



BABYLON

STUDY ASSOCIATION

Semi Annual report 2022-2023
Inclusive, Innovative, Involving

Foreword

Dear reader,

In front of you lies the Semi-Annual Report of the thirty-fourth board of Babylon. This report includes a reflection of the matters concerning Babylon for the first half of the academic year of 2022-2023. The aim of the past half year was to get a good start and to maintain and improve the image and reputation of Babylon amongst all its stakeholders. While doing this, the long-term and short-term goals, which can be found in the Policy Plan of 2022-2023, were kept in mind. This report describes to what extent the set objectives have been met and how the thirty-fourth board furtherly aims to reach them in the future. Furthermore, this report will give an insight into the way things are or have been organised in the past. Successes and possible improvements will be critically evaluated. The current board is devoted to providing its members with an honest and genuine reflection of their work so far. Hopefully, this report provides a sufficient overview of Babylon's line of work, but naturally, the board welcomes all questions and remarks.

Lloyd Hooghwinkel - Chair

Sven Drosten - Secretary

Daniël Heijboer - Treasurer

Coen Esselink - Commissioner of Internal Affairs

Daan van Velzen - Commissioner of Activities

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1. Proceedings in long-term goals of Babylon

The thirty-fourth board has written a Policy Plan before the start of the academic year, which has been approved during the Change of the Board General Member Meeting of 7 July 2022. In this report, four long-term goals were described and discussed, namely:

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

The following paragraphs will briefly reflect on the progress that has been made within these goals, and attention will be paid towards the most important short-term goals that belong to them. The thirty-fourth board surveyed its members in February 2023. The purpose of this survey was to have a better insight into what needs to be improved in the second semester, but also what went well in the first semester. A total number of 47 people completed the survey, of whom six were international students. Of the respondents, 58.3% were first-year students, 30.5% were second-year students, 5.6% were third-year students, 0% fourth-year students, another 2.8% were fifth-year students, 2.8% were (pre-)master students and 0% were graduates. A part of the results of the survey can be found in the following paragraphs.

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

This year is the first year since the thirtieth board of Babylon that there is a whole year without COVID-19 regulations until the moment of writing. This is why the thirty-fourth board of Babylon realises this is a crucial year to bond its members. The plan was to make sure all of the year layers were bonding very well to create a family feeling, this is explained in following paragraphs. As mentioned in the Policy Plan, the thirty-fourth board is not very well represented in year layers as four of the board members are in the second year, and one is in the third year. We are quite well represented in the different studies, as two do the IBC studies and two do the CIS studies and one does another studies. The board does not really represent the open-mindedness that it tries to offer and they are aware of that. Despite that the board tries to bond with every member and they try to be as open as possible.

1.1.1 Orientation Week

The Orientation Week is a very important activity at the beginning of the year. This activity plays a grand role with bonding and attracting new members. This is why the thirty-fourth board had put a lot of effort into organising this week. Together with the Orientation Week Committee the board led this activity to a success. The Commissioner of Activities was taking part in the Orientation Week as a committee member, the other four board members took part in the Orientation Week as mentor parents. This way, the board and therefore Babylon has been represented in a proper manner. To promote Babylon in a positive way, the board members all tried to approach as many potential members as possible. This resulted in a number of 74 new members that signed up. Out of the 47 respondents 31 members participated in the Orientation Week and thirteen did not. 15 people answered they would have missed out on something, if they did not participate in the Orientation Week.

1.1.2 International members

Following the policies of the previous boards, the thirty-fourth board continues to try and strengthen the bond between the international members and the association. For a few years, all committees have been available for international members and the main language of the association is British English. Babylon has a total of six international Active Members this year, which is fourteen less than in the academic year before.

The International Committee has continued its mission to bring together international members and international-minded Babylonians and has proven to be rewarding for the members. The International Committee will be further elaborated on in section 4.6.

Babylon has strived to find new ways of making the association even more international and has been in contact with several international-minded parties. Firstly, Babylon was approached by ESN (Erasmus Student Network Nijmegen), asking whether Babylon would like to collaborate with them for an event. Babylon has shown its interest in collaborating with them, and have successfully organised a trip to the christmas market of Cologne together with ESN. Additionally, ESN has approached Babylon to promote their activities to international members to participate in their events. Babylon has done that several times now. The department also reached out to Babylon around Christmas time,

asking us to promote activities during the Christmas holidays for internationals staying in Nijmegen. Babylon has promoted these activities.

1.1.3 (Pre-)masters

For a long time, Babylon had difficulties reaching out to and attracting (pre-)master students. The Orientation Week does not include (pre-)master students anymore, which challenged the thirty-fourth board to find other ways to approach these students. The board has tried reaching out to the (pre-)master students to ask whether they would be interested in attending an activity with Babylon. However, the result was disappointing. There was little to no interest at all. The board had also contacted the Study Advisors to send out an email to all the (pre-)master students concerning an activity for (pre-)master students. However, the response to this email did not cause the students to sign up.

1.1.4 Communication tools

- The website:

The website has been maintained as of last year. There was a big update in the control system of the website. Because of this, the Secretary had to find out some things of his own, because all of his predecessors had not seen this control system before. Together with the Secretary of the thirty-third board the Secretary has found out a lot, and he is now in full control of the website. When a big activity would go live the website would crash. This is why the board has decided to work via a different system, the Google Documents and Google Forms. These would also be available on the website, but the first 24 hours that the event went live the link would also be available via our Instagram stories. This would prevent the website from being too crowded, and the website has not crashed since that system has been implemented.

- Social media:

The WhatsApp groups for first-years, Active Members and (pre-)master have been made. Besides that, the board has also created an Announcement group on WhatsApp. Here the Secretary would promote all the activities, and all members are able to join. The link to the group has been in the Babbel and a QR code is in the Babylon Room. Additionally, Instagram has been used regularly. The thirty-fourth board has received a lot of positive feedback about the Instagram page of Babylon. Instagram is used almost every day, however, the board is making sure that it is not too overwhelming for the followers. The board has also encountered that a lot of members approach them via Instagram DM. This is an easy way to get into contact with Babylon and the board is responding to them as

quickly as possible. The content for the social media has been mostly made by the Secretary and the Graphic Design Committee. However, other committees and board members have also contributed to the division of the work. At the beginning of the year, the content was not checked carefully enough, which resulted in some grammar and/or spelling mistakes. Often, a board member or an Advisory Board member pointed those mistakes out, after which they were corrected. Now, the content is checked better and flaws occur less often.

- Babylon Magazine:

The thirty-fourth board decided to continue publishing the Babylon Magazine in a printed, paper format and an online format on the website. The thirty-fourth board is working on a new contract with BladNL. The board has decided to only print 2 editions in the year 2022-2023. The first edition of the BM will be in March. In terms of sustainability, the thirty-third board has put a QR code in the last Magazine for people to unsubscribe from the paper version. Also, the Magazine will be available to read online. This has been an improvement since there are fewer editions being printed. The thirty-fifth board will hopefully continue the BM with the information they will receive from the thirty-fourth board. This information will contain the number of sign-ups for a printed magazine. In the upcoming year (2023-2024), there will only be 2 versions of the BM printed, which will contain 40 pages each. One will be a winter edition and the other one a summer edition.

1.1.5 Active Member Evening

The first Active Member Evening of the year has been organised by the board. This was a great success. The board had planned an evening. The Active Members were first expected at Tappers for a so-called '*Friettafel*'. After this first part of the evening, the group went on to House of Billiards to have a game of pool. This way the Active Members also got to know each other more, this contributed to the goal of bonding as well. The other part about the Active Member Evening was that it was planned fairly early in the year, this way there would be immediately a connection between different committees and its' members.

1.1.6 Activities organised by the board

The board has organised two Lunch Workshops, where Integrand gave a Workshop about resumés and LinkedIn and AIESEC gave a Workshop about mental health. For these activities the board provided lunch with sandwiches that they prepared

beforehand. Unfortunately, aside from the board only one or two people showed up. To prevent embarrassing Babylon in front of bigger companies and the obvious disinterest from our members has led to the board to decide to stop organising Lunch Workshops.

Another activity organised by the board was the Welcome Back Third Years Music Bingo. This activity took place in Tappers and was, as the name suggests, a Music Bingo. The returning third years were placed in the spotlight at the beginning of the activity and also got a free drink. The activity was open for all members as they could get to know the third years, or they could welcome them back. The members got an online bingo card which was supporting the sustainability goals. The board bought prizes and the whole activity went perfectly. In total there were 9 rounds, and each of them got a prize. The budget was exactly enough and so was the time span this activity had.

An ongoing event is the newly introduced Mario Kart Tournament. The Commissioner of Activities is keeping track of this tournament, which the board also takes part in. This Tournament is going quite slow as people are very slow to plan their races. To speed up the process there have been set deadlines for when people can do their races, otherwise they are disqualified. The winner of the tournament gets their name on a 'hall of fame'.

1.2 Strengthen the bond between the association and external relations

1.2.1 Keeping in touch with sponsors

It has been easier to stay in contact with sponsors and other external parties in person, since all COVID-19 measures are lifted. All meetings to discuss the renewing of contract have been in person. Some meetings to discuss small issues have also happened through video calls. Overall has the communication been good, apart from some external parties who took long to respond.

1.2.2 Recruiting new sponsors

The 34th board does not have a Commissioner of External Affairs. This means that the

tasks that the Commissioner of External Affairs usually fulfils, have been divided between all the other boards members. For this reason, we have decided to not actively look for new sponsors. However, a couple of associations and companies have reached out to us. The Secretary has been in contact with these new sponsors. One association was only interested in a place in our Magazine. Another company was not interested in advertising via us, but really wanted to link their name to ours. Negotiations about how this is taking form are now taking place between their contact person and the Secretary and the Treasurer.

1.2.3 Strengthen the bond with (sister) associations

The board has travelled to Tilburg to visit the Constitution Drink of Flow and the Constitution Drink of Mycelium in Nijmegen. The board is also planning to organise a get to gather with Flow and Mycelium, since they have bonded with them quite nicely. The board was not able to attend the other sister associations, due to important Constitution Drinks in Nijmegen. The Sister's Day was organised by Flow. Here the thirty-fourth board met all the other associations, which was very useful and nice. The Chair had a meeting with the other associations, during this meeting it became clear that most other associations also struggle with finding committee members.

In addition, the Secretary of the thirty-fourth board is part of a joint blog, ToCommunicate. Progression with this blog is not happening quickly. The Secretary is a regular member, which means he is an editor, content designer and is managing social media.

As for the contact with other associations in Nijmegen, the board has gotten to know a lot of boards at the Constitution Drinks and on the 12th floor of the Erasmus building. The board has created new connections that might be useful for future boards or future collaborations. The board feels that they are a familiar face for most boards in Nijmegen.

1.2.4 Business Gift

There have been a few activities where Babylon has given the business gift to external parties. A few of these activities have been, for example, CIS in the Field and the Lunch Workshops. The gift itself consists of a piece of growpaper and a notebook. The external parties responded well to the gift. Therefore, the thirty-fourth board is positive that in

the second half of the academic year the gifts will be representable as well. The board expects to give out more gifts in the second half of the year with all the formal activities planned.

1.2.5 Local Pub

As mentioned in the Policy Plan, Babylon has switched Local Pub, to El Sombrero. The Stretto last year did not live up to standard. After a good conversation and some nice promises with the Molenstraat we decided to stay with them. However, after half a year of Borrels the board is not very impressed with the atmosphere and the music in that pub. After looking at the Semi-Annual Survey the reactions are very mixed, some people like the atmosphere, some people hate it. Some people think it is too big, some think it is nice and small. The Borrels have very mixed turnouts. Generally, the board has some doubts about the switch to El Sombrero.

1.3 Improve the professionalism of Babylon

1.3.1 Professional Communication

The Policy Plan stated that the thirty-fourth board will send a script to all committee members at the beginning of the year to ensure the corporate identity of Babylon. This has been done and all committees use the house style of Babylon.

1.3.2 Privacy

The Board made it one of their priorities at the beginning of the year that all committees were aware of what can and cannot be shared via a shared Google Drive. The sponsor members of all committees know how to reach them with questions regarding privacy issues. The Secretary also makes sure that the board takes the privacy rules into account.

1.3.3 Babylon Room

The Babylon Room is located on the 12th floor, room 9 at the Erasmus building. The opening times this year are the same as all years, Monday through Thursday from 10.30am until 4.00pm. On Friday this is 12.30pm until 2.30pm. This time has been changed because the board thought it was more logical to open the Babylon Room at the break, not 15 minutes before that.

Babylon still works with an open room mentality, which means that every member is entitled to walk in whenever they want, to work, to chill, to have a chat or play a game on the Wii. The board has noticed a positive change regarding people visiting the Babylon Room, which they wanted to happen, as is written in the Policy Plan. The Babylon Room is visited by people everyday, which makes it a nice environment for the members. Looking at the Semi-Annual Survey, most of the people who filled it in do feel welcome in the Babylon Room. Some people who do not feel welcome say it is busy and small, which makes them feel overwhelmed. The board does try their utter best to make everyone feel welcome. The Lunches take place in the Babylon Room after every Borrel, and after those Lunches people who do not visit very often stick around for a while, which is nice to see.

Another thing that appeals to the Babylon Room this year is during the exam periods, the board provided the members with some cookies and lemonade. This has not been

done enough outside of the exam periods but during the second half of the year this will be improved.

1.3.4 Clothing

The board has purchased suits, blouses, T-shirts and vests. All clothing has been printed with the first and last name, the board position and 'XXXIVth board of Babylon', except for the suits. The suits have been worn to Babylon's General Member Meetings, Constitution Drinks and graduation ceremonies. The suits are worn with pins in the shape of a moon that are handed over from board to board. The suits were worn to another formal event, CIS in the Field. The blouses had not been worn to the Company Visit at Bol.com, but that was to make sure the board was not overdressed to this event, as it was not a 'Babylon only' event for the company. To the next Company Visits the suit will be worn to express a professional look. The blouses have been worn during the Lunch Workshops. The T-shirts and vests were worn during informal events. To warrant the professional image as well as the accessibility of the board, the board will continue to adapt their clothing to suit the activity attended.

The board made the decision to wear the shirts and vests during their Babylon Room shifts. However, they also agreed that merchandise would also be suitable to wear to promote these.

1.4 Improve and strengthen the image of Babylon

1.4.1 Potential and current sponsors

Last year the thirty-third board signed a new headsponsor, which is StageMax. The thirty-fourth board has been doing its best to keep the head sponsor satisfied. This has not always gone fluently as there were some issues with the Babylon website, but these have been resolved. Furthermore StageMax is invited to all formal events of the year, so they can be visible to our members. Rabobank previously was our head sponsor, but does not want that position anymore and that is why StageMax takes that position now. Rabobank continues to sponsor Babylon.

A potential new sponsor is Barrie@Work. They have reached out to us as a new sponsor, but they do not want to advertise, they really want to connect their name to ours. The Secretary and the Treasurer have had a meeting with them, and they are very enthusiastic. The Secretary has now sent them a list of our activities and explained the

activities to them. They are now discussing within their company what they want to organise together with us, but they are very open to the Secretary and they are excited to work with us.

1.4.2 Study- and student associations

The thirty-fourth board believes that regular contact with other associations can be of great value for Babylon. In previous years, Babylon cooperated with other associations in Nijmegen to organise Inglorious, BaMyPo and the annual Prom. This year does not differ. The first BaMyPo this year was organised in December at the Molenstraat together with Mycelium and Postelein. The second BaMyPo was organised in February at the Sjors & Sjimmie. Inglorious was organised in November in collaboration with Mycelium, Postelein, SVN and De ESV. GSV Excalibur did not want to participate in this Inglorious due to the world cup theme and the situation in Qatar. They told the other associations this too late, so changing the theme was not possible anymore. They will be participating in the next Inglorious, which will be held in April.

The Prom will be organised in March at de Waagh together with Postelein. After discussing the possibilities to organise it with four associations, Babylon, Postelein, Mundus and Bow, the board thought it would be better to only organise it with Postelein as the other associations wanted too many tickets.

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs looked into the possibility of organising a Company Visit in collaboration with Mycelium, since these studies are both centred around communication. However, Mycelium is not able to do a Company Visit in English and Babylon is not able to organise it in Dutch, so Babylon and Mycelium decided not to look into this further.

Babylon has been present and has actively participated in other events organised to get to know other associations, such as several activities organised by SOFv and LETO. The board is also helping out the faculty with their lustrum whenever needed or asked.

1.4.3 Companies and organisations

The members of the thirty-fourth board set a goal for themselves to receive and welcome speakers in a neat, friendly and professional way during formal events. This also involves dressing appropriately. This will improve the bonds with the companies and improve the image of Babylon. So far, this has been done successfully. Speakers at CIS in the Field

have had a pleasant experience, as well as the speaker of the Workshops. Also reaching out to Alumni that might possibly participate in the Alumni Roulette, and all external parties for that matter, is done in a professional way.

1.4.4 Members and other students

Until this moment, current year, the thirty-fourth board of Babylon has tried to bond with its members and therefore students. The thirty-fourth board noticed that there were a lot of members that signed out of Babylon this year. However, there were also a lot of new students that became members of the association.

In the Policy Plan of the thirty-fourth board, the board had named that they would implement the new Lunch Workshops. These were not received well by the members, since very little to none of the members attended these Lunch Workshops. The thirty-fourth board has therefore decided to not proceed with organising these Workshops.

Next to bonding with the members through these kinds of activities, the board has been very open to the members. Consequently, the members would feel appreciated and welcome to come to activities or visit the Babylon Room. The latter has shown a lot in the last six months. Namely, a lot of members of the association visited the Babylon Room during the Lunches, but also when the members had nothing else to do. The thirty-fourth is very happy the members are feeling this way.

1.4.5 Sustainability

The thirty-fourth board strives to keep the progress made by the thirty-third board intact. This means that the thirty-fourth board builds upon the previous sustainability goals. In practice this means that for a Cantus the sustainable Cantus booklets will be used and that the board is conscious about its paper use and try to reduce this wherever possible. One of these instances is the use of a digital bingo card at the Music Bingo that was organised in February.

Moreover the Babylon Lunches that are provided after a Borrel remain vegetarian. All other food specifically provided by the association is vegetarian as well.

Furthermore, the Study Trip Committee has once again chosen a destination within Europe which makes it possible to travel by train. Due to travelling more sustainably, the committee can seek higher travel subsidies for the trip.

1.4.6 Member Script

The board has worked hard to create something brand new for the members, a Member Script. In this script every activity Babylon organises, has been explained. The script has been divided in 4 sections: Orientation Week, Informal Activities, Formal Activities and Other Activities. The idea behind this Script was the lack of people attending the Formal Activities. Members do not know what these entail entirely, and that may be the reason the members did not want to join them. That is why the board made this Script with a detailed description of every activity Babylon has. The Script has been promoted once on Instagram stories, but that is not enough. The board plans to promote the Script more via an Instagram post and the Announcement Group Chat.

2. General Affairs

2.1 SOFv & LETO

Babylon is a member of SOFv (Samenwerkingsoverleg Faculteitsverenigingen, English: Cooperation of Faculty Associations), an organisation that stimulates collaboration and transfer of information between study associations at Radboud University. The SOFv General Member Assemblies are held almost every six weeks. During these meetings, relevant topics for study associations are discussed.

Babylon is also a member of LETO, an association that stimulates collaboration and transfer of information between study associations of the Faculty of Arts at Radboud University. LETO keeps Babylon up-to-date about faculty related affairs. Moreover, LETO organises several activities for all the associations of the Faculty of Arts throughout the academic year. LETO also organises activities in collaboration with the faculty this year, since they are both in their lustrum year.

The Chair and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs have the responsibility of attending these assemblies and have attended every SOFv and LETO meeting this academic year. There have been no collisions between Babylon's activities and SOFv and LETO assemblies.

The board has been very pleased with the connections provided through both SOFv and LETO. SOFv has shown itself very useful by providing specific and general knowledge and deadlines from the university and LETO has shared faculty-wide information regularly. Besides the actual help from both parties, Babylon has created very good and friendly connections with both of them.

2.2 Advisory Board

So far this year, the thirty-fourth board has had multiple encounters and meetings with the Advisory Board. These encounters were mostly concerning the behaviour of the board members of the thirty-fourth board.

The board has shown the Advisory Board that they had to get used to being a board member, and its responsibilities. The Advisory Board suggested a meeting with all the members of both parties. In this meeting it was discussed and highlighted what it takes,

being a board member. All the board members took this meeting very seriously and tried their utter best to improve in the next indefinite amount of time.

After a while the thirty-fourth board asked for a next meeting with the Advisory Board, this was concerning personal feelings towards each other. After having talked to each other, the board members and the members of the Advisory Board could fit through one door again.

One last meeting with the Advisory Board took place with the Chair of Babylon as key point. The integrity of the Chair was doubted and the people present talked it through. It all came down to the fact that as a certain function, you should execute your tasks and not wait until the very last moment to do it.

For the rest, the relationship between the members of the Advisory Board and members of the thirty-fourth board is healthy and most people get along.

2.3 General Member Meetings

The Financial General Member Meeting of this academic year was held at de Waagh on 21 September 2022. During this meeting the Treasurer of the thirty-third board presented his Financial Annual Report and the Treasurer of the thirty-fourth board presented his budget for the academic year 2022-2023. The Financial Annual Report and the budget were both approved.

Another important matter came up during the Financial General Member meeting, which was the matter of the Treasurer of the thirty-fourth board staying in office. As the Treasurer of the thirty-fourth board failed to get his BSA and dropped out of the Communication and Information sciences course it was necessary to hold a vote on this. The statutes of Babylon state that to become a board member you have to be enrolled in the studies, but it does not state what needs to happen if someone disenrolled after that person has become a board member already. This vote was meant to signify how much trust the members would have in the Treasurer staying in office and the vote was unanimously in favour.

2.4 Change of the Board

As every year, an Application Committee was formed to choose the next board. Last year for the first time the current board chose who they wanted to be in the Application Committee and reached out to them by text, because they were unaware of other procedures. The thirty-fourth board was aware of the procedures on time, because of the

thirty-third board's mistake. However, they did still reach out to the people they thought would work together well as an Application Committee.

3. Policies per functionary

3.1 Chair

3.1.1 Tasks and responsibilities

The main task of the Chair is to make sure everything is handled accordingly as the Chair is ultimately responsible 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 Chair's main tasks is regulating the board meetings. Since the board was a candidate board they have been meeting every week and that has always gone well. The board had set a certain day and time each week to have their meeting, and were mostly able to keep meeting at this time. When the board needed to reschedule this meeting it was often hard to find a date and time all the board members were available. During the second semester it was hard for the board to find a new date and time for the weekly meetings, but this has eventually been established.

The Chair had some experience leading committees last year and he thinks he grew into his role quite well. He did get distracted a lot and sidetracked often, but that is something he has been working on. In the last meeting with the RvA the other board members mentioned the lack of focus in recent meetings, which was of course not a good thing. With the tips from the RvA the board has decided to implement more breaks during the board meeting and that they actually put their phones away during the meeting. This has led to a more productive meeting for everyone and the ability for the Chair to keep focus. The Chair has always strived to make the confidential round an open and safe place for all the board members. This has been used to inform the other board members about personal things to take account of as well as board related frustrations that need to be discussed. The open confidential round has made sure the board functions well and they can support each other wherever possible.

The Chair has given the chair training to all the committee chairs. Furthermore, he is kept up to date by reading all the committee minutes. At first there were some problems with receiving and reading the minutes from all committees, but these have since been resolved.

The Chair has also attended the General Member Assemblies of SOFv and LETO. There has been one instance where the Chair was not able to join the LETO General Member Assembly, this was when he was attending the Rabobank Lecture together with the Treasurer. Rabobank was very happy the board attended, which was good. The LETO General Member Assembly was attended by the Secretary and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. The Chair and Commissioner of Internal Affairs have attended almost all Bachelor's and Master's graduation ceremonies. There the Chair gave a speech and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs gave a rose to the graduates. There was one instance where the Vice-Chair took over the speech as the Chair was at a SOFv training about alcohol and drug abuse.

3.2 Secretary

3.2.1 Tasks and responsibilities

The general tasks of the Secretary are, among other things, managing the member administration, the (e)mail, Babylon's website and the Facebook and Instagram pages of the association. Another important task of the Secretary is to write the minutes of the board meetings as well as the General Member Meetings and to distribute them. The distribution of the minutes has almost always been completed within the time set for it (48 hours). The strict media planning works well for the Secretary and almost all promotion material is finished in time. The Secretary sometimes has to mention to other board members and committees to hand in the form to order promotion material in time. This was not always done on time which resulted in the Graphic Design Committee not having time and the Secretary or the board members had to make the material themselves.

3.2.2 The member file

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

3.2.3 Minutes

As mentioned, it is the responsibility of the Secretary to write the minutes and this has been going well. The other board members write their own updates before every board meeting for more efficiency during the meetings. The board always checks the minutes before sending them to the Advisory Board. This happens every time and there are rarely any mistakes in the minutes. The Advisory Board sometimes addressed that a little more information could be given in the minutes. The Secretary has therefore asked the board of Babylon to give as much information when addressing something in a board meeting. Sometimes an update was very short and no more information was given which made it hard for the Advisory Board to understand, or irrelevant. After asking the board members to give more detailed information about their updates it has been improved during the meetings and the minutes are now more elaborate.

3.2.4 (E)mail

The Secretary has been checking the email almost every weekday. The Secretary makes concept birthday emails for the whole week. This means that when he sends out the daily birthday emails, he also automatically checks his inbox. Emails that regard a date that the rest of the board should know about are put in the online agenda all board members have access to at any given time. Other important emails regarding the board are marked and will be addressed during the board meetings. The Secretary tries to respond to all emails as soon as possible.

3.3 Treasurer

3.3.1 Tasks and responsibilities

The main task of the Treasurer is making sure the association is financially stable. Babylon has not been in any money problems so far because of good handling from fellow board members when there were any problems. The bookkeeping has been kept up in Conscribo (bookkeeping program). However, Conscribo has some problems which prevents the Treasurer from reading in new files. This means the bookkeeping is on hold for the moment. The Treasurer has a meeting with the Till Committee as soon as possible to fix this situation. Next to this is keeping the committees in check important: the Prom

Committee and the Study Trip Committee. Also keeping an eye on social media is an important task.

3.3.2 Income

- M
ember contribution

The main income of this association is the contribution. Around the end of November 2022 the contribution was asked from the members. The people were notified at the beginning of November that this was going to happen. However, there were still a lot of people who did not pay their contribution unjustifiably. This means that people did not agree that they were still members (Even though they never signed out or there was something wrong with their bank account). This year the contribution is 5848 euros (counting the contribution minus people who asked for their money back). This is significantly less than has been budgeted, so there needed to be some reshuffling regarding the Budget.

- C
ontribution of the Department board of Language and Communication

The Department of Language and Communication contributes to Babylon every year. This contribution amounts to 1500 euros and is meant to help Babylon organise its largest formal events: the Congress and the Job Market. The first gift of 750 euros was made in September 2022, with the second one still prospected.

3.3.3 Expenditure

- C
onstitution Drink.

The Treasurer was advised to increase the Constitution Drink budget to 750 euros. However, the Drink was a lot cheaper and that is still after the guards were taking more coins than was planned for them. The end price was 582,10 euros for the entire drink.

- A
ctive Member Evening

The first Active Member Evening was a fry table, and afterwards everybody went pooling with the entire group of an estimate of 30 people. Everybody enjoyed the activity, the

budget was exceeded a little though. The costs were 375 euros, so that is 35 euros the Treasurer has used out of the unforeseen costs.

-

R

oom Remodelling

A big thing the thirty-fourth board of Babylon wanted to improve was the Babylon Room. This has been done by buying a TV, a WII, some batteries and we have been gifted a battery charger by one of our former board members. The cost of this is 368 euros.

3.3.4 Budget

The budget had to be changed a bit since the last General Member Meeting. This is because of a lack of contribution money. We have less members than last year, which means that we have a lot less contribution than expected. This is why the board had to shuffle with the budget. The board also gave up the Lunch Workshops, that is why the Career Committee has been cut back on. They still have 100 euros to spend but they do not need that extra money for Lunches anymore. Next to this, the Job Market has been cut back on as well. We get 750 euros from the University and we have been told that a lot of money can be asked from LETO as well for this. Also the Sports Committee has been cut back on, which brings that budget to 500 euros because we are going fewer days than expected. So they do not need as much money as expected. After this reshuffling the budget looks positive again. Babylon is still financially very stable.

3.3.5 Till Committee

The Till Committee is in close contact with the Treasurer about the finances. A monthly update has been done by the Treasurer to fill the Till committee in on big finances and income. Only one of the four big checks has been done until now where they found a mistake made by the Treasurer because of a miscommunication with Mycelium which has been fixed within the week. It was a miscommunication about last year's Congress.

3.3.6 Contact with committee treasurers

The Treasurer has given training to the treasurers in person, and some of them have been sent through Whatsapp which worked well. The Treasurer showed how a declaration

form and advance payment forms need to be filled in. Also how to make a budget has been shown. The Treasurer explicitly told the treasurers when a big expense must be made, or if they have any questions they need to run it by the Treasurer first.

3.3.7 Payment methods

At the beginning of the year, it was decided that the thirty-fourth Board would work with four payment methods this year. First of all, cheap activities can be paid for in cash. Direct debits are used for the contribution, the Study Trip, and activities with online registration that require a larger fee. When members order the merchandise on the website, they can pay with iDeal. The most used payment method is the Rabobank payment requests. Also Ticketkantoor is used, for example for the Festival.

3.3.8 Merchandise

The Treasurer is responsible for the Babylon merchandise. This year, members can order the merchandise online or at the Babylon Room. Orders at the Babylon Room are made on a form and paid for through printed QR codes.

After having a meeting with the Till Committee, there was something not adding up with the merchandise. It seemed that the board sold the merchandise with huge losses. After mailing with DressMe, it turned out everything has become much more expensive. DressMe did this without notifying the Treasurer, which means there has been some losses regarding the merchandise.

The sign-up form in the Babylon Room is mostly responsible for the number of new orders. A separate sale of clothing was sold on the Cotton Elements site. This was a limited edition but it opened a lot of opportunities. Also, the board will start a T-shirt design competition for the members, which we are going to sell as well. The merchandise now consists of the following items: Babylon hoodie, 35,10 euros (dependent on how many there will be bought at once); Babylon sweater, 19,93 euros; Babylon socks, 7 euros; Babylon cap, 7 euros; Babylon T-shirt, 17,86 euros; Babylon mug, 7.50 euros; Babylon blanket 17.50 euros; T-shirt contest around 18 euros, this is still to be decided.

3.3.9 FC Babylon

Fc Babylon is going smoothly this year. We had some problems with sign-ups but after a few games this turned out not to be a problem. The Treasurer signed the team up for the

competition and a nice group of people were gathered together. Unfortunately the team did not make it through to the knockouts, but they are determined to get there in the other competition.

3.4 Commissioner of Internal Affairs

3.4.1 Tasks and responsibilities

The commissioner of Internal Affairs is responsible for maintaining a good relationship between Babylon and the study programme, together with all the lecturers and staff members. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs coordinates the Committee of Formal Activities, Education Committee and the Weekend Committee. Additionally, he is in charge of the book sales and alumni connections.

3.4.2 Consolidate the link between Babylon and the study programme

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs has done his best to improve the contact with the study programme and the lecturers. Since the beginning of this year, he has had meetings with the study advisor to discuss ongoing activities within Babylon and potential issues the board could be dealing with.

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs and the Chair went by all the lecturers during the Day of the Teacher to hand them a handwritten thank you card made by the Commissioner of Activities and a small chocolate. The university also gave Babylon some 'Day of the Teacher' pins to give to the lecturers. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs and the Chair also left the chocolate, card and pin in teachers' mailboxes if they were not present on that day. The teachers really appreciated the shown gratitude.

The Faculty of Arts introduced the coordinator of wellbeing. She organises monthly meetings with all the boards of the Faculty of Arts to discuss matters concerning the associations or the faculty. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs has been attending all of these meetings. These meetings are a good way to stay informed about the plans and projects of the faculty, while also being able to provide feedback. This is also a great way to discuss problems with the other associations. It is good to have different views on problems, especially since Babylon is a bit different from other associations within the Faculty of Arts. Overall are these meetings very useful and a great way to maintain communication with all the associations.

Moreover, the Chair and Commissioner of Internal Affairs have represented Babylon during the graduation ceremonies. The association was given an important role by giving a speech and handing out flowers to the graduates. The graduation ceremonies are a great way to close a chapter between the students/members and Babylon itself. Additionally, by being present, Babylon creates closer connections with the attending

professors too. The professors always show their appreciation when Babylon is present. Last year the flower store Babylon used to get flowers shut down. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs has found a great new permanent flower shop.

This year, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs decided to also apply to the Study Programme Committee as the former Commissioner of Internal Affairs advised to do so. This way contact with the study programme is closer and more personal. More information about the Programme Committee in the next chapter.

3.4.3 Maintain contact with the Study Programme Committee

By being a member of the Study Programme Committee, the Commissioner of Internal Affairs is well informed about how everything is going within the study programme. However, it must be noted that the Commissioner of Internal Affairs is a 'regular' member of this committee and is a member to stay up to date about everything that is going on within the study programme, and does not take place in it specifically as a Babylon (board)member. This way, he avoids any conflict of interest.

This year, the committee consists of five students, four IBC students and one CIW student. The committee is focusing a lot on the workload of both students as lecturers, which is perceived as too high at times. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs will again advise the next Commissioner of Internal Affairs to apply for the Study Programme Committee to stay up to date about the study programme.

3.4.4 Take care of book sales via Studystore

The former Commissioner of Internal Affairs acquired the booklist for 2022/2023. The new Commissioner of Internal Affairs then checked everything. The check had to be done manually, which did take a lot of time. However, communication with StudyStore and lecturers went efficiently, all necessary book replacements were resolved. There was a small problem concerning the books for the second semester. In close contact with StudyStore, this was quickly resolved.

Later this 'small' problem seemed to be a lot bigger than thought. StudyStore had both internal and external problems. This caused them to shut down. They have cancelled all orders and closed down all order pages. This is obviously a big problem, since the members are now unable to buy their needed books for the second semester with a discount. This might also mean that Babylon will not receive as much provision as expected, only for the first semester. A lot of other associations were also in collaboration

with StudyStore, this caused SOFv to help us out and provide support and suggestions. Another book supplier has already expressed their interest in working together and SOFv might set something up for all associations affected by this. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs will be looking into other book suppliers for the coming years.

3.4.5 Alumni

So far, there has been some contact with alumni. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs has access to the Alumni LinkedIn group. It is very useful to have access to this group since most alumni are happy to help Babylon at events. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs and the Education Committee will soon start sending invitations to alumni to give them the opportunity to speak during the CIS in the Field event. The alumni have been approached by the board to participate in the Alumni Roulette Event.

3.5 Commissioner of External Affairs

3.5.1 General tasks and Responsibilities

As the thirty-fourth board does not have a Commissioner of External Affairs, the Chair has taken up most of these duties and divided the rest amongst the other board members. This means the whole board aims to communicate in a professional yet personal way. The board works together to guarantee the corporate identity of Babylon.

3.5.2 Contact with external affairs

The Chair tries to keep an active state of contact with all external parties. Meetings to extend contracts have most often been in person and other meetings to discuss matters have been done through zoom or by telephone. The Chair has tried to respond as quickly and proactively as possible when in contact with an external party. This means reacting to questions quickly and proactively looking for a date to set a meeting. Sometimes the external parties themselves did not respond well and it took very long for them to react to an email. The Chair should have called or gone by more quickly as that often solved the problem. Combining multiple functions did make that hard to do.

3.5.3 Recruiting new sponsors

As there is no official Commissioner of External Affairs in the thirty-fourth board, it was decided to not actively look for new sponsors. Instead, the board aims to extend all contracts for another year and focus on new sponsors when there is an actual Commissioner of External Affairs.

3.6 Commissioner of Activities

3.6.1 Tasks and Responsibilities

The main task of the Commissioner of Activities is to coordinate his committees: the Committee of Informal Activities, the Sports Committee, the Orientation Week Committee and the Publication Committee. Moreover, he is also in charge of the year planning, the Committee Market and contact with the Molenstraat and Bar RUIG / Tappers.

3.6.2 Annual planning

The Commissioner of Activities was responsible for the annual planning of all the activities organised by Babylon. The thirty-fourth board of Babylon expected COVID-19 to be more or less gone in the current academic year. This was - so far - mostly the case. The thirty-fourth board has not yet struggled with any activities regarding the COVID-19 situation. Consequently, the Borrels have all taken place physically with 'normal' capacities.

The Commissioner of Activities tried, while making the Annual Planning, to keep the months equally packed with activities (with an exception for the months with exam weeks or holidays). So far, this has been received quite well by the members of Babylon. Most activities had an attendance on which the board should not complain. However, there were also activities that were less well visited. For example, the Lunch Workshops and other formal activities. The Commissioner of Activities is doubting how this might come so, seeing the fact that the formal activities were very equally distributed throughout the academic year.

Until now there has been some shifting in activities as well, some activities got postponed. The Ski Trip is a good example of this, it has been moved twice. The first time it got moved was caused by a lack of sign-ups. The thirty-fourth board thought it would improve if the Ski-Trip was postponed. However, this turned out to not have improved the amount of sign-ups. Therefore, the board changed the date of the Ski Trip a second time. The Ski-Trip eventually took place from 16 February until 20 February.

Regarding the Batavierenrace, Babylon will again not be able to compete this year. That is caused by the fact that a lot of Babylonians will be on the Study Trip. Babylon has gotten invites from other associations to form a team together because they would have had the same problem, but the thirty-fourth board decided not to form an alliance since the other associations could not come up with half the amount of people that was needed. The thirty-fourth board decided not to take any chance regarding this.

Lastly, this year the International Committee has gotten some space in the Annual Planning to organise three activities instead of two activities. So far, two activities have taken place already (more about the International Committee under 4.6). But, throughout the year the thirty-fourth board came up with an extra activity for the International Committee, after looking at the Annual Planning, the Commissioner of Activities has fitted in another activity for the International Committee. This makes it four activities in total, this was the thirty-fourth board really strives to give recognition to the international members of Babylon.

3.6.3 Organising the Committee Market and composing all committees

The Commissioner of Activities has been responsible for organising the Committee Market in the beginning of the academic year. The Committee Market was set up with all the committees having their own stand in the Elinor Ostrom (EOS) building. Every committee had at least one, sometimes two, people telling the members about the committees and that was received well. The Committee Market was visited very well, especially with a lot of first year students. However, this did not result in the sign-ups eventually. In total the thirty-fourth board received 55 applications to committees, of which then 55 people were assigned to at least one (and in some cases even three) committee(s). This was not enough to fill up every committee with a sufficient amount of people. Therefore, the board decided to merge some committees in order to get more people to organise certain activities for that committee.

An example for this would be the Committee of Formal Activities together with the Education Committee. Those two committees now form one committee in order to organise the activities of both committees. This committee then had 5 people in total (including the Commissioner of Internal Affairs).

In total, the board has received 8 applications from international students, 31 first year students and the rest were either second year students or above.

A couple members have quit the studies and therefore also quit their duties as an Active Member. Babylon now counts 52 Active Members.

3.6.4 Contact with the Molenstraat

The Commissioner of Activities has also been, and still is, responsible for all the contact with the Molenstraat. The Commissioner of Activities went to the meetings regarding any contract together with the current Treasurer of the thirty-fourth board. The contract has been signed and has not been violated. The contract stated that Babylon's new local pub would become the El Sombrero. All the Borrels would take place at the El Sombrero, so would the BaMyPo's. However, the Molenstraat has still not finished the back of the El Sombrero, causing the BaMyPo's to be in the back of Van Buren. This itself is not a big problem, but it is not what was promised to us.

The contract also stated that the Borrels start at 9.00pm now, this would improve the attendance, but we have not seen this very effectively. The Molenstraat offered to add 50 free beers from 9.00pm until 10.00pm to get more people to join the party in the first hour, but experience shows that it is very hard to lure people to the pub earlier.

So far, the communication has been quite good. The only thing the Commissioner of Activities has as a remark is that the person of contact has changed throughout the year. This resulted in some difficulties because not every piece of information was transferred well. Eventually, the Commissioner of Activities is happy about the communication, it can never be perfect.

3.6.5 Vice-Chair

The Commissioner of Activities fulfils the function as Vice-Chair of the thirty-fourth board. In the beginning of the year this was a lot of getting used to, and the meetings between the Chair and Vice-Chair did not always, if not at all, take place. This should improve throughout the year because the Commissioner of Activities tries his utter best to support the Chair with his tasks whenever he feels it would be too much. The Commissioner of Activities is rooting for better and especially more meetings with the Chair.

4. Committees

4.1 Application Committee

The Application Committee consists of the Chair and Vice-chair, which is the Commissioner of Activities. They are joined by an old board member and a member of the RvA, the Treasurer of the thirty-second board and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs of the thirty-third board respectively. In previous years a new policy has been implemented to add an external member to this committee, for this position the secretary of the thirty-fourth board of Mycelium has been asked. As there is no Commissioner of External Affairs this year and the Application Committee is full of inexperienced members the Commissioner of External Affairs of the thirty-first board has been asked to help in this process and maintain the continuity and quality of the board selection.

4.2 Lustrum Committee

The Lustrum Committee has already started. It consists of the Board and four other members, of which one is a member that has experienced the previous Lustrum year. This knowledge of this member is quite valuable in combination with the guides left by the previous board. The committee has already brainstormed to come up with a theme and activities for the upcoming lustrum year. The committee is making good progress and will no doubt organise a great Lustrum.

4.3 Career Committee

Unfortunately, the Career Committee did not have any sign-ups and even after repeated deadline extensions to sign up for a committee and specific formal committee promotions. This left the board to organise the activities that the Career Committee normally does by themselves. The Lunch Workshops, which were an idea introduced last year have not yielded the interest the board thought it would. The board organised two Lunch Workshops, where they provided lunch for the members along with an interesting talk from an organisation. Both times only two members showed up and as this is not worth the effort and might even prove to be shameful to bigger companies the board has decided to not organise Lunch Workshops anymore.

Another event organised by the Career Committee is the Alumni Roulette (previously Alumni Speed-Dating). The board is organising this as well with the Treasurer taking the lead on this. The Treasurer has already reserved the Cultuur Cafe for the event and the board is contacting alumni together. The board has tried to use Career Central, but alumni do not seem to respond on this platform.

The last and biggest event the Career Committee organises is the Career Event, which is going to be changed to a Career Market this year. The Chair is taking the lead on this project and has already been in contact with Career Service. Our date for the event falls within the "Arts Career Week" and Career Service wants us to work together with the other associations on the 12th floor. The board has shown interest in this, but wants to maintain that Babylon's event is separate from the other events within the bigger organisation. Progress has been made and the Chair is now working together with Career Service and most of the other Arts associations to contact companies for the Career Market. So far this has yielded more than 15 companies already that are willing to be present at the Career Market. The Chair will continue to represent Babylon in the organisation of this event and play a big role in the logistical organisation of the event as well.

4.4 Congress Committee

For the Congress Committee the same holds as for the Career Committee, there were no members that applied for this committee. This committee is in association with Mycelium as Babylon organises the Congress together. Normally the committee consists of 3 members from Babylon and 3 from Mycelium. Mycelium has provided their 3 members along with their Chair. They are joined by the Chair and the Commissioner of Activities for Babylon's part. The committee has already decided how they want to organise the Congress and brainstormed on companies that they want to have there. The members are now contacting companies. A theme will be decided when there is a coherent amount of speakers ready. The committee will use the same Instagram account from previous years and promote the event through that medium.

4.5 Graphic Design Committee

The secretary is responsible for the Graphic Design Committee. The committee consists of five Dutch members. All committee members are in their first year. The committee has worked very hard on the Instagram posts, the Abroad Rubric we introduced this year and the Babylon Magazine. Not every form was handed in on time by committees which resulted in the Secretary or the board member responsible for the committee having to make the content himself. The Secretary is stressing the board members to fill in the forms earlier in the latest months, and it has been going better.

4.6 International Committee

The Secretary is responsible for this committee this year. The committee consists of two members and a coordinator. So far, this has not been a problem although there are not a lot of members. So far the committee has organised three events. Babylon has gone to the Efteling, made a day trip to the christmas market in Cologne and we have gone ice skating. For these events we have always promoted them to international members first, and after a couple of days non-internationals were also allowed to join. Unfortunately, most of the people that joined these events were non-internationals. The committee is working on ideas to increase international engagement, but they are finding this very hard. This year the board has decided to skip the Dutch lessons after advice from last year's board, and we have not received any negative feedback on that so far.

4.7 Almanac Committee

Because next year is the Lustrum year, there is also an Almanac Committee this year. The Secretary and the Commissioner of Activities are both responsible for this committee, but right now it only has one member that is not a board member. The committee is in the orienting phase right now.

4.8 Study Trip Committee

The Treasurer is the coordinator for the Study Trip Committee. The committee consists of eight Dutch members and one international member. The committee is varied between all year layers from CIS and IBC, so everyone is represented in this committee. Despite that, the committee is working very well together. Some of the members have been on (and organised) a Study Trip, so that helps with some experience.

The Study Trip Committee is going well, the committee started very soon and worked very hard, so they have come quite far already. Quite early the committee decided that Bratislava and Prague are nice destinations for a Study Trip. Hostels for both Bratislava and Prague have been arranged. The committee is busy planning the activities, which is also going very well. A conceptual day planning has been made and we are looking for enquiries for train/bus tickets. The contact with the Department is going well, we are going to two universities this year, instead of the 1 university visit plus a Company Visit. The Department was happy about this and is able to give a subsidy. The Department is also helping out with contacting the university in Bratislava.

The committee organised an information session which was quite well visited. When sign-ups were opened, all spots were filled within the minute. This is very encouraging for the committee knowing that there is a lot of hype for the Trip.

This year the thirty-fourth board decided the Study Trip is by train again, because of sustainability reasons. This also gives us a subsidy from SOFv which should help with ticket prices.

4.9 Prom Committee

The Treasurer is the coordinator for the Prom Committee. At the start of the year, the Treasurer went on a couple of meetings with Postelein, Mundus and BOW to research the possibility of doing a Prom together. However, soon the Treasurer realised that a Prom with 4 associations was not possible, and that is why we are working together with Postelein this year.

Babylon works together with Postelein for the Prom this year. Three Babylon members are part of the committee, and three of Postelein. The members from Babylon all are first years, Posteleins members are all a bit older. Despite this, the committee works very well together and because of that we have come a long way in a short period. Everyone is putting in a shift and no member is actually lacking. The work is divided perfectly between the members.

Basically everything for the Prom has been arranged. The Prom is on 1 March and the theme is Roaring 20's. After some discussion the committee decided to put the price of the ticket this year at 33,50 euros. This is because of the arrangement (beer, wine, soft

drinks), which has gone 2 euros up in price. Next to this, everything has become a lot more expensive, so the committee needed the extra money.

The decorations need to be bought still, but everything that we need has been put on a list. The DJ has been arranged, which is a member of ours. He is going to be the DJ upstairs, someone from de Waagh is the DJ downstairs. The committee itself is working very well and is getting along perfectly. Communication with Postelein is going very well as well.

At the moment of writing, there have been 315 tickets sold from the total of 400. Babylon had 150 tickets to sell and 115 have been sold. People are still eligible to buy a ticket. The Treasurer and his Postelein colleague have had multiple meetings with de Waagh. He told them that we only pay for the amount of people who are coming, so not for the full 400 people.

4.10 Education Committee

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs is the coordinator of the Education Committee. At the beginning of the year there were not enough sign ups for this committee, so the board merged it together with the Committee of Formal Activities. The committee started with four members, excluding the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. Two members decided to stop due to personal reasons, so currently the committee consists of 2 people, Commissioner of Internal Affairs excluded.

The Committee has not organised any activities yet. The committee has started planning the Family Day. The Family Day will be partly at the university and partly in the city centre. The committee has started planning CIS in the Field yet, but they will soon start.

During the first Open Day, three members of the committee were present and helped out a lot. The Study Choice Check days will only be held online and it is not yet clear if the committee will have to help.

4.11 Committee of Formal Activities

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs is the coordinator of the Committee of Formal Activities. As explained in 4.10, this committee merged with the Education Committee and now has two members remaining. The previous Committee of Formal Activities did not arrange a Company Visit for September, so the board tried to move it so the old committee could still do it. Unfortunately it did not work out and did the board decide to

focus on the Company Visit in December. This Company Visit was planned in the week before Christmas. All the companies the committee contacted explained that this would not be possible for them, since it is a very busy week. This was not the fault of the committee. The board will advise the next board to plan this differently.

The committee and the board have discussed the matter and thought of a solution. There is still another Company Visit in February and April and since December could not happen, there will also be one in March. The committee already has some possible options and is busy with setting it all up.

4.12 Weekend Committee

The Commissioner of Internal Affairs is the coordinator of the Weekend Committee. The committee consists of nine people, excluding the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. The committee had some trouble finding a location, but they did find a nice one. The transport costs have increased tremendously since last year, due to inflation. Also SOFv is not able to provide a subsidy for the Weekend, only for an activity during the Weekend. The committee will compensate for these higher costs by increasing the price to attend by five or ten euros.

A theme has been decided and the activities for during the Weekend are all being worked out.

4.13 Committee of Informal Activities

The Commissioner of Activities is responsible for the Committee of Informal Activities. The committee consisted of ten people in total. However, the number of committee members dropped from ten to nine as a member of the committee quit the study and then also Babylon. The committee organised the Borrel in October, November, December and February, the BaMyPo, Inglorious and the Christmas Dinner in December. The Commissioner of Activities hopes that in the second semester the committee will be just as- or more fortunate. They are busy working on the new borrel and the Diesweek. Hopefully, the rest of the Borrels can also be organised accordingly.

4.14 Publication Committee

The Commissioner of Activities is responsible for the Publication Committee. The committee consists of four members, excluding the Commissioner of Activities. The year layers are nicely divided and even includes a graduated member. Moreover, the language spoken is English, since there is also an international student in the committee. The committee has worked hard on the first edition of the magazine, which would be delivered to the members in February. They have recently started working on the second edition. For the first edition, the committee did not meet a lot, but they all knew what to do and the tasks were nicely divided. Everyone had something to do and everyone was very motivated to finish this Babylon Magazine. The last edition of this academic year will be published around June or July.

4.15 Sports Committee

The Commissioner of Activities is responsible for the Sports Committee. The Sports Committee consisted of five people in total. However, a lot has changed in this committee. A member of the committee had quit the study, and then also Babylon. Then, there were two other members that could not join the Ski Trip. They have, however, mentioned that they would love to stay in the committee to help organise the Ski Trip further and even the other sports activity later in the year. But, with this group organising an entire Ski Trip would be impossible, so the Commissioner of Activities went and looked for people that wanted to join the Ski Trip, and even the committee. He has succeeded in this, the committee has now two extra members that are also joining the Ski Trip. At the moment of writing, the committee is working hard to make the Ski Trip a great success. The Commissioner of Activities has faith in the group he now has in front of him.

There has also been a change in the date and location of the Ski Trip. The Ski Trip was meant to go to Avoriaz, but has changed to the location of Risoul. This was concerning the dates, this was the only location available for our group and time of year. The board talked to the Department Head and he agreed this was the best option. The Sports Committee will, thus, work hard to make this Ski Trip reality, and to top last year's trip!

4.16 Orientation Week Committee

The Commissioner of Activities is responsible for the Orientation Week Committee. The committee consists of eight people in total. The committee was inactive for the first

semester. From February, the committee will start to meet regularly and organise the Orientation Week. The Commissioner of Activities is already in contact with the Molenstraat to see what is possible and what is not. This communication is going better than the communication the Commissioner of Activities experienced the first half year.

5. Future

The thirty-fourth board is focussing on bonding all the members after the COVID-years. In the first half of the year the board noticed a division between its members, because it was the older members and the first year members who are very active in the association. However, after some bigger events where all the year layers were mixed, the board noticed that more year layers began to mingle. With bigger events coming up (Study Trip, Festival, etc.) the board is sure that this will not be a problem anymore at the end of the year. The board really hopes to build a strong foundation with very active members this year, so in 2 years we will have a very booming Study Association again in the after COVID-years.

Moreover, The board is talking to some external parties to work together and maybe establish a sponsorship. All of the board members are preparing this Study Association to be as ready as possible, financially, for the upcoming Lustrum year.

As stated at 4.1, the Lustrum Committee is up and running. The committee is doing great work thinking of a theme, slogan, mascot and activities. All these things will be a secret for now. The committee is trying its best to meet every two weeks, although it is very difficult with its members having very different time schedules.

Next to this, the board has asked its members what they were missing within the Study Association. A lot of people were very big fans of the Active Member Evening (which was Pooling) and of the Music Bingo. They would very much like to see more of these kinds of events. The board is looking into fitting this sort of activity in the DIESweek and in the upcoming half year, otherwise it will be an important point in the Advice Plan for the Lustrum year.

Furthermore, alcohol usage stays an important topic within Babylon. Last year members complained that there was too much focus on drinking. The board has heard some comments as well, but they were mostly from former board members. Looking at the Semi-Annual Survey, only one person has stated that they have felt discomfort with the

feeling of 'having to drink.' Later in the survey they say it is not alcohol specific, but just beer. The board has not had any complaints from its members that there has been too much drinking. However, the board hopes to get its professional status a bit more in the picture with its members the upcoming half year anyway, as there are more Formal Activities.

One of these Formal Activities is the revamped Career Event, which has been changed to Career Market. It was called Job Market, but after working with the Faculty of Arts it has been changed to Career Market. The Chair has been busy working with other Study Associations of the Faculty of Arts and with Career Service to create a big Career Market in the EOS building. The Treasurer has helped with meetings with the department head to try to get this event in members' personal schedule, however that was not possible so the board has to do its best to promote this as best as possible. The board is currently busy finding companies who are willing to participate in this event.

6. Conclusion

To conclude, these first six months have not been the smoothest. Most of the goals the board had set are accomplished or are in progress. However, the board has had some trouble acting as a board. These conflicts have been resolved by talking to the Advisory Board, and also by being honest and sometimes hard on each other.

To look back at the three terms, which the board of Babylon is trying to pursue, the thirty-fourth board of Babylon feels like they are on the right path. However, being more **Inclusive, Innovative** and **Involving** could never hurt the reputation and image of Babylon.

Therefore, the thirty-fourth board of Babylon knows what it has to do, what is still left to accomplish and where to improve. For the next six months, the board will try their utter best to show the members they are a fully functioning board. A board that is open, creative and approachable.