, however, be some slight financial changes if some *borrels* in the beginning of the year have to be cancelled due to COVID-19. The crisis will have little to no impact on the sponsorship from the Molenstraat for the past academic year.

9.4 Committee of Informal Activities

The Committee of Informal Activities consisted of seven first-year students and one second-year student. Unfortunately, one member left the committee at the beginning of the academic year due to personal reasons. This member was not replaced because the committee already had one member more than the previous year. The committee has organised five *borrels*, themed: Expedition Babylon *Borrel*, Till Death Do Us Party *Borrel*, the Not So Silent Night *Borrel*, the Back To the 10's *Borrel* and the Pinkpop *Borrel*. Out of these, especially the first two were very successful. The other *borrels* were also well-visited, but less than the first two. People showed up later, which might be due to the football matches that were broadcasted on the same day as some of the *borrels*. Usually, the football matches will be aired during the *borrel*. However, it was decided to not broadcast the game during the Not So Silent Night *borrel*, since it could scare off members who came to the *borrel* immediately after the Christmas Dinner. An issue with the *borrels* was that members showed up late. It would be wise to think of ways to promote the earlier hours of the *borrels* in the upcoming year.

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

Other than the monthly *borrels*, the Committee of Informal Activities was responsible for the organisation of the BaMyPo and Inglorious parties. Two members of the Committee of Informal Activities participated in the BaMyPo sub-committee. However, all committee members have been present at the BaMyPo and helped with the door shifts and decorating. Only the first edition, BaMyPopstar, has taken place this year due to COVID-19. Despite some problems with deals in the beginning of the evening, the party was a success. A lot of members showed up and they had a good time.

This year, all the Inglorious parties took place at Drie Gezusters. The communication with the manager of the Drie Gezusters, Shayan, went very smoothly. However, during the first edition of this year, the IGLORIOUS party, there were a lot of problems with some of the agreements. Shayan did not communicate all the agreements with the person in charge that night. Fortunately, most problems were solved on the night itself. All problems have been discussed in a meeting with the manager. This meeting helped because during the second Inglorious party of the year: Inglorious RAGweek Edition, there were no problems. Both Inglorious parties were very well visited but not per se by Babylon members. It would be wise to think of ways to promote the Inglorious parties better amongst Babylon members.

Unfortunately, three *borrels*, three editions of BaMyPo and one Inglorious party (including the Orientation Week 2020) had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Furthermore, the Committee of Informal Activities organised the Karaoke Night, The Pieten Olympics, the Christmas Dinner and the DIESweek. The Karaoke Night took place at Partycafé Nooit Meer Naar Huus. They opened up the place and offered special discounts

for this activity. This was the second Karaoke night by Babylon, unfortunately, it was not as successful as last year. The low attendance of this activity could be the result of the activity being relatively close to the exam week and also because of a party the day before, which was attended by a lot of members.

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

The location of the Christmas Dinner this year was, again, De Waagh. They arranged a three-course meal with two drinks included. The costs were €25,- per person, which was slightly more expensive than last year. However, 55 members signed up and even a lecturer joined. Therefore, the Commissioner of Activities considers this activity as a success.

9.4.1 DIESweek

During the DIESweek the Committee of Informal Affairs organised the Bar Takeover, Laser tag, The Pinkpop *borrel*, a cantus and a Cocktail workshop. The evaluations of these activities will be provided in this paragraph.

On Monday, the Committee of Informal Affairs organised the Bar Takeover at the Malle Babbe after the Culture Rouler which was organised by the International Committee. During this takeover, the members of the committee were behind the bar in the Malle Babbe. Unfortunately, a combination of a low attendance from the Culture Rouler and a small lack of planning and promotion made the Bar Takeover a small failure. There were not as many members as was hoped before. Even though the attendance was not as high as hoped, it was a fun night and the committee members did a great job behind the bar.

On Tuesday, the committee organised Laser tag at Laserquest and the Pinkpop *borrel*. 24 members joined the Laser tag. It was a fun activity and everything went well. Unfortunately, not a lot of people immediately joined the *borrel* after Laser tag. The Pinkpop *borrel* was not the busiest *borrel*, most members showed up quite late. It would have been a better idea to combine the Bar Takeover and the *borrel* on Monday to start the DIESweek with one big party.

Wednesday, the committee organised the Babylon Cantus. The Cantus was held at the Basement of Drie Gezusters. Around 62 members joined this night of singing and drinking beers. There were some problems with the praesidium about talking English during the Cantus. There were only two internationals present during the Cantus who did not mind if the Cantus was held in Dutch. But for next year, it would be better to arrange a praesidium that does not mind speaking English. The praesidium did a great job during the Cantus and it was a very fun night for everyone. Due to some early COVID-19 threats, the committee decided to give everyone their own glass. This made the refills take a bit longer, but it was the safest choice at the time. The only problem during the night was that not enough beer was ordered. Due to a miscommunication with last year's committee, 1.5 litres of beer per person instead of between 2 and 2.5 litres was ordered. Luckily, the committee managed to get enough beer for everyone and to stay within budget by pouring less per round and by using the spare budget of the DIESweek.

On the last day of the DIESweek, the committee organised a Cocktail Workshop at Tappers. 44 members signed up for the workshop but due to the first COVID-19 measures being presented on the night of the workshop, the board offered members with health complaints

a cost-free cancellation. Fortunately, Tappers only charged Babylon for the members that participated, so there were no financial consequences for Babylon. In the end, 35 people learned how to make three different cocktails at Tappers. It was a very fun night and everything went according to plan.

All in all, the DIESweek went very well but there could have been some improvements in planning and promotional wise. It would have been better to start the week with a party, like a *borrel*, and to end the week with a party, like the Cantus. Due to some other big events surrounding the DIESweek, like the Career Event, the promotion did not receive the attention it should have gotten.

9.5 Sports Committee

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

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

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

The location and apartments were chosen and booked by the previous Sports Committee to reduce the costs of the Ski Trip. However, this year's trip was more expensive than last year's trip. Nevertheless, the fact that the trip was already booked, did take away the

stress to find a location immediately after the Sports Committee was formed. Therefore, the current Sport Committee will book next year's Ski Trip as well.

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

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

Normally, the Sports Committee would also book next year's Ski Trip. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, it is decided to postpone this to the start of the next academic year when there will be more security and certainty surrounding the trip. The committee did look into the locations and made an advice on a location for next year.

Unfortunately, Babylon did not participate in the Batavierenrace this year. The reason for this absence is that the Study Trip to Russia would have taken place at the same time. The Sports Committee was supposed to fill this gap by organising a bigger activity in May 2020. Unfortunately, this activity had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Sports Committee tried to keep everyone fit by making the weekly Babylon #stayfit challenges on Instagram. The goal of these challenges was to keep members fit and to provide them with fun online content. The first weeks some people joined the challenges but after a few weeks, almost no one did the challenges anymore, so the committee decided to stop posting the #stayfit challenges. The committee got a lot of positive response on the challenges, so all in all, they reached their goal.

9.6 Orientation Week Committee

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

This year's Orientation Week committee consisted of one first-year student, one second-year student, six third-year students and one fifth-year student. For third-year students who went abroad, the Orientation Week Committee and the Weekend Committee were the only options to become an active member. This explains a large number of third-year students in the committee. The Orientation Week would have taken place from 16 until 23 August 2020. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Orientation week will be rescheduled to 23 August until 26 August. This means that Babylon will have less time to present itself during the Orientation Week. At the time of writing, not everything about the Orientation Week is sure yet. However, it is known that a large part, if not the whole week, is going to be

organised online. The committee will do everything in their power to make sure that Babylon can get the most out of the time that is given to us during the Orientation Week.

9.7 Weekend Committee

Unfortunately, the Weekend was cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis. Luckily, the date of the Weekend could be changed to the weekend of 13 November 2020 free of charge. The committee made a script of all their preparations for the Weekend and this script will be used for the Weekend in November. Due to internships and studies abroad, the majority of the current Weekend Committee will not be organising the Weekend in November. The planning and use of the Weekend in November will be completely up to the thirty-second board.

Dylan Zeevaart
Commissioner of Activities of Babylon 2019-2020

10. Conclusion

In general, the thirty-first board is satisfied with Babylon's progression in reaching their short-term goals. It was a weird second semester 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 new and better working website, and by carefully managing the social media platforms. However, not enough formal activities were organised the past year due to COVID-19 and other circumstances. To further improve the image among members, future boards will work hard to organise more formal activities. The bond between Babylon and external relations has been well maintained and the board recruited many new sponsors and deals the past year. All the board members look back at the past year with gratitude and content. Not everything went perfect or according to plan, but the thirty-first board did its utmost best to give an extra dimension to the student lives of the Babylon members.

Sincerely,
The thirty-first board of Babylon 2019-2020