

Minutes General Member Meeting: Change of the board

Date: Friday 7 July 2023

Speaker: Lloyd Hooghwinkel

Minute taker: Sven Drosten

Present: Imke Janssen, Rianne Zwarts, Anna Bos, Sanni Granqvist, Sam Helmink, Nicos Katsavos, Julian van den Heuvel, Willem Sanders, 34th board, 35th prospective board

Total number of people present: 19

Agenda

1. Opening
 2. Setting the agenda
 3. Approval of minutes Additional General Member Meeting 28-02-2023
 4. Announcements
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5. Results Annual Survey
 6. Presentation Annual Report `22-`23
 7. Vote on Annual Report `22-`23
 8. Introduction thirty-fifth prospective board
 9. Vote on thirty-fifth prospective board
 10. Resignation of thirty-fourth board & thirty-fifth board taking office
 11. Resignation Till Committee `22-`23
 12. Introduction Till Committee `23-`24
 13. Vote on Till Committee `23-`24
 14. Resignation Advisory Board `22-`23
 15. Introduction candidates Advisory Board `23-`24
 16. Vote on Advisory Board `23-`24
 17. Presentation Concept Policy `23-`24
 18. Vote on local pub
 19. Vote on contribution increase
 20. Vote on Concept Policy `23-`24
 21. W.C.T.M.
 22. Question round
 23. Closing

Opening

Lloyd opens the meeting at 7.00 pm and welcomes everyone to the General Member Meeting.

Setting the agenda

The agenda is approved.

Approval of minutes Semi-Annual General Member Meeting 28-02-2023

Lloyd: Are there any questions or remarks about the minutes?

Rianne: I have seen a couple of grammar mistakes, I will send them to Sven.

Number of votes:

Total number of voters: 14 + 5 (19 in total)

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Vote in favour: 14
Vote against: 0
Blanc vote: 0
Withhold: 5

The minutes are hereby approved

Announcements

Lieke Verhoofstad authorised Imke Janssen to vote

Esmee Kuipers authorised Nicos Katsavos to vote.

In the Annual Report, the part of Commissioner of Activities is also called 2.5 and so on. We have noticed this, and it will be changed to 2.6 and so on when the document is published on the website.

Everyone is okay with being recorded during the General Member Meeting.

Results Annual Survey

Lloyd: In general, we have had 33 respondents. As plus points, we have heard that we as a board are moderately professional, accessible, active, present, and open. Some points of improvement are that people would like to see more recognition among members. Members also want to see more bonding between the year layers.

Anna: What does more bonding mean?

Daan: It was mostly about the recognition of BaMyPo and about the BaMyPo and the Inglorious and that they recognised the association at those activities.

Lloyd: Moving on to involvement. We see that 62% of the respondents are happy to be part of the Babylon community. Then 58% has been fulfilled in their expectations of what a study association is. We also see that 74% of the members are informed and well aware of the confidants, and 100% of the members follow us on Instagram.

Anna: Why is the happiness so low? Only 58%?

Lloyd: We do not know really, there were no specific comments about this.

Daan: The open questions did not see any answers that stated why this is like this.

Communication

Lloyd: We have seen that 62.5% of the members has read the latest Babylon magazine. Suggestions made about better communication is making more use of the WhatsApp chat groups.

Activities

Lloyd: The results state that 75% of the members thought that the number of activities organised was enough, and that they had enough variety. We do see that only 57% of the members thought that our communication was clear.

Rianne: Do you have any reflection on the numbers?

Lloyd: Well, we were not always very strict about promotion. This meant that the exact information was not shared enough, and that we did not send enough reminders to members, via various channels.

Daniël: I think for next year, to give to the 35th board, is to use the WhatsApp chats more, and to send more reminders, because that is what went wrong mostly in our communication.

Sven: I think that the lack of reminders is the biggest problem. We promote activities, usually on time, but sending a reminder to members for these activities is the biggest issue.

General points of improvement

Lloyd: What we could have improved last year is better communication and support to our members, we hope the 35^h can improve this. Also, more information about studying abroad, and more info on how to sell old textbooks were asked for by members. Also organising more formal activities, more activities at the start of the year, more free activities, and more activities with food are some of the points that were written down in the open part sections.

Sanni: What is meant with the support? What do the members expect from you?

Coen: It was in for example mental health, the members expect more help on mainly that part.

Anna: Do you have any tips for next board?

Lloyd: For once the communication part, we are informing them to post more regularly, and to organise more formal activities. They also have some plans of their own that we have given feedback on.

Anna: Does the 35th feel that they have been advised enough.

Lize: Most information was already in our advice plan, and we were able to take a look at the answers of the survey. So it has been sufficient.

Pien: We have really tried to include these points in our policy plan.

Presentation Annual Report '22-'23

Strengthening the bond between Babylon and its members and attract new members

Lloyd: We have tried to include as much members as possible. With the first years we have done that well, especially during the Orientation Week. The second years have been a bit tougher. They had a 'normal' orientation week, and they became active, but the participation then dropped off a little bit.

Rianne: I think it is a bit minimalistic in evaluation to say why they are not involved. We have tried to bond, but why and how? Why was it more challenging?

Lloyd: A lot of these members that have not been active this year but were last year, they have kind of disappeared.

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Lize: Do you maybe have a tip for us?

Daan: Maybe you can organise an activity for the second years to be, in order to keep them close to the association.

Anna: I think that you as a 34th board should give them more tips beforehand. In my opinion.

Lloyd: We have given them general tips, but not specifically for second years.

Third years

Lloyd: The third years have been hard to reach, because of COVID-19 and by some of them going away to study abroad. We have tried to bring them back to Babylon by organising a Music Bingo. Unfortunately, there were not a lot of third years, but the activity was successful. Also, we have created the Abroad Rubric, to keep them close to Babylon and also show their experience to younger year layers.

Pre-Masters

Lloyd: We have tried to organise an event for them, and showed them what we have to offer, but we had to cancel the event because there were no sign ups.

Rianne: Have you tried to ask why they could or did not want to attend your activities.

Sven: We did a lecture talk when they had their introduction to the Radboud, and we have also sent them an email via the student advisor, to show them what we can offer them. Unfortunately, no one became a member.

Rianne: So, if no one became a member, did you really try to stress what they can offer.

Daan: We gave a presentation about the formal and informal events, and really tried to get them active.

Rianne: I think the 35th board should they really look into what to organise next year. If nobody shows up, reach out to them why they did not come

Sven: A reason could be that they are maybe a bit older than normal new members, and they have not participated in the Orientation Week.

Coen: I also discussed this with the student advisor, and she said that some maybe already have friends, and they do not really need a new focus group.

Willem: How does this compare to last year?

Daan: I know that from activities that there were a few, but they are also not involved anymore.

Coen: Last year we only gave a lecture talk once, the board will now do an activity with them, so hopefully they will be more involved.

Anna: They were in the orientation week before, but now they are not so it is harder to reach them. Maybe you could give it more attention.

International members

Lloyd: Babylon as an international oriented association we have been trying to connect with our international members. We have organised activities to the Efteling, a Trip to Cologne and a Rotterdam trip that was unfortunately cancelled.

Rianne: I think that the evaluation is misplaced. This is the work of the international committee, not your part.

Anna: Maybe you can talk about how it went.

Lloyd: For the international members, we as a board have tried to speak English all the time when international members were around. We try to keep in regard the open atmosphere and the cultural differences that there may be.

Active Members

Lloyd: We have organised a couple of activities. We have been trying to keep them engaged and involved. Sometimes active members fell away, due to some personal reasons, but we then tried to fill in and keep promoting becoming an active member. We have kept on organising the Babylon Festival this year, which is also a bonding activity for the members.

Willem: Do you have any reflection on the Babylon Festival?

Lloyd: There were not a lot of people present, because it was organised during the Radboud festival. We were given the option to organise it with the minimum amount of costs, and that was on that day. We underestimated how many people would go to the Radboud festival instead of ours.

Willem: Well, we are a study association, and I think that you cannot organise activities during Radboud events.

Daan: That is true, but we realised a little too late. I have had meetings with Strandbar Stek, and they asked us to switch to this day because they had a party the entire week. Then we changed to this date, and we got a really big discount.

Rianne: Why is this evaluated here? It should be evaluated with activities.

Daan: I think it is misplaced in the PowerPoint.

Nicos: Me as an international, which is the topic now, you as board expected us to be active. I have heard negative things that I don't agree with, but not everyone is like me and Sanni, but I have heard that you guys were not very open.

Sven: Did they give any reasons for that?

Nicos: Not only about the language but how people were not open to them from the association.

Lize: What do you think we can change, Nicos?

Nicos: I was active, I have tried to let them join, but they did not want to. You did your best. Do your best to be welcoming to them.

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Sanni: I think that it is not for everyone to join this association, some would join ESN, it is good that you are open. One thing to keep in mind, but Dutch universities cannot promote across borders anymore. If you only have a few of them, it is nice that you have some, but there are just way less.

Nicos: There are also way more Dutchies than internationals, which makes it hard. When there are more Dutchies then internationals have to cooperate as well.

Sven: Do you think that we need to do other type of activities with the International Committee? Because this year we did some very typical Dutch stuff, which the committee really liked. But is that what internationals really want?

Sanni: Maybe to round of this topic, for the new board, you can organise a single activity for internationals only. Then you can ask what they want to see or what they like. That could help keep them involved.

Communication tools

Lloyd: One thing that we wanted to use more this year is the WhatsApp announcement group. We have tried to post regularly, just like on Instagram. We could have been better in sending reminders as well.

Lecture talks

Lloyd: For the Committee market and other things we used these. We have received feedback that stated that we do not need more.

Babylon Magazine

Lloyd: The annual survey states that 65% of the members read the latest version, and the same amount of people are aware of the PDF on the website. The first Babylon Magazine has been published and the second one is on the way. This year we have chosen to create 2 instead of 4 versions now.

Requitement

Lloyd: Usually the Application Committee exists of 5 members, but because most of them were new to the task this year, we asked an experienced member to join and to make sure it happened the right way.

Daan: Overall the process of finding a new board saw enough applicants, so no problems there. The interviews were recorded and send to all the board members. The Application Committee then made a division for the board. After that the board made the decision.

Rianne: Were you pleased with the committee, the number of signups and the new board?

Daan: Yes x3.

Member script

Lloyd: Reflecting on the member script, we found out that it works, but it is not known enough. Not a lot of members know about the existence. Promoting it did not really happen because of a miscommunication. We hope the 35th will put it to good use.

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Anna: Did you ask about this in the Survey?

Daan: We asked about if they knew, but not why they did not.

Rianne: We talked about this during the Semi-Annual GMM, but how was it not promoted past half year?

Lloyd: We see the member script as document for new members, so we thought we would rather promote it at the beginning of the next year.

Sanni: I think that is a bit invalid, because then the first years would still not know about the second half year activities.

Strengthen the bond between the association and external relationships

Lloyd: Strengthening the bond with others was our focus, because we did not have a Commissioner of External Affairs. Our head sponsor has unfortunately left us, for several reasons. Biggest part was they did not gain enough out of sponsoring us. They were focused on formal activities, and we did not have a lot of turnout for these activities. We could have promoted formal events more systematically to maybe prevent this. We have tried so, but we had a lot of problems with the actual website of Babylon. That was not the main reason that they left, but the minimal attendance at our formal events was the main reason.

Daan: We could have communicated more with them as well. Now, they had to contact us instead of us contacting them.

Anna: It was very hard for us to find a sponsor that was good. It is also about goodwill, and now we have to start over again, which will be hard.

Lloyd: The communication was not great, there was no group chat for example. There are no hard feelings, and we still can invite them to formal events. They just did not receive the exposure they thought they would get from sponsoring us.

Anna: What is the solution for this?

Lloyd: We have started a Career Market, and we will organise a new formal event, to build up the number of formal events.

Daan: And we have also started looking for a new head sponsor.

Sven: You can also see the disinterest from members in the formal activities, because the formal committees also did not have a lot of sign-ups. When there is not a lot of participation already it is very hard to organise great activities.

Sanni: Then I think you cannot advise to organise another event if the participation is not enough.

Lloyd: It was advised to organise something for Babylon alone, because the Career Market is something joined by other associations. So, we thought that we had to organise an event only for Babylon alone.

Julian: I read about the website not being updated. Why was this?

Sven: So, the website got updated, which meant that the whole system of creating pages was changed, and I had to figure out a lot of things by myself. It was a bit hard because it looked more like coding than building a real website sometimes. Then the main part was that the website on the mobile version was not updated. The computer version was updated, but the app not, which I did not see. All these minor things made sure that it has been quite hard to update the website.

Sanni: If all these things changed, maybe you could have asked someone to help, for example the IT people. Maybe that could have solved some issues beforehand.

Strengthening the bond between sister associations

Lloyd: We have tried to connect with all associations in Nijmegen. We visited all CoBo's in Nijmegen. We had to skip some from our sister associations because of CoBo's in Nijmegen. The sister days we all visited. These were very nice, and it was good to keep in contact with them.

ToCommunicate

Lloyd: About the ToCommunicate, it is not going that well, there is no active participation anymore by members. During the last sister day we talked about ToCommunicate, and there will be a vote soon about whether to continue with this page.

Rianne: About the collaborations, you state that the GMM's of SOFv and Leto are that, but they are not. Also, please use GMM all the time instead of GMA.

Coen: But they are called different right?

Anna: We use one, GMM.

Local pub

Lloyd: Reflecting on this, we have switched to the El Sombrero this year in order to try and motivate more members to come to our borrels. We have tried to promote this via social media and word of mouth. However, averaging 30 members at the Borrel, it has been tough. The communication with the Molenstraat was difficult. They announced that we had to change bar because they were going to remodel the El Sombrero. Things that were promised to us, such as a shield and a competition, were never delivered. It has been redecorated so they did not want it, so it was tough communication.

Rianne: Have you asked during the survey why members think it is not our local pub? What if the problem is not the pub?

Daniël: Members had the option to say what they want, but nothing different from the normal answers.

Rianne: I think a local pub is somewhere that we are for quite a lot of time, and now we are maybe moving again.

Willem: I do not know why we were moved from bar-to-bar last year, but I think it is good to have a pub set and stone. Our local pub and for a while, so people will bond with it more.

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Daan: I would like to respond. Because we were passed around the Molenstraat a lot with the different pubs. It is part of last year's communication with Molenstraat. It was not good.

Daniël: Our general opinion is that switching there has been a mistake.

Rianne: I think you should put that in the report, an honest reflection.

Sven: Okay, but during the semi-annual you yourself said that Molenstraat may read the report and that we cannot go out and say bad things about them.

Willem: I think it has been a mismatch, the entire bar.

Anna: I think it should be in the survey as well, you have to know why people are not coming.

Sven: We had an open question where members could say exactly what they wanted, and they did not. How would you maybe rephrase the question then?

Anna: I think you can ask more questions about different things.

Daniel: Well I think that we asked, literally, what they wanted, and what they thought about, but the answers are very general.

Daan: It is also hard when only 33 members respond.

Sanni: I think that something like this can maybe be changed, and maybe find a more lowkey way to ask for opinions.

Daniël: We thought that borrels on a Tuesday is the Babylon thing, a tradition. That is why we did not really think of changing the day.

Sanni: Well, there is a new wind in Babylon, so maybe people are open for change.

Improving the professionalism of Babylon

Lloyd: Looking back at professional communication in general with for example the department went very well. We have had good contact with them about the trips, the career markets and all subsidies.

Babylon Room

Lloyd: Because of the TV and the Wii we have bought for the Babylon Room, more members have visited the room. A drawback might be that these were more the same people. Later in the year other members joined as well. Friend groups get together and could prevent other members from joining. People come there for the Wii, and they return, that could explain why the same members visit the room.

Daan: I think the main goal of remodelling was getting more members to the room, but maybe mainly the same members came back, that can explain why other people are not coming.

Lloyd: In our Policy Plan we stated that we would show stickerdeals and other announcements on the tv. Because we could not connect the Wi-Fi of the Radboud, we

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could not show this on the TV. It was mostly used for the Wii, so there were not a lot of opportunities to do this as well.

Willem: I think the Wii is an amazing upgrade. It is a great way of people to come together and bond before for example during an exam period or lectures. When the door is closed there might be a meeting, and that sometimes happens when the Wii is being used.

Zoë: I think the Wii has to stay. As a new member myself, when I became prospective board member that is when I started to feel welcome, before not really.

Coen: It is true that we should have opened the door more, but we have had people complain about the sound.

Improve and strengthen the image of Babylon

Lloyd: Because there was no Commissioner of External Affairs, I tried to take most of the tasks of this function. I have made some big mistakes this year, mainly by not completely fulfilling my tasks and by not asking my fellow board members for help.

Tom: Which stickerdeal did you lose?

Daniël: BoulesBitesBar, they changed their policies, so they do not do stickerdeals with any associations anymore.

SOFv and Leto

Lloyd: Coen and I went to all the GMM's, and I used Leto to organise the Career market.

Lecturers/professors

Lloyd: For the professors, we have given them presents during the day of the teacher. This was really appreciated by them.

Rianne: I have a question about sustainability, what did you do in this regard.

Sven: I believe we made an expense, and during the Semi-Annual it was discussed that we had not found anything to improve so far. That is when we put that budget into the unforeseen cost post, so it could still be used for that purpose but also for other purposes when it proved to be not necessary.

Rianne: You should have stated it in the report, not what was done last year.

Daniël: That was not the purpose of what we stated, we meant it more as a continuation of what was already made sustainable.

Chair

Lloyd: Looking back on leading and coordinating the board, I have had some troubles at the beginning of the meetings to remain focused. We then implemented a no-phone policy, and also implemented more breaks. This made sure that the meetings were more structured and were completed with more focus. With me leading the board meetings, I have chosen to lead the meetings cooperatively. I set the agenda, but we walk through the meeting together. We have always managed to keep each other updated through the board meetings.

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Anna: Have you always read the committee minutes?

Lloyd: Yes. There were either one or two instances that I was not able to be at the public speeches.

Committees

Lloyd: The Application committee speaks for itself. The Congress committee did not see a lot of sign-ups, but we still managed to organise a great Congress. The Career Committee was empty, and I took it on by myself. We organised the Career Market, which was received very well by us and by Career Service. Next year, this committee could be used better, because it has a script now. For the Almanac Committee, we have a list of ideas put down and next year these have to be worked out. For the Lustrum Committee, we have started preparing for the Lustrum. We have all participated in these last two Committees.

Secretary

Website

Sven: I have kept the website up to date as much as I could this year. There have been some struggles, as I have mentioned in previous General Member Meetings. Right now, the website is in a good state, and is ready for the Secretary of the 35th to take over.

WhatsApp

Sven: I have promoted most Babylon events two weeks prior to the activity via the WhatsApp announcement group. During the Semi-Annual GMM it got pointed out that this had to be done sharper than before, and I think that since then nearly all activities have been promoted in the group on time.

Facebook

Sven: Facebook, I have only used this year to distribute the invitations for the Constitution drinks. Daniël has used the Facebook to promote some vacancies as well. The results of the Annual Survey state that no members turn to Facebook in order to find information about Babylon activities, so I think that the way we use Facebook right now is sufficient.

Instagram

Sven: I have promoted all activities via Instagram this year. The Instagram page has been our main communication channel, although WhatsApp has proven to be very popular and effective when it comes down to promoting activities as well. Some things such as the vacancies and the Member of the Month we have only posted on Instagram.

House Style

Sven: Whilst using all these communication channels I have made sure to keep the house style of Babylon present. The well-known colours orange and blue have been used in all promotion materials, and in all official Babylon documents the font Verdana 10 has been used.

Extra

Sven: Something extra I have done this year is create a document for promoting an activity for the first time. In this document all social media channels are stated, and what to prepare and how to promote this with certain activities. I have created this because at the beginning of this year we sometimes struggled with this. With this document the mistakes we made can be prevented, and the future Secretary's will be better prepared.

Graphic Design Committee

Sven: Together with the Graphic Design Committee I have created most of Babylon's promotion materials. The committees had some problems with sending the design forms on time to the committee, so some of the promotion material had to be made by me or the coordinator himself.

We have also created two magazines this year: a mental health edition and a summer edition. The first edition came out in April, and the second edition is coming out soon, it has been sent to BladNL and will be out as soon as possible.

I have signed a new contract with BladNL. The contract entails that for the future, Babylon will be able to produce an average of two magazines per calendar year. We are very free in when we do that, so it means that if in one calendar year we create 3 and in one year only 1, we do not have to pay any extras. I have chosen for the cheapest contract option, and per definition it runs endlessly. The price is set for 5 years, and BladNL can only change the price after informing us a year prior. Daniël will later tell you more about the money part of the contract.

International Committee

Sven: This year again, the International Committee tried its best to organise amazing activities for internationals. At the start of the year, we went to the Efteling. This is probably the activity that included most internationals. After the Efteling we went on a trip to the Christmas market in Cologne, together with ESN. We also arranged an Ice-Skating Activity and had planned a day trip to Rotterdam. This unfortunately was called off, because no members had signed up. Hopefully next year this activity can take place.

Low turnout

Sven: The activities of the International Committee were visited well, but not always by internationals. We have promoted all activities in the international group chat, and always earlier than for the other members so they had an advantage for signing up. The members of the International Committee have tried their hardest to enthuse internationals, but with low success. I wish I knew what caused this low turnout, so that we could fix it.

Treasurer

Daniël: I would like to start with a statement. I have lost the USB-stick of the Treasurer. Luckily, there has been a backup on the hard drive from the 31st treasurer, and all treasurers after that still had some stuff on their laptop, so we should be fine.

Sanni: Is this not a bit of a privacy breach, when it is still on their laptop?

Daniël: I will ask them to remove this after they have given them to you.

Sam: Well then you would have some trouble right now would you not?

Final budget

Daniël: There has been some trouble last year, especially for the Study Trip. Everything you see here is in, except the El Sombrero money. Lloyd went after, but they never responded. We have sold three vacancies this year, two of them being the package B option. Sven however sold two advertisements for 60 euros, and I sold one for 65 euros. Maybe we could make a policy for that.

Rianne: Was it not stated that we would not post vacancies on Instagram anymore? Because it could get overcrowded.

Daniël: Maybe, but it was extra money, so I thought it would be okay?

Anna: Why did you not fix the USB-stick beforehand?

Daniël: I was busy and to be honest I forgot about it. I promise it will be fixed as soon as possible. Some of these expenses are still projected. The bags for Orientation Week are a safety net. These are the committee contributions, most of the leftover money is from there. Especially the Department money for the Career Market, we have not spent anything. All of this together we have saved about 1400 euros. The Prom was also cheaper because there was a miscommunication about some money. We also projected to have to pay for some Company visits, but this did not happen. There is also 200 euros left from the CIA, which is a combination of not getting decorations every time and maybe asking a bit too much entrance money.

Anna: Does the Radboud know about this?

Daniël: We have not notified them, and they did not ask about it.

Anna: Well, you have to justify this to the Department, so maybe discuss this.

Daniel: Yes, we have advised to do think about a new formal activity for this money.

Lloyd: This money was meant for the Career Market, but then Leto and Career Service presented it to the department and they paid it all. Next year this will probably change.

Sam: You have to send them the annual budget, so they can see for themselves, if they do not ask then I think it is no problem.

Daniël: The magazine contract is new, it will cost 1006 euros per magazine. The first AME was more expensive than expected, which we covered with the unforeseen costs post. The second AMA and AME combined worked out well. The gifts have been upped a bit, but that is because of inflation. A lot of budget for flowers was advised, but that did not cost as much as last year anymore. An important thing to notice, no merchandise sold in the second part of the year, which is strange. For the T-shirt contest, we promoted the prices lower than they turned out, and we did not sell enough shirts, so we will compensate this with other leftover money.

Sam: Did you think of a gift for committee challenges?

Daniël; Yes we have, it is right there in the budget. The unforeseen costs budgeted on 700 was a bit too much, we only used 416.87 euros. The income from the festival was used as a buffer for the StudyStore problem. When we found out about the StudyStore bankruptcy, we then went full money save mode. We did that so well that we 'earned money' .

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Pascal: Could you have foreseen that you would have saved money?

Daniël: I could have maybe seen it earlier in the year, but I did not notice

Rianne: It does cost money to change the bylaws, which will be obligated for some laws in a couple of years, so I would start saving money.

Anna: When is this happening, and is it really necessary?

Rianne: I don't know but I would start saving.

Daniël: I think we can make a savings account for this.

Sanni: Maybe with all the leftover money you could do this already

Daniël: That is a good point, I will look into this with Pascal. I have had a big issue with Conscribo that made it unavailable from November till February. I could not put the transactions in the right post anymore. It has been fixed now, and Pascal will work on keeping it up to date.

Vacancies

Daniël: As I said, we did not sell a whole lot, because we did not actively search for this because there was no Commissioner of External Affairs.

FC Babylon

Daniël: There were not a lot of members, so not trophy this year, but maybe next year we can promote this with the first years.

Willem: I think you should start promoting this during the Orientation week.

Daniël: We will advise the 35th board.

Study Trip Committee

Daniël: I was a lucky man this year, the committee worked very hard and was very alert and active during the trip as well. The communication with the Department went very well, so well, that they granted us a part of a subsidy that we should not have gotten. That money will go back to the members that joined the trip.

Prom Committee

Daniël: It went very well, also the communication with Postelein and De Waagh had no problems at all.

Commissioner of Internal Affairs

Coen: My main goal is to consolidate the link between Babylon and the Study programme. I have had a good relationship with the student advisors, and the OLC went well this year.

Book sales

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Coen: As you know StudyStore went bankrupt, and we had to switch to another supplier. We went to Smartbooks, and in my opinion this is way better than it was before. We get less provision, three percent instead of five, which we will have to live with this because this is their standard amount. However, it is much less work for the board to do in order to complete the books.

Education Committee and Committee of Informal Activities

Coen: Because of a lack of interest, these committees were combined. However, there were no problems whatsoever. We have had a Company visit in December that did not take place because of Christmas. The Family day we organised was received very well. For CIS In the field, we think that less speaker will be better, so we can arrange bigger groups.

Weekend Committee

Coen: The Weekend Committee worked together very nice. Some things were organised a bit late, but it turned out very well. It turned out more expensive than last year because of the more expensive transport and more expensive groceries.

Commissioner of External Affairs

Lloyd: For the function of External Affairs, we have put a photo of the entire board. This because the entire board has tried to keep up with the tasks of the External besides their normal tasks. Daan took most of the communication with the Molenstraat upon him mainly, because he already was in contact with them. We as a group have managed to be professional and up to standard with the communication to external parties, taking turns in communication with for example selling advertisements or vacancies, arranging them for congresses or organising company visits.

Rianne: Did not you just said that the communication with Stagemax went bad?

Lloyd: With StageMax it was maybe not really there on a professional level, but we strive that with all contact we are professional. This means mostly with emails and by going by in person.

Commissioner of Activities

Daan: As Commissioner of Activities I have mainly kept contact with the Molenstraat, and other companies related to my function. I was also responsible for organising activities for the Ragweek, but in the end we all took that upon us. The contact with Molenstraat had not too many difficulties in communication, but holding up to their part of the deal was a bit of a problem from their side sometimes. The feeling of local pub has been going away a bit. If we want to switch to another pub in the Molenstraat, we will have to put our activities in the agenda beforehand, in order to prevent problems and location changes from happening.

Organising activities for Stichting RAGweek

Daan: The activities we organised were received very well, especially the charity match. However, there were not a lot of spectator from Babylon. Maybe next year we can offer snacks or other extra things. The stand brought up 93,50 euros.

Rianne: Why did it not have the optimal turnout? Was it the timing as you stated in the report? How does this work?

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Daan: I will have to check that because that is not what I meant by that.

Committee of Informal Activities

Daan: This committee was very popular among first years. They were easy to work with, but not always all members were there, or they were leaving early. Me and the chair of the committee talked to them, after which it improved, but some members still did not listen. For next year I would recommend keep going on the same route, but maybe follow the script a bit better.

Sports Committee

Daan: This has been a bit difficult this year, because the members that joined the committee at the start did not know they had to join the Ski Trip as well. Only two members of the committee eventually joined the trip. Me and the chair had to approach the members personally in order to keep them involved with this. We also organised the Beach Games, which were received very well, and I would advise to repeat such an activity next year.

Publication Committee

Daan: I have to admit that I have dropped the ball in this committee a bit this year. I was not on top of my business, and I apologise to all members for that, especially to the Graphic Design Committee and Sven, who had to work hard during the exam period to finish the Magazine. Tom and Anna really stepped up and they put their foot down to make sure all went down smoothly in the end.

Orientation week Committee

Daan: We have been working hard to organise the week, but there are some problems with the members. Some are going away during the week to study abroad, so we had to get some more members, but we managed to do that and now we are going to make sure that the week will be amazing for everyone.

Daniël: We have already arranged some helping hands as well, from members that were open to help but were not available during the entire week.

Committee games

Daan: We have this year changed the name from the Crazy 100 to committee games. Certain committees are very driven for this, but some are not, and they forget the challenges exist. This results in a contest between two committees. We have tried to implement a crazy member in all committees, but it has not really helped. During the last borrel we will announce the winner. Next year it could use an upgrade or maybe more support.

Conclusion

Lloyd: In conclusion, we have tried to put in new ideas, for example the member script. We have kept our head cool during for instance the StudyStore problem, and in the end it turned out alright, unfortunately affecting our way of thinking about organising activities. Oth notable things is the career market with all other Arts associations, which is good for bonding. I would like to thank everyone here, the Advisory Board, the Till Committee, Active members and external parties. Thank you all for this amazing year, and I think that is our conclusion.

Statement of the Advisory Board

ChatGPT: The advisory board would like to say a few words. Only five members instead of six was a tough beginning for you, and it made you think in different ways. Higher workload and changing regulations made you think out of the box. We agree that everyone has had their ups and downs, but we have come to the conclusion that communication is the key of working together, and to be transparent and honest to your fellow board members and the advisory board. Moreover, we have seen some of you guys growing into your roles, which was nice to see, and you have made Babylon a saver, better and more open place. We have had our disagreements, but we hope to end the year on a positive note together, and we wish all your successors good luck in the next year.

Statement of the Till Committee

Sam: We as the Till Committee are very content with how Daniël has managed his tasks last year. When there were problems he responded quickly and has always been open and clear to us. Last Till meeting there were no problems found, and Daniël has been working hard to fix problems with Rabobank, Conscribo and kept Babylon financially stable.

Vote on Annual Report '22-'23

Total number of voters: 14 + 5 (34th board) (19 in total)

Vote in favour: 14

Vote against: 0

Blanc vote: 0

Withhold: 5

Hereby the Annual Report is accepted and voted in.

Introduction of thirty-fifth prospective board

Chair: Zoë Spoorenberg

Secretary: Tom Hetterscheid

Treasurer: Pascal Jansen

Commissioner of Internal Affairs: Marit Brummel

Commissioner of External Affairs: Lize Waeijen

Commissioner of Activities: Pien van der Heijden

Vote on thirty-fifth prospective board

Total number of voters: 8 + 11 (34th board + 35th prospective board) (19 in total)

Vote in favour: 8

Vote against: 0

Blanc vote: 0

Withhold: 5 + 6 (34th board + 35th prospective board)

Hereby the 35th board of Babylon has been voted in.

Resignation of thirty-fourth board & thirty-fifth board taking office

Speaker: Zoë Spoorenberg

Minute taker: Tom Hetterscheid

Present: Imke Janssen, Rianne Zwarts, Anna Bos, Sanni Granqvist, Sam Helmink, Nicos Katsavos, Julian van den Heuvel, Willem Sanders, Lloyd Hooghwinkel, Sven Drosten, Daniël Heijboer, Coen Esselink, Daan van Velzen, 35th board

Total number of people present: 19

Resignation of Till Committee '22-'23

The thirty-fourth board thanks the Till Committee for their contribution. The Till Committee has resigned.

Sam Helmink has left the General Member Meeting.

Introduction of Till Committee '23-'24

The candidates for the Till Committee of '23-'24 are Daniël Heijboer and Job Coehorst.

Vote on Till Committee '23-'24

Total number of voters: 11 + 6 (in total)

Vote in favour: 11

Vote against: 0

Blanc vote: 0

Withhold: 6 (35th board)

The Till Committee of '23-'24 will be Daniël Heijboer and Job Coehorst.

Resignation of Advisory Board '22-'23

The thirty-fourth board thanks the Advisory Board for their contribution.

Introduction candidates Advisory Board '23-'24

The candidates for the Advisory Board of '23-'24 are Job Coehorst, Sven Drosten, Coen Esselink, and Rianne Zwarts.

Vote on Advisory Board '23-'24

Total number of voters: 8

Sven Drosten: 7

Coen Esselink: 8

Job Coehorst: 8

Rianne Zwarts: 8

A minimal amount of 6 votes is necessary to be voted in for the Advisory Board of '23-'24. Therefore, the Advisory Board of '23-'24 will consist of Sven Drosten, Coen Esselink, Job Coehorst, and Rianne Zwarts.

Presentation Concept Policy '23-'24

Introduction

Zoë: The words we chose are trust, togetherness, and tact. We hope we can all come together after the COVID years. Tact was chosen because we want to be sensible about the choices we make.

Making Babylon a safe space

Protocols

Zoë: Protocols will be established to make sure that Babylon is a safe and comfortable environment for all members. Topics include discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct, drug use, and excessive intoxication among others. Furthermore, we will also acknowledge the position of power that board members hold.

Sven: I have an idea for topics to add. Maybe something like physical violence.

Zoë: Okay, thank you. We will definitely add it.

Anna: I have two questions. In the report I noticed that "Making Babylon a safe space" is 3.1, but in previous years we have always used the long-term goals as separate chapters for the short-term goals. In this one you only added as a chapter, so I was wondering why you did not add it as a long-term goal.

Tom: We were not aware of the fact that this is how it is always done. Because it is our main goal, we decided to make it a chapter, but we maybe should have made it a long-term goal as well.

Anna: You can arrange the long-term goals in terms of importance. This is something I recommend doing. I have another question relating to the Protocols. Why did you come up with this idea? Do you feel like there is a need for this?

Lize: We believe that there does not have to go anything wrong in order for there to be Protocols. They are for preventing and not solving.

Coen: I can add something. During the Confidential Contact Person training it was recommended that protocols are established. It makes it easier for board members of an association to step in when something goes wrong.

Anna: How will you make sure that discrimination will be maintained as a completely white board?

Zoë: We will ask people of colour for input and feedback for this.

Rianne: I think it is a very good idea. In a few years, the university will come up with a university-wide Code of Conduct for students. It is always good to be earlier than them because they tend to take a bit longer. You can look at other associations because they already have protocols. The argument of using the Orientation Week mentor does not really hold because mentors already sign a Code of Conduct agreement. I would simply use the argument that it is a good thing to have for an association instead of this one example of the Orientation Week.

Zoë: Thank you.

Confidential Contact Persons

The Confidential Contact Persons for this year will be Coen Esselink together with Marit Brummel.

Anna: Why did you choose a person from the thirty-fourth board, as this is usually two people from the same board. The only exception was last year, because Sanni is an international and they wanted to have an international Confidential Contact Person.

Zoë: First, because Coen already has experience with this.

Marit: We specifically wanted someone from outside of the thirty-fifth board. We want to have Confidential Contact Persons from both sexes. Furthermore, we value that a Confidential Contact Person holds the function for multiple years so members can get more familiar with them.

Sanni: Both Coen and I did a Confidential Contact Person training from the university, and they recommended to have Confidential Contact Persons from outside the board and Babylon was one of the only associations to only have board members. Babylon should maybe discuss in the future if it can have Confidential Contact Persons from completely outside of the board functions.

Rianne: I also did the training. They strongly advised against having board members as Confidential Contact Persons because of the positions of power. Suggest the next board that they have applications for members to become a Confidential Contact Persons and if not, they pick someone from the board.

Zoë: Thank you both. We will consider this.

Babylon room

Zoë: This year we heard at a LETO GMA that due to some circumstances on the 12th floor, we might have to share the Babylon Room with another association. It is not sure whether this will happen, but chances are high that we have to share with SVN or InTenS. The decision will be made at the next GMA in October.

Rianne: Do you want input for this GMA. I heard that there might be an option to take the InTenS room just for ourselves.

Pien: InTenS told us that their room is already tight with 4 board members. For us this is not a possibility because we have 6 board members, as well as the Wii and television and the Lunches. We prefer sharing.

Marit: If you have input, we would love to hear that.

Rianne: Do you know how many books SVN have? You would lose a lot of space in the Babylon Room. I would advise to talk to them first, because they have a ridiculous number of books.

Zoë: Thank you.

Anna: I was wondering how you guys are planning to approach this. Is there room to put your foot in the ground? Because we have always had the Babylon Room to ourselves because we are a big association.

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Lloyd: Might I add, I have tried putting my feet in the ground. The problem is that both Ouisí and SVN are uncomfortable with their current room. If there were only one association complaining this would not be a big issue, but many associations are unhappy with us having only one room. I tried not cooperating, but FSRL has the opportunity to take away our keys. As a future FSRL member I hope to be able to do something for Babylon in this regard.

Lize: I would like to comment. Zoë, Pien, and I were at the LETO GMA as well. We really tried to keep our Babylon Room for ourselves. Sadly, this is not possible for us.

Sven: I have a question for you.

Sanni: Are you changing the topic?

Sven: Yes.

Sanni: Can I say something first? Regarding sharing the tiny room with InTenS. Maybe some things can be rescheduled to have for example have the Lunches at different places, e.g., the Arts living room on the 2nd floor/the kitchen/classroom.

Rianne: You cannot reserve classrooms.

Sanni: Maybe the 2nd floor Arts living room. It is very cosy with big couches. Also, why does FSRL need a room on the 12th floor. Why do they have a room for themselves? Yes, they are a board, but they are not a study association.

Lloyd: LETO is already leaving the DVN room and sharing with the FSRL.

Rianne: So, LETO is getting a bigger room?

Lloyd: Yes, but also a shared room.

Rianne: LETO does not have office hours. So, they now get a bigger office to share with people who are almost never there. It is better to use that office space for association that are more frequently there.

Sanni: Why are FSRL and LETO not going into the InTenS room?

Lloyd: That is actually a very good idea.

Rianne: Right, because it does not make sense to have the smaller associations take up the larger rooms. I would suggest moving both to the current LETO room or the InTenS room. If they can take away our office, I am pretty sure we can try something the other way around.

Anna: Have you thought about the consequences of sharing the Wii?

Zoë: We have thought about taking away the controllers when we are not in the room. We want to make sure that it is happening that it is happening for sure before we think about matters like that.

Lloyd: GSV and GAG have a shared contract for their room sharing. I already have received that contract from them and have sent it to the board. It is better to set up a good contract first to build a solid relationship on top of that.

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Anna: Do not forget to put this part in the Policy Plan.

Zoe: Yes, we will. Thank you.

Sven: You state that there will be board and card games in the Babylon Room? What are your plans for this?

Anna: Is that not copied from every year?

Daan: We still have card games, but the poker set is missing.

Lize: I know for a fact that there are playing cards in the Babylon Room.

Sven: I was just wondering whether you would buy extra games.

Lize: We will not buy extra.

Anna: I want to add on Sven. It was probably copied from previous years. I recommend you scan through the Policy Plan to remove the empty sentences.

Rianne: To add on this, please scan the Policy Plan for American English use and change this to British English.

Zoë: Thank you. We will do this.

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

Bonding of members

Zoë: We will be organising a Committee Market in the second week of the academic year. For all Active Members we will organise two Active member evening and one Active Member activity.

3.2.2 Communication towards potential new members

In the upcoming Orientation Week all board members have a role in the week, either as mentor or committee member. We will all be recognisable. I, together with Lize, the Vice-Chair will hold a presentation for all the Orientation Week participants to tell them about Babylon.

Anna: Why the Chair and the Vice-Chair?

Zoë: Because we want to show more faces of board members, making us more recognisable.

Anna: And will you both be presenting?

Zoë: Yes, we will be.

Sven: In the Policy Plan, you say that you want to ask the mentors to promote Babylon. What is your plan? Will you be sending them a text? Will there be an information session?

Zoë: This will be communicated to them during the mentor lunch.

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Rianne: It is also important to share not only the 'drunk' stories of Babylon but also the other non-informal side of Babylon. Some students do not feel eager to join associations that do not have a formal side.

Zoë: Yes, we will be doing that.

Sanni: I have a question about the Babylon Information Kit. Are you going to explain that?

Zoë: Yes, but I wanted to answer the questions first.

Anna: I have a question that comes before the Babylon Information Kit. In the Policy Plan, it is stated that the thirty-fifth board will instruct mentors to tell participants to join the Announcements group chat. Potential non-members in the group chat will get a message from the Secretary regarding the issue. I was wondering what issue you mean with this.

Zoë: The issue of people joining the Announcements group chat without signing up as members.

Tom: Might I also add that in the Policy Plan it also says that we are planning to display these QR codes that lead to the Announcements group chat during the Orientation Week? The Orientation Week participants can scan those which could potentially lead to the issue.

Zoë: I was going say that. The QR codes will be displayed at the Orientation Week Meet-up. They can sign up as a member, join the Announcements group chat, and follow the Instagram page. The Babylon Information Kit will be shared with them here. It will be a document explaining what Babylon stands for, what it entails to be a Babylon member, what it entails to be an Active Member, etc. We will tell something about the Buddy System because we are planning on renewing this. There will be a link to the Members Script in the Kit as well.

Sanni: What is the difference between this and the Member Script? Would it not make more sense to make the Member Script a separate concept? It is a lot of reading that people might not do. Why make a new document?

Tom: In my own experience, during my own Orientation Week, when I came there the first day, I had no idea what Babylon or even a study association was. Our goal for the Babylon Information Kit is for it to be a brief overview of what the Orientation Week participants can expect. Combining it with the Member Script would make it very long and, in my opinion, overwhelming.

Daan: Commenting on Sanni's suggestion, adding it to the Member Script. Maybe it would be better to do it the other way around. An Information Kit says more than a Member Script.

Lize: If you combine the documents, it gets really long. If you add a link to the Member Script in the Information Kit, readers are free to take in as much information as they feel like.

Anna: Adding to Sanni's comment, is it an idea to combine this with Reels to showcase what Babylon is on the social media. Also maybe add an explanation on what a study association is and how it differs from a student association. Many internationals are not aware of the concept of a study association.

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Zoë: That is a great idea. Thank you very much!

Anna: I am not done yet! The Confidential Contact Persons are not named under the Babylon Information Kit, but this could also be named. When are you planning to make it? Because the Orientation Week is coming up.

Pien: During the summer break.

Anna: So, you would have it ready before the Orientation Week?

Zoë: Yes.

Anna: Why have you not started working on it now?

Zoë: Because we have been very busy writing our Policy Plan and preparing for this GMM.

Sanni: How will you make sure people read the Information Kit? How will you make it attractive for them to take in the information.

Marit: The important thing is to not only make it a big lap of text but making it creative and dynamic with images instead of just bullet points.

Imke: I can add to Marit. Because you called it a Kit, you can make it creative with colours or images that pop up or a mind map.

Rianne: Maybe you can make a YouTube video about it. There you can also include a link or QR code. I know the university has made one with my face on it. This can make it more attractive.

Pien: These are really great ideas. Because the idea is so fresh, maybe we should work on this throughout the year so it is ready for next year. Then we combine it with the idea for the Reels.

Rianne: I think it is good that you did not already start with this, because you still need approval of the GMM.

Strengthen the bond between international members and Babylon.

Zoë: Like previously mentioned, we want to continue the Buddy System. Last year, it was not used due to a lack of participation. We want to talk to international students personally and Dutch students to entice them to join. Of course, we will also enforce using English during all activities as much as possible to make internationals feel as included as possible.

Anna: In the Policy Plan, it states that you would help international members to read the statutes if they would be interested in doing so, but this has already been translated. Change this in your Policy Plan.

Communication tools

Zoë: We are of course using the website. The countdown to the borrel is not working and we will try to update this. Some things on the website are outdated information and we will make sure this is updated. As for Facebook, we want to post monthly breakdowns of activities.

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Imke: The Facebook is only used for Constitution drink activities and vacancies. I do not see the value of promoting Facebook for activities. It is a really long part in your Policy Plan so that should be shortened. New members do not have Facebook.

Zoë: We will definitely take this into consideration.

Rianne: In the part about the website, it says: "The banner with photos on the main page will consist of a suitable mix of photos of activities, information and/or other representative photos, whilst considering the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)". Photos with members at activities can only be available after log-in, else this is a breach of privacy. You need to think about that before you put someone's face on the website.

Pien: What about our faces?

Rianne: You could use your face, but you need to consider whether you want viewers to only see you as board.

Pien: Is it okay if members are asked for their permission?

Rianne: Yes, but they would have to agree of course.

Lize: Is it not the case that if the picture is taken on a phone in a public phone, you are free to use it?

Rianne: I think if you put people on the internet, I do not think you would want to do them. They are your members, so it is better to ask so they do not get upset with you.

Zoë: Okay, thank you. LinkedIn will be mostly used for external relations and relations to alumni because it has more of a professional atmosphere. Instagram will be used for promoting activities. We will also be doing the Abroad Rubric because we thought it was very fun and Tom saw that the Reels had lots of views and engagement.

Rianne: I read that you have a lot of plans for what you already want to do in the rest of the year in terms of promotion. Make sure you make a concept media planning, so you do not forget about it. You promise a lot in this policy, but make sure you make up for it.

Tom: I will admit that I am very ambitious. I am already working on a concept media planning for the entire year.

Anna: You mention the stylebook, have you already looked at the stylebook?

Tom: We have not, because it is on the USB stick.

Sven: Yes, it is on Tom's stick.

Anna: Nice that you know where to get it. You also claim you want to use Reels more frequently. Have you thought about when you want to use them?

Tom: The great thing about Reels is that they get lots of exposure, but also from accounts that do not follow Babylon. It is also mentioned in the Policy Plan that for activities that are also open for non-members, like a potential open party, we would use it. Furthermore, Reels tend to be more salient in people's Instagram algorithm, so we want to use them for things that deserve more attention like the applications for the next board, the reveal of the Study Trip location, etc.

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Rianne: One more thing to add to the WhatsApp Announcements group, is there a consistent plan for that? Last year it tended to be all over the place.

Tom: That is included in my media planning.

Sanni: I was also thinking about the Announcements group chat. We already have the monthly overviews on Instagram, but it would also be nice to get information in the WhatsApp announcements. Like maybe a weekly overview if that is not too much.

Tom: I personally was a fan of this idea, but my fellow board members thought this was too much.

Lize: We have discussed this and want to only do this during busy weeks because it may not always be worth it. In the beginning of the year we want to show a post on social media of the overview of all the bigger events throughout the year, like the Study Trip, Lustrum Week, etc.

Pien: There will be a monthly overview and in the busiest weeks there will be a weekly one as well.

Sanin: How will you define what is a busy week? Remember to stay consistent because board life gets very hard.

Pien: We agree on the monthly overview. We will discuss what we see as a busy week.

Rianne: How is a monthly overview different from the Babbel? That already is somewhat of a monthly update. Maybe you can share the Babbel via WhatsApp as well? Also, I would advise not doing the Dutch version anymore. It is so much more work, and everybody is perfectly fine doing it in English. Also, make less spelling mistakes.

Sanni: Side eye.

Sven: I would advise to keep using the Dutch version. Because this is a very easy thing to do, copy paste kind of work. It takes maybe two minutes. Also, some posts, mainly vacancies, you can only post on the Dutch one. This is reason enough to keep both versions. Also, since it is quite easy.

Lize: We have discussed this. We came to the conclusion to do both. Mainly, because Tom thinks he can handle that, and we trust him.

Rianne: You all have to do it. You all have to check it. You have to make sure that there are no spelling mistakes. That is very important because you send it out to your members. Make sure you put in the time. Two minutes to translate? I do not trust that.

Daniël: It really does not take that much time.

Daan: I want to come back to the weekly overview, because in a less busy week you can always send a text like: "this week there is no activity but there is still an activity next week."

Pien: I think a weekly update and many reminders can be regarded as overkill or even spam.

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Imke: What Rianne mentioned about the monthly update in the Babbel. It is a shame to see that not many people read the Babbel. Maybe you can promote the Babbel with the monthly overview, so more people read this.

Pien: How many times does the Babbel get opened?

Imke: it is not even one thirds of the e-mail that are opened. It is really sad.

Willem: Maybe you can promote it in the WhatsApp group as well.

Pascal: I think the Babbel often ends up in the spam folder so there is not a lot to do about that. Promoting it on Instagram is also a really great idea.

Sven: You can also mention that people check their spam folders as well.

Anna: What would be an argument to still do it if it is hardly read?

Lize: We think that the content that is in the Babbel is really nice and therefore we would like to continue the Babbel. Maybe with the tips of promoting the Babbel it would get more readers.

Anna: Maybe this year look into if it is worth it and put it in your Annual Survey.

Sanni: Look if it pays off this year, and maybe post the Babbel on Instagram. Write the stories shorter and put it in a carousel with lots of pictures. If there is not enough exposure, maybe axe the Babbel.

Sven: This could be included in the picture recap of last month, which I believe they also wanted to do.

Zoë: Thank you very much for your suggestions.

Rianne: What if you make a blog on the website?

Anna: This has been tried before and it did not really take off.

Rianne: I think the clicks to the website went up in our year because of it.

Anna: What if you make monthly Reels for it? That would be cool and hip.

Rianne: You would have to ask members for consent.

Anna: Try this out and see how it goes.

Sven: Try a lot of things out and see how it goes. The way things are done now is not working out.

Rianne: Be consistent. Decide on one thing to try and if it does not work stick with it until the next survey. Otherwise people get really confused about Babylon's socials.

Zoë: Thank you all. Moving on to the rest of the Communication tools. We have decided on three groups: the First Years group, the internationals group, and the Active Members group. The Babylon Magazine will have two editions: one Lustrum edition that will come out towards the end of February and one summer edition.

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Anna: What makes the Lustrum edition a Lustrum edition?

Tom: The idea that we have for the Lustrum edition is that it is released before the Lustrum Week. It is basically to create some anticipation. It is extra promotion, but it works the other way around. Because it is the Lustrum edition maybe more people will read it.

Anna: Is that not what the Almanac is for?

Tom: Yes, but the Almanac is more of a recap of the past five years and the Babylon Magazine Lustrum edition will be more similar in content to what the magazine usually puts out.

Zoë: We will still be doing the lecture talks at the beginning of the year to introduce ourselves to the new members.

Pre-masters and masters

Zoë: The university will organise a Master Welcome Day where we will participate. In addition, we will be organising a pre-master activity. We have not decided on what that will be yet.

Recruitment of the new board.

Zoë: We will start the application process in February 2024. We will have a Board Interest Lunch and an Open Board Meeting. The application has to be sent in by 18 March.

Rianne: Comment from Quirijn. Please make sure the Application Committee is honest, fair, and open to all members. Otherwise, the committee has no use.

Anna: What does this mean?

Rianne: Last year the procedure was not followed as usual. Make sure that by that time you know how the procedure works.

Tom: May I ask what went wrong?

Rianne: Last year's board simply asked people instead of being able to apply. There should be one former board member, two people from the Advisory Board, the Chair and Vice-chair. Open position you should be able to apply for.

Anna: I do not think it is exactly wrong, it is just how you add your twist. We did this as well in our year.

Rianne: We also did it wrong.

Anna: Look into the statutes to see how this is written down.

Sven: We asked an experienced board member because they have already taken part in the application process in the recruiter seat.

(Contributing) graduates and alumni

Zoë: We want to make sure to remain in contact with these people by doing personalised birthday e-mails and by keeping up contact via LinkedIn.

Merchandise

Zoë: We will be releasing Lustrum merchandise in collaboration with the Lustrum Committee. It is not sure what kind of plans they have right now, but we would like to bring out a hoodie and t-shirts.

Anna: This is underwhelming to me because this has been done in previous years. Look at something more creative, like a tracksuit. I have been wanting to do sweatpants for years. You say there is caps and socks in the merchandise, but this should be removed because it is no longer in stock.

Lize: I have looked into the caps and socks thing. The former board said there were still a few left. We want to keep it in sale on a "while supplies last"-basis. Your other questions about the Lustrum merchandise, this will be done mostly by the Lustrum Committee. They have decided to go for a hoodie and t-shirt.

Rianne: There goes the surprise!

Anna: This was already in the Policy Plan.

Lize: We do think this is a good idea because it sold very well.

Anna: If a t-shirt has sold very well in previous years, that means that people already have a t-shirt and probably would not buy it again. I think for a Lustrum year, we can ask of you guys to be more creative than this.

Rianne: I am just wondering why you are going with separate merchandise from the Lustrum merchandise. I do not think it is visible enough in your policy that this is a Lustrum year. There is no chapter about it in the Policy Plan. It is big and huge. This year is not a regular year, but it is written like it is a regular year, but just with two more committees.

Tom: We were looking into this when writing our Policy Plan. We did so by looking at Policy Plans from previous Lustra. In those Policy Plans the word Lustrum was only mentioned a handful of times and there were no special chapters dedicated to them. This is why we decided to not make it such a big deal in the Policy Plan. However, it is of course a big deal to us, and we take it very seriously.

Lize: We do not want to bring out extra merchandise besides the Lustrum merchandise.

Rianne: You should then rewrite the Policy Plan because it does say that that is your intention.

Zoë: Thank you, we will take this into consideration.

Anna: Have you thought about the big plans to make it a big year? How will you spend the money? You have 5000 euros extra to spend.

Zoe: It is mostly up to the Lustrum Committee how they will spend the money. The big activities in the week are decided by the committee.

Rianne: As the treasurer of the Lustrum Committee, I can assure you this will be fine.

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Daniël: Not the whole budget will be going to the Lustrum Committee.

Rianne: This is not what I meant. The whole budget will go into the Lustrum not necessarily the committee.

Daniël: You made it sound like the entire 5000 euros would go into the committee.

Babybreak

Zoë: This is a new casual activity that we came up with. It happens 6 times a year. It is usually after class making it easy for people to participate. It will be low-key. Some of them will be on a terrace, or a picnic. It is just for the members to casually connect besides being in a loud pub.

Rianne: I like the idea but take into account that while using a QR code your banking costs increase enormously. Use iZettle for this. That way, you only pay a percentage you sell instead of transactional costs which is better when selling smaller amounts of things.

Anna: I also like the idea for the members who do not like going out. Have you thought about when they were planned? Why six times a year?

Zoë: We thought monthly was too much and quarterly was too little. This is why we settled on six.

Pien: Also, because there are quite a few months when it is simply overkill to have this activity. This is why we came up with six times.

Anna: Look into painting as an activity.

Zoë: That is a great idea, thank you!

Daan: I would advise doing the Babybreak after each exam period, because then people are most willing to come.

Lize: We have discussed this and want to do a Babybreak during an exam period because there are no activities. This will serve as a little break from studying and see their Babylon friends again.

Daniël: If you want to do this you have to be careful with the promotion. I do not think it is allowed to plan anything during the exam week.

Willem: I really like the idea. Just a small thing, I read it as Baby-Break, so I thought it had English pronunciation. Maybe consider the name Baby lounge.

Lize: I think it is a general struggle with our association name.

Zoë: Thank you all.

Strengthen the bond between the association and external relations

Keeping in touch with sponsors

Zoë: We want to have good communication with sponsors and posting about them regularly on social media.

Recruiting new sponsors

Zoë: Obviously, we have lost our main sponsor this year and we will be actively looking for a new main sponsor. Furthermore, the Commissioner of External Affairs will provide sponsor training for sponsor members.

Anna: Have you already been looking into sponsors, Lize?

Lize: Since I was not a board member yet, I was not allowed to contact anyone yet, but we have a list of companies to reach out to.

Anna: Do not underestimate this. In the Policy Plan it says the twenty-sixth board has a document for Contributing graduates?

Coen: It is on the stick of the Commissioner of Internal Affairs, and it is up to date.

Strengthen bonds with (sister) associations

We will be at as much Constitution drinks as possible. We hope to attend as many in different cities as possible, but we value Nijmegen associations more. We will also have a BaMyPo, Inglorious and hopefully the Batavierenrace. We also want to make a connection with Ruis.

Rianne: Good luck with that.

Marit: My best friend is the Prospective Chair of Ruis, so communication-wise this will be settled.

Rianne: How are you going to make sure that the Batavierenrace will have the necessary number of attendants.

Lize: Last year there were no participants because we were on Study Trip. Sadly, we cannot easily move the Study trip because we are tied to the May holidays.

Pien: It was not possible to find when the Batavierenrace will take place. Since we do not know it for sure yet.

Rianne: Is there one person that takes responsibility for this?

Lize: It is part of the Sports Committee.

Daan: I was wondering if you are going to try to set up a team with people that are not going to the Study Trip?

Pien: We can set this in motion when the dates of the Batavierenrace are published.

Anna: I have a question about the sister associations. Who is organising the Sister's Day and who is organising the NDC?

Zoë: We do not know.

Sven: The sister's day, I do not know this. As for the NDC, it is not up to Babylon to organise it this year.

Anna: It is supposed to be on Zoë's stick, the contract with the schedule.

Sanni: A word of advice. Take care of each other during the CoBo season. Listen to your body and take a day off if needed. It is heavier than you would think but don't forget to enjoy it.

Zoë: Thank you.

Business gifts

Zoë: There are still enough business gifts left from previous years. For bigger events, we will buy flowers or small plants for our external partners.

Anna: I think it is a bit too easy to use our business gifts. The chance of people receiving the present twice is relatively high. You can be a bit more creative. If there are grow papers left, use them for the bags.

Zoë: We will take this into consideration. I personally think it is more sustainable to re-use them. If we give different gifts, some new budget will have to be made free for this.

Lize: This is why we also have a small budget for business gifts for companies that have already received our presents or companies that do a large favour for us.

Rianne: I think it is very nice to keep re-using them. It cost money a few years back but not anymore. A small plant is better than using flowers as it is more sustainable. I want to stress to you to watch your wording: "In addition to the grow paper and the notebook, the thirty-fifth board will consider giving high-profile speakers at bigger events a slightly gift." This suggests that the other gift is not meaningful. I would re-word this in the case an external party reads this and gets the impression that they are somehow deserving of a "less meaningful" gift.

Zoë: Thank you.

Anna: In previous years there has been budget for business gifts. If you want to be sustainable you can use the grow papers for gift bags.

Sanni: You can maybe use the grow papers as a present for a quiz winners.

Zoë: Thank you, we will take this into consideration.

Local pub

Zoë: We have been in El Sombrero for the past year but we actually were not there a lot of times. As was stated in the Annual Report, we switched a lot between pubs. We had a conversation about this earlier. We want to go to a pub that can provide us with an actual local pub feeling. We feel like a lot of Borrels at the Molenstraat have not been received very well. Attendance was low and the atmosphere was sometimes quite off. This is why we have decided that we want to move to Tappers. The Borrels that have previously been held there have been very well received. It has a local pub feeling with a Babylon sign that will be in the pub at all times. This will make sure that a feeling of recognition exists between members. We will change the time of the borrel to 9.30 pm because people tend to come later, and the board and the Committee of Informal Activities are only present for a large part of the Borrel.

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Pien: Something to add for changing the starting time. For the first hour, most people will not really join. Tappers offered us to give beer, soft drinks, and wine for 1 euro for the first hour. In Molenstraat it would simply be 50 free drinks, a large part of which is usually consumed by the board and Committee of Informal Activities. We expect that this will make people join the Borrels more.

Zoë: They also offer soft drinks for 1 euro, so this is also beneficial for people who wish to not drink alcoholic drinks.

Rianne: I do not see why this justifies the later starting time. But if you guys want to start later, you totally should. Have you discussed with Tappers if the Borrels are Babylon-exclusive.

Pien: Tappers has told us that having the Borrel as Babylon-only is an opportunity but not for the entire evening. So, it would be from our starting point to 11.00 pm for example. If the borrel is open to outsiders, Tappers will provide us with wristbands/stickers/stamps to make sure that we as Babylonians are recognisable to bar staff. There tend to not be a lot of people in pubs before 11.00 pm anyway.

Anna: When we were at Molenstraat, people could simply walk in. Have you talked about the fact that there are no other study associations that have planned a Borrel there on the same day?

Pien: The contact person from Tappers and I are still in discussion about this. As soon as I have given him the dates, we will look into this.

Anna: I would be careful. He told us that we get Babylon-exclusive Borrels, but this did not happen.

Pien: This is something that we want to have implemented into the contract so if they break it there are consequences on their part.

Anna: That is a good part. You also say that: "Seeing as [a Babylon sign] has never been done before, members are sure to feel a whole new level of recognition and excitement." At Malle Babbe, there was also a Babylon sign.

Lize: If that is true, we should change it in the Policy Plan. We hear from older members that they really liked the time when Malle Babbe was our local pub and would go to the pub when there were no Borrels. We think that at Tappers we can regain that feeling. The sign at Tappers would be an aspect of it.

Anna: Nice. It was just the wording that was bothering me.

Pien: I would like to add that Molenstraat has also offered to give us such a sign, but it would only be displayed during Borrels; at Tappers it will be there always.

Anna: Is there a possibility to go to the Bieb?

Lize: Yes, there is. Molenstraat cannot offer us one and the same pub, namely the Bieb and Bar 2. We do not like this feeling because we want one local pub and not multiple.

Anna: Why Tappers and not RUIG?

Daan: It could be either, but RUIG is not normally opened at a Tuesday which is the day we normally have Borrels.

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Lize: I would like to add that Tappers has a lot of small games you could play like beer pong or the crocodile game. In the beginning of Borrels when people are a bit awkward this can break the ice.

Rianne: You mentioned that there are two options. You have it until 11.00 pm or people can just walk in. In the Annual Survey people said they missed recognition. I would really consider that, but in the end, it is up to you. What is the difference in the contract money-wise?

Pien: For recognition, I have asked the contact person for Tappers we can have some kind of recognition. For an open Borrel this would be a wristband or a stamp. Contract-wise, sponsor money will be 1800 euros from Tappers/RUIG with 50 euros extra for each Lustrum activity. When we do a Lustrum activity and end with casual drinks at Tappers, we receive 50 euros.

Rianne: And in terms of materials?

Daniël: Is there a cap on the 50 euros?

Pien: No. As for the materials, Orientation Week shirts are covered.

Contract breakdown	Tappers/RUIG	Molenstraat
Sponsoring	1800 euros + additional 50 euros for each Lustrum activity	2000 euros
Orientation Week clothing	Fully sponsored	Fully sponsored
Orientation Week bags	Print and tax	Fully sponsored
Drink deal	First hour: beer/soda/wine for 1 euro	50 free beer/soda
Ski Trip sweaters	Fully sponsored	Not applicable
Study Trip sweaters	50% sponsored + tax	Not applicable
Babylon sign in pub	Fully sponsored and always displayed	Fully sponsored but only displayed at the Bieb during Babylon activities
Meter competition	Possibility for an internal Babylon competition with 250 euros reward for winner	Optional
Lustrum Merchandise	Print and tax	Print with Molenstraat logo
Beer price	2,20 euro	1,80 euro
Soda price	50 cent discounts on current price	1,80 euro
Wine price	3 euro	3 euro

Lize: I would like to add a small thing. The bags for the Orientation Week will cost us only 60 euros, so it is cheaper than you may think.

Sven: What are the beer prices at Tappers.

Sanni Granqvist authorises Anna Bos to vote. The Quorum remains the same.

Sanni Granqvist has left the General Member Meeting.

Rianne: Do they still offer the free kegs.

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Pien: Molenstraat offers four kegs. As with Tappers this is still on the table. I expect our contact person to be in agreement with this.

Coen: What are the contracted activities?

Pien: Only the Borrels. BaMyPo and Inglorious are on a separate contract. Nothing is stated about the Lustrum activities.

Sven: Molenstraat only does 50 euro for every borrel and Tappers 50 euro for every Lustrum activity?

Pien: Yes. Molenstraat will also not sponsor the Ski and Study Trip sweaters.

Willem: I think it is very valuable to have a local pub. To identify with this with a sign on the wall I think it is a good idea, especially during the Orientation Week. They have big projector screens at Tappers that you can use for that. If you have other activities like the Music Bingo, could that also be at Tappers?

Pien: Yes, this could be possible. In the contract it states that every activity we want to organise, we have to look at their availability.

Lize: Also, in the contract of Molenstraat it is stated that when we sign the contract, we cannot have any other activities at Tappers or any other pub in Nijmegen. They would have a monopoly on us.

Pien: At Tappers this is not a problem, because you can have every activity in the same bar. We really like that everything can be at the same pub.

Rianne: What about the BBQ Borrel? Is that still a thing at Tappers?

Pien: It is not off the table. Daan, what can you tell us about this?

Daan: Tappers said they are positive about this; possibilities could be a BBQ in front of Tappers. The owner of Tappers also has Steven which could be used. It is not sure if it would be free or 5 euros for members.

Anna: I read something about the meter competition. I am not a fan of this because it promotes alcoholism. What will you do to prevent members' excessive alcohol competition and how does this fit with the professionalism of Babylon?

Lize: Members have to sign in to be a part of the competition. This makes sure that people do not feel peer pressure.

Anna: How do you promote that they do not go over their boundaries?

Daan: People should maybe be disqualified when things go out of hand? Maybe this can be stated in the beginning of the competition.

Anna: Maybe a maximum number of beers?

Pien: We will keep an eye on everyone, and an extra eye on those who are excelling in the competition.

Sven: This can be included in your Protocols.

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Tom: We also want to stress that members who have joined the competition are free to step down at any moment, so they do not have to keep drinking.

Improving the professionalism of Babylon

Professional communication

Zoë: Babylon will communicate clearly and punctually internally and externally. For the committees, the Chair will read all the minutes to ensure cooperation with the house style and the professionalism is in check.

Privacy

Zoë: The Secretary will be responsible for this.

Anna: Why is it the Secretary? Should it not be the Commissioner of External Affairs?

Lize: In other Policy Plans it was also the Secretary who handled the privacy. Tom and I discussed this and agreed that it was best for Tom to do it since he handles social media and privacy is the most important there.

Anna: Why is improving the professionalism the last goal? Maybe change the order.

Zoë: Thank you. We will take this into consideration. There is a safe and external hard drive for storing confidential documents. There will be no personal details on this to ensure privacy of all members.

Clothing

Zoë: It is important for the board to be professional and accessible so we will be wearing our suits to General Member Meetings and Constitution Drinks.

Rianne: I will give you the same comment as Lloyd. Namely, that you should not be telling us everything that is in your Policy Plan.

Sven: Just tell us when you will do something different from last year and we will give comments or ask questions.

Zoë: Alright, moving on

Business cards

Zoë: We will not use these as these have not been used and are not very sustainable.

Improve and strengthen the image of Babylon

Potential and current sponsors

Zoë: Potential and current sponsors will be kept up to date in person instead of calling or e-mailing.

Members and other students

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Zoë: Members and other students should feel safe and welcome. Therefore, we have a big goal for the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. We will make sure to always be open to feedback from members.

Lecturers/professors CIS

Zoë: A positive image for Babylon is very important. We will continue these relations by organising the Pub Quiz.

Sustainability

Zoë: We have decided to implement sustainable generic Borrel decorations. These could be hung up at every Borrel if we choose to go for Tappers, else this is not possible.

Rianne: Why is this not possible?

Lize: Because Tappers has a lot of storage for this, and the bar staff will help us with this. Molenstraat does not have the storage for this and do not want us to hang stuff on the walls. They were displeased with hanging balloon tape on the walls.

Daniël: Make sure to use the budget from the Department for this.

Rianne: Maybe you can consider having a little bit smaller Committee of Informal Affairs, because you have less preparations.

Pien: Maybe we can just appoint the CIA members to come earlier. This is something we need to look into.

Julian Heuvel authorised Daniël Heijboer to vote.

Julian Heuvel has left the General Member Meeting. This does not change the Quorum.

Chair

Zoë: I will be the Chair this year.

Supervise committees

Zoë: I will be reading all the committees' minutes to make sure I am up to date on what is going on within the association.

Leading the board

Zoë: I will lead the board through board meetings and General Member Meetings and make sure everyone is doing their tasks sufficiently

Image

Zoë: I will make sure the image of Babylon is carried properly.

Application Committee

Zoë: I will lead the Application Committee and make sure we find a new board.

Lustrum Committee

Zoë: I will Co-coordinate the Lustrum Committee together with the Commissioner of Activities.

Sports Committee

Zoë: I will coordinate the Sports Committee.

Anna: I would really advise not to have the Sports Committee. You have a very large workload, especially with the Lustrum. I would advise giving it to the Commissioner of Activities. The Chair tends to have less committees and the Commissioner of Activities has more. Sanni is in agreement with me.

Zoë: We will take that into consideration. The Ski Trip will take place on the 27 January to 3 February.

Willem: Is that not carnaval?

Daniël: No that is a week later.

Secretary

Member file

As in previous years, the member file will be organized in Conscribo.

Social media

The Instagram, Facebook, and website are my responsibility as Secretary. The website will be updated by me when necessary to ensure that the most relevant news surrounding Babylon can be found by interested parties. In order to properly inform members of all the activities coming up next year, an Annual Overview of activities will be shown on the website so that members can already plan ahead to make sure they are free for larger activities such as the Study Trip, Ski Trip etc. This overview will consist of activities of which the dates are mostly set in stone. Of course, it will also feature a disclaimer that says that dates are still subject to change. On our social media channels, I will update members about upcoming activities and everything Babylon-related. Instagram will be the main communication channel used, as was done in previous years. I will make use of the stylebook maintained by my predecessors.

E-mail

As for the e-mail addresses, I have noticed that the passwords that are used are still the same as they were when the thirty-first board was in charge of Babylon. In the interest of privacy and the security of our data I will update the passwords to make sure only those who should be accessing the Babylon e-mails are able to do so.

Graphic Design Committee

I will be the Coordinator of the Graphic Design Committee in the upcoming year. I have quite a bit of experience with Photoshop and InDesign already but will still be taking the workshops by SOFv. I will pass on this knowledge to my committee members. Furthermore, last year the Graphic Design Committee was not used enough, which led to board members having to make social media posts for their committees themselves quite last minute. In order to prevent this from happening, me and my fellow board members are committed to using the Graphic Design Committee in a sufficient way.

Publication Committee

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I will be the Coordinator of the Publication Committee in the upcoming year. I am planning on releasing a Lustrum edition of the BM in anticipation of the Lustrum Week.

Almanac Committee

I will be the Coordinator of the Almanac Committee in the upcoming year. This year, the committee has already done some brainstorming work, but the Almanac will be realized in the upcoming year.

Anna: I love these board pictures. You all look so good.

Tom: Purr yeah, big slay.

Treasurer

Raising contribution

Pascal: I will increase the contribution due to inflation. This was advised to me by previous Treasurers. The new contribution will be set at 16 euros. With this new contribution, we will be able to reach our goals better.

Rianne: This should not be in the Treasurer part as it is something from your policy as a whole board. I think 2 euros is bit excessive because it is higher than a 10% inflation rate. Daniël has mentioned that we have a lot of money left because everything was cheaper. So why would we have to pay 2 euro extra?

Daniël: I did not say everything was cheaper, this is simply because we had been in money-saving mode. The things like the Career Market and Congress that were paid for us were completely a surprise to us. Before the Studystore bankruptcy we already had struggles financially. Sam and the 34th Treasurer agree with me, in order to have more fun activities the 2 euros is a very viable choice.

Anna: Why 16 euros instead of 15 euros?

Daniël: Because 1 euro extra is simply not sufficient.

Rianne: It feels like you don't have a main sponsor, so you want to raise the contribution.

Pascal: This is not our intention. Inflation is a long-term thing. The money Daniël saved is a short-term thing.

Anna: There is still 1900 euros left form the budget of the 34th board. You still have that as a buffer.

Pascal: Even last year, there were a lot of talks about raising the contribution. Therefore, it makes a lot of sense.

Rianne: You are just saying it makes sense and not why. I am not seeing what 800 euros is adding to your budget.

Lize: The main sponsor has nothing to do with this.

Tom: If it makes you trust that we are not doing this because of the main sponsor, we were already planning to raise the contribution before we were made aware of the fact, we no longer had a main sponsor.

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Rianne: But is it what Babylon really needs? Last year, we had the same thing where money was just randomly added to committees in the budget without an explanation of why the committees need this.

Pascal: We felt for example that the Weekend has been more expensive, as well as Active Member Activities and Evenings have become more expensive as well.

Rianne: This raises a question for me? Do all Babylon members have to pay 2 euros extra for the select people to the smaller things. You have to think for the greater good and all Babylonians.

Daan: Of course, not every Babylon member goes on a Weekend, but every Babylon member gets the opportunity to go.

Rianne: You already have the 1900 euros buffer and the 5000 euros extra for the Lustrum year.

Daniël: But raising contribution is also for the years after that.

Rianne: But then why raise it now and not just next year?

Anna: I agree with Rianne, it is not for the greater good. Why not make the members pay more for their specific activity to make sure that not all members have to pay extra.

Pascal: It is also the costs of the whole association is rising.

Lize: The Weekend is just an example. The price has not gone up in quite a few years. This is how we justified it.

Rianne: It just feels like a random number.

Lize: What if Pascal makes a nice scheme with a breakdown for the different contributions with explanations for the Financial GMM.

Anna: Yes, but also look at other option to keep the contribution the same way but still getting to use more money.

Willem: I think if you pay 2 euros extra and you scatter it over a lot of extra activities it is not worth it to me. 2 euros is not that much and if you make everything across the board a bit cheaper, everyone will profit.

Rianne: I just want to see two different budgets: one with the extra money and one without. What exactly will be the difference between the two budgets. You already have the Lustrum budget and 2400 euros extra. Also, if you find a main sponsor you will have a way too large amount of money.

Pascal: it is also true that the extra 800 euros are not necessarily invested into certain places.

Anna: Is this then for this year or next year? Does this have to be voted in during the Financial GMM? On what basis can we vote it in if it is not clear what you will use it for?

Coen: Should we move the vote to the Financial GMM?

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Rianne: It cannot be done at the Financial GMM, because then there would be unclarity about which budget to vote in.

Anna: Will you be raising the contribution this year or next year?

Pien: It will be voted on today.

Anna: On what basis can we vote it in today if it is not clear what you will use it for. You cannot approve this because you do not know what to do with it.

Coen: So, it is moved to the Financial GMM.

Anna: No. It is a part of your Policy Plan. Therefore, your Policy Plan cannot be approved. You have to have a Continuation GMM.

Daan: I agree. You cannot vote this in when you do not know what to do with the money.

Tom: So, what you propose is that we take the contribution part out of the Policy Plan and postpone it to the Financial GMM?

Rianne: No. It is too substantial to do that.

Daan: The choice right now is holding a Continuation GMM or not voting on it right now and doing it next year.

Rianne: When is the contribution paid.

Daniël: November.

Rianne: Then we can vote on this at the Financial GMM. It has to be clear for members what they are paying for way before they sign up.

Sven: They get an email.

Rianne: For the Financial GMM, you have to write a statement about why you need the contribution.

Anna: No, during the Financial GMM you vote on the budget and during the Switch GMM you vote on the policy. This is a part of the policy so you cannot postpone it to the Financial GMM. In my opinion, you cannot approve it.

Tom: If it does happen that we have to adjourn this meeting, we can come up with a better reasoning for this.

Rianne: You are right. This meeting has to be adjourned. We cannot rush through Pascal, Marit, Lize, and Pien's personal parts. Everyone needs to be able to ask all of their questions.

Nicos: I work in five hours. I am here for this cute board, but I have to leave.

Lize: If there needs to be a Continuation GMM, a vote probably has to be done on the Local pub. That contract needs to be signed sooner rather than later.

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Rianne: So, we will move the discussion to the Tappers/RUIG discussion. The rest will be discussed in a Continuation GMM.

Anna: So, the Policy Plan cannot be approved.

Tom: Nicos wants to leave but he has been authorised by someone.

Nicos: Can I give my two votes to Coen? I really need to leave.

Tom: Does that work or does the authorisation of Esmee just fall off.

Coen: We can also just vote right now if we do it quickly.

Rianne: With all the authorisations and double authorisations this has become a mess. Let us just vote with the people present.

Lize: If we vote now Sanni and Julian cannot vote, even though they were promised they could.

Pien: We need to vote now in regard to the local pub due to the Orientation Week coming up.

Zoë: Are there any questions?

Anna: No, but the board pictures once again are incredible.

Nicos: Slay.

Pien: I look like an Oompa Loompa.

Statements

Rianne: I will vote in favour, but only on the condition that they do not double-book a Borrel.

Daan: I will vote in favour. Of course, I am biased due to working at RUIG. But I also think this is coming from my Babylon-personality and not my RUIG-personality.

Sven: I want to say something about this whole thing went down. It has not been an easy ride. With the presenting of how this has gone down. You have not explained this well enough. You should have presented a comparison of the advantages of both pubs and really compare and contrast. The information you presented was messy and visual. Nevertheless, I will vote for Tappers.

Vote on local pub

Total number of voters: 11 + 6 (17 in total)

Vote in favour: 11

Vote against: 0

Blanc vote: 0

Withhold: 6 (35th board)

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The local pub plan has received 100% of the votes. The local pub plan has therefore been accepted.

Anna: It is a good idea for you all to read the Statutes and House Regulations. The way this meeting has gone down with the adjournment and authorisations is just not the way to go. Since COVID-19 we have not been following these documents like we used to.

The Switch General Member Meeting has been adjourned at 00.29 am.

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Zoë reconvenes the Switch General Member Meeting on 14 September 2023 at 4.13 pm.

Speaker: Zoë Spoorenberg

Minute taker: Tom Hetterscheid

Present: Rianne Zwarts, Sven Drostén, Daniël Heijboer, Coen Esselink, 35th board

Total number of people present: 11

Sven: Why did you decide to continue the GMM while some of the members still have lectures?

Zoë: Because we did not really know how long it would take and we wanted to have it at the university. I just wanted to make sure a repetition of last time would not happen so that we would not have a continuation of the continuation.

Sven: But the university is open until 10.00 pm. Next time, 5.30 pm would be a better time to start.

Zoë: I agree, thank you. Then I would like to invite Pascal.

Treasurer

Pascal: I am Pascal Jansen, the Treasurer of Babylon. The inflation has affected all prices and expenses. These need to be covered by our income, and if the contribution, which is normally a third of our entire income, does not increase accordingly, it will be very difficult to remain financially stable. Previous Treasurers noticed that with the same budget, it became increasingly more difficult to finance all activities. They have therefore recommended me to increase the contribution to 16 euros. So, why 16 euros exactly? I have looked into the archives and found that since the year 2003-2004 or earlier, the contribution remained these 14 euros. Now, I am all for keeping traditions, but using the Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics, this contribution would now be equal to 20,63 euros. We fear that a contribution increase to 17 euros or higher would scare away potential members, so an increase of more than 2 euros (14%), would lead to members stopping their subscription, especially alumni that have had to pay only 14 euros for years.

These are our most notable expenses which would differ according to the exact contribution. I admit that because of rounding off, it was difficult to divide all the money in a clear and sensible manner. This also led to the weird contribution to the Prom Committee.

Rianne: Why did you decide that if you have 14 euros and 16 euros, the Prom Committee gets the same, but when you have 15 euros they get more?

Pascal: Like I said, this was a mistake. I will change it. If the contribution increases, the extra money will be added to these posts. These differences in the budget are in our opinion worth increasing the contribution. In our opinion 16 euros is the best because

Babylon's activities will be of greater value than if the contribution would be 14 euros or 15 euros, and it would not scare off too many members.

Rianne: I looked into the expenses from last year. I was wondering why you chose these specific committees to give money to. I understand that they spend a lot of money, but there are also the Sports Committee and Weekend committee, for example where only a few people can go on such a trip. Why did you not invest into more activities that are for more members. For example, the Committee of Informal Affairs spent 200 euros more than budgeted last year and they don't get extra money. Similarly, the Sports Committee spent 400 euros more and they only got 100 euros extra. I don't see how you came up with these numbers.

Pascal: First of all, the Committee of Informal Affairs has been organised in a bit of a different way. The income of the BaMyPo's parties will be used for the Committee of Informal Activities. This is what fills that gap. The location and duration of the Ski Trip are different each year so it becomes difficult to compare the prices of the Sports Committee across years.

Pien: Also, for the Committee of Informal Affairs we won't use the 5 euros for the decorations each Borrels. This is because we will be using the sustainable decorations.

Rianne: You still have to get those decorations.

Pascal: Yes, we will buy them from the Sustainability post.

Zoë: Also, for this year the Committee of Informal Affairs, the money for the DIESweek will be used by the Lustrum Committee.

Pascal: I chose the most notable expenses because they changed the most and I didn't want to add small amounts like 20 euros here and there and doing it in an unorganised way and it would be difficult to see what the exact differences are.

Rianne: The sustainability budget did not go up. If you want to add the decorations this year, shouldn't you add – let's say 50 euros – to that budget instead of something else. Now you add for the Active Member Evening. I understand you want to add to your Active Members but I think that is too much.

Pascal: Good point.

Job: I want to disagree with Rianne's point. I have seen in the Till Committee last year and in my year as Treasurer that the posts like sustainability are never fully spent, because it tends to get forgotten. The money that is already appointed can go to the new decorations. It is not such a notable change to add 50 euros for the sustainability. It would be much more beneficial to add them to the larger committees like the Lustrum Committee and the Prom Committee as that are two things where most members will attend. For sustainability, if you go a little bit over budget on other things that is one of the posts you chip something off of.

Sven: In my experience, organising Active Member Activities and Active Member Evenings is very hard if you don't have a lot of money, because you expect to have 80

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percent of Active Members show up. It may look you take money from unactive members and give it to Active Members, but I feel like every member has a choice in this.

Rianne: I was also wondering what the Studystore situation was. Does it affect the fact that you want to raise the contribution.

Pascal: No, it does not. Of course, we do have a lack of sponsorship, but we also have a remainder from the 34th board. The contribution increase argument is based on the expenses side and that has increased notably since the last contribution increase. In fact, it is not even known if there ever was a contribution increase seeing as we cannot look that far back.

Rianne: I have the same question for the Molenstraat situation. You told us you are missing 250 euros. Where are you going to get that from?

Pascal: I don't put money from one post into the other side. I look at our income and expenses and if we need to cut, I don't take it from a specific place.

Rianne: But where is the remainder going? Where is the 250 euros going.

Pascal: Sorry, I misunderstood your question. It is going in the unforeseen costs.

Sven: Why is Molenstraat not paying?

Pascal: Molenstraat is having a tough financial situation, but they have asked us not to share this.

Coen: You haven't discussed the Professor situation from the Orientation Week. This is also from our remainder, right? How much remainder is there still after all of this?

Pascal: It is 1800 euros.

Coen: After everything is taken off?

Pascal: Yes. Let us now round off the contribution part and vote on it later? As Treasurer I am responsible for managing Babylon's liquid assets and coming up with the budget. The budget presented here is the budget with the contribution of 16 euros.

Table 2

Sven: Is the sponsor money from de Waagh staying the same?

Lize: I have talked with the contact person from de Waagh. Long story short, he said that if he gets an Almanac ...

Tom: Signed.

Lize: ...A signed Almanac, then the contract will stay the same financially, but we do not have to do our next Prom at de Waagh. The contract is not yet signed so I cannot guarantee this.

Rianne: That is very sweet of him, but can we tell him that we would like to do another activity there?

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Lize: Yes. I already discussed this with him.

Job: Notify us when it is finalised.

Lize: Will do.

Pascal: Can I move on to the expenses part?

Sven raises his hand.

Pascal: Sven, what is your question?

Sven: I do not have a question. Go ahead.

Pascal: The following are the expenses.

Table 3

Sven: I think your Lustrum Committee budget is not the same as it was on the last slide.

Pascal: That's weird. It indeed is not.

Coen: So, what is it?

Pascal: It should be 1400 euros. Since it says 1500 euros, there should be 100 euros missing somewhere else.

Coen: It is correct in the document Tom sent to the members.

Pascal: I don't know how this happened. I apologise for that.

Rianne: Are you using the Lustrum Committee budget this year?

Pascal: The 5000 euros are all spread out. The Lustrum budget does not entirely go the Lustrum Committee. What was your question exactly?

Rianne: I want to know what you are going to do with 5000 euros that the previous boards saved.

Pascal: This will be put into the Almanac Committee, Lustrum Committee, Study Trip Committee, and Prom Committee. But it also gets spread out a bit across the other activities.

Job: Is the Prom part of the Lustrum Week?

Pascal: No, it is not.

Job: 1500 euros for the Lustrum Week is not that much. If you are organising a cantus that would take up a very large part of the budget. This has been discussed with the Lustrum Committee briefly. I still want to discuss this further with them before the Financial GMM.

Sven: I don't know how this happened, but what we see on the screen is not the same as what Tom has sent us. The Prom Committee, Lustrum Committee, and ink and accessories posts for example.

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Rianne: Let us have a small break so you can fix this.

The meeting is in recess at 4.28 pm.

The meeting is in session again at 4.49 pm.

Rianne: I forgot to ask one question. Why did you choose to put this in your personal part? It should be in the larger part because it is part of the policy of your board as a whole.

Pascal: I must say that I underestimated the contribution increase.

Tom: Also, this was discussed during the first part of the GMM. We acknowledged it should have been in the larger part, but because we have been unable to change the Policy Plan due to the adjournment, we have not changed this yet.

Rianne: I think you should provide a summary of all the points mentioned at the previous half of this GMM. It is not fresh in everyone's memories anymore. I think you should move the contribution part and the explanation within the Policy Plan is very slim. You mention a lot of stuff now that is not stated here.

Pascal: We will add this to the Policy Plan.

Job: Are you really sure this is the right one. I also saw that the Study Trip Committee is 300 euros less than on the last slide.

Pascal: I will make sure it is exactly identical at the Financial GMM.

Job: You better. You don't want a Continuation Financial GMM.

Table 3

Job: I don't know if you have already gone over that part previously, but how is the contract with the BladNL doing.

Sven: It is effectual until 2026.

Job: Good to know.

Sven: Where did you get the expense post for the Almanac from.

Pascal: We have discussed this. We have received a quotation for 70 Almanacs which will be 1030 euros.

Tom: It does depend on the hardcover or a softcover. We prefer a hardcover of course.

Sven: Members would still have to pay?

Pascal: Yes. Around 5 euros. We are aiming to sell between 50 and 70 Almanacs.

Lize: Five years ago, it was 70 sold which is why we aim for that number.

Pascal: I can only find how much they ordered and not how much they sold.

Sven: You can always order and hold a second sale.

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Rianne: I was wondering if you are going to buy a second flag, it is going to be a Lustrum flag?

Pascal: It will be a regular flag.

Rianne: Why?

Pascal: Because the Lustrum flag can only be flown for one year and that would not be a financially responsible decision to make.

Rianne: Why are you going to buy a flag in the first place?

Pascal: The old one is under a bad condition. It has a lot of tears.

Sven: And it smells like beer.

The whole crowd laughs.

Pascal: I will move to the next slide.

Table 4

Job: Are you still doing the sister associations blog? I believe Anna started it.

Tom: I believe it has already been discontinued.

Job: Then make sure you take it out of the budget.

Rianne: I was wondering why you set apart 150 euros for the Babybreak. The way it has been promoted now it looks like it will not cost you anything.

Lize: For the first Babybreak we were thinking of looking at how many people will come. We will buy nachos or a small snack for the table for example. Other Babybreaks may be at a park or something and then it's nice to have some snacks or drinks.

Pascal: We wanted to have some central thing for the activity to be based around.

Sven: So, the first No Taboo Lunch should already have taken place?

Marit: It should have been next week, but it will not take place.

Sven: Since the one from 18 September has been replaced, will there be an extra one later in the year?

Marit: This will still have to be discussed.

Coen: If I remember correctly, it was said that there would be 50 euros for No Taboo Lunch. How many are there?

Marit: Four.

Coen: But how does that work?

Pascal: We don't have 50 euros for every single one. When we tried to organise the No Taboo Lunch it is difficult to get someone to talk.

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Rianne: What if you organise it together with another association and try to get subsidy from SOFv?

Pascal: That is a great idea.

Sven: Is the money for travel cost or to pay the speaker or the lunch?

Pascal: A mix of all.

Rianne: What do you spend regularly on a normal Lunch?

Pascal: Around 20 euros.

Rianne: Which means that you have 30 euros left to cover the cost of a speaker?

Lize: This is kind of the same as the last year's Committee of Formal Activities. It is not that every speaker gets paid, but rather that sometimes there is extra money if one speaker requests it.

Rianne: What we are trying to figure out is, if you communicate with the committee that you have 50 euros per time that they can spend, is that enough? Should you adjust your plan?

Marit: I now think that it may not be enough money with the speakers that I already have been in contact with. Some are more associations like GELIJKSPEL; they are 250 euros and that is the cheapest price I found. If maybe it is in collaboration with the other association, it might be possible.

Lize: To be honest I think the companies that we are contacting misunderstood what the No Taboo Lunch entailed. Also, AIESEC can also provide us a speaker and we will get money from that form doing that.

Coen: Look into the DEI, because they may have some good speakers as well.

Rianne: If you want to have a bigger company, I would advise against AEISEC because they are just students. It is nice, but not nice enough.

Lize: I was at one of the AEISEC workshops. I thought it was not so good. I am trying to plan a meeting with them to talk about the training and our No Taboo Lunch concept and tell them how dissatisfied we were.

Rianne: Just don't go with AEISEC just because they give you money. Only if they present you something you stand behind and are proud of.

Sven: I really hope that this works out well. We tried Lunch Workshops last year and it failed miserably. I will be there, but only because we like you guys.

Everyone: Awh.

Lize: Lobi.

Sven: Just make sure you promote this properly.

Pascal: We will discuss it thoroughly so we will have a fitting budget.

Table 5

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Rianne: The Committee Market was way more expensive than expected. How are you going to fix that?

Pascal: I hope to be able to get this from the unforeseen costs, but this still has to be looked into.

Rianne: Just be careful. Your unforeseen costs are not a bottomless pit.

Sven: I see 100 euros for Room remodelling, but in your Policy Plan there is nothing mentioned about that. What will you do with that?

Pascal: The Room remodelling is a buffer because we don't even know what room we're going to have next year.

Rianne: I would just put it under unforeseen costs. You now have a post that you are not sure you are going to use. Since you don't have a plan, it is an unforeseen cost.

Pascal: It is for the room but just not for a remodel.

Sven: Just change the name to Room maintenance.

Coen: I don't know how much menstruation products cost. Is 25 euros too much?

Lize: They are quite expensive. I would say it might even be too little.

Zoë: I disagree. If you buy a cheaper brand, or something at a wholesale or in Germany, it can be quite cheap.

Rianne: Maybe also add an ER kit with paracetamol.

Coen: Can't you get it at the Maria Montessori building.

Rianne: You can also get menstruation products at the porter of that building.

Sven: In that case, this would be unnecessary.

Job: If you just promote it, that way students and members will know.

Lize: If I would have known this earlier, I would not have ruined so many pairs of pants.

Pascal: Rianne, would you still advise getting an ER kit?

Rianne: I would advise getting a few bandages, paracetamol, and a few tampons.

Pien: We might not even need to buy an ER kit; I have one at home.

Sven: That is nice. Maybe discuss this with the faculty and put it in the kitchen on the 12th floor.

Coen: FSRL might be working on this. If it is on the 12th floor, you can take it out.

Job: Give to the Committee Market.

Rianne: Why are you spending 300 euros on the Welcome Back for the First years.

Pien: We really like the idea of this, but also the prices that were bought made this very expensive last year.

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Sven: In my opinion that was quite excessive.

Coen: It was excessive, but it was very well received.

Pascal: Before the Financial GMM we will discuss what exactly we want to do with the Welcome Back.

Zoë: I think it is also a good idea to have some budget for the Coming Back of third years because they might feel disconnected from the association, and they need to be pulled back.

Rianne: We don't ask this. You say a lot but not exactly what and when and how. What are you going to use the money for? The plan is way longer than it should have been. You tell a lot, but nothing specific.

Lize: I'm not sure what the budget was for the activity last year. In the meeting we discussed but most people agreed we should keep the free dinner aspect part of the activity.

Job: 300 euros was only used for nachos last year. That could not have been more than 50 euros.

Daniël Heijboer has joined the meeting. This does not change the Quorum as he cannot vote.

Job: It will only be a small group so make sure that for the Financial GMM if you do decide on the 300 euros make it clear what you will use it for. As your professors in Academia will say: show don't tell. Make sure you will have that ready for the GMM. It will make the GMM shorter, just a head's up.

Coen: Our prizes were very expensive. You could definitely lower the cost.

Sven: Make sure it is more prizes and have them cheaper.

Rianne: Make Lustrum merch the prize. What does a toaster have to do with Babylon?

Pien: I sold the toaster after the Borrel.

The whole crowd laughs.

Table 6

Pascal: So, the total income and expenses are 19.780,61.

Sven claps.

Rianne: Nicely under the tax cap.

Lize: Lol.

Table 7

Pascal: These are the payment methods I will be using. I will of course try to use cash as little as possible.

Coen: I think that it was also mentioned during the first part that we have iZettle.

Pascal: We have some ideas for the Babybreaks that we will use iZettle for.

Rianne: I would advise to switch it up to have small payments with iZettle because you pay a small percentage. If you have high transactions, you pay more to iZettle. So, for things like the Ski Trip and Study Trip, as well as merchandise do not use iZettle.

Job: We don't know the password to the iZettle account. I think we have to ask Chair of the 31st board to recover the account linked to the Rabobank.

Rianne: In the worst case that will cost 30 euros.

Pien: That is no biggie.

Study Trip Committee and Prom Committee

Pascal: I will be the Coordinator of the Study Trip Committee and Prom Committee. We will be going to an epic location. For the Prom Committee we are organising it on our own. It is probably not going to be at the Waagh because of the Lustrum.

Rianne: You were talking about the payment methods, but you said the committees can decide that. You should make sure you are the only one doing that. There was also an inconsistency regarding the declaration forms in relation to cash returns. Will you actually be doing that?

Pascal: I will look into this.

Daniël: General remark. You always have cash in the till.

Rianne: The questions was about are you actually doing that? You can also say to the members they can only pay digitally.

Daniël: My questions are about the subsidy advice for the Study Trip. Have you already thought about disregarding the subsidies from the Department?

Pascal: No.

Rianne: You also say that you save 1000 euros for the next Lustrum. Is that also a post in your budget?

Pascal: Yes, it was on the last slide. Now, I will give the word to Marit Brummel.

Commissioner of Internal Affairs

Marit: Hi, I am Marit. The Commissioner of Internal Affairs. A few things have changed since last year. I am voted into the Study Program Committee. I am there as a student and not as a board member of Babylon. Also, the book supplier changed last year. The books sales will now go through Smartbooks. They offered a selection of options: that we can allow members to sell their own books through Smartbooks but also that they can be sold second hand which is cheaper for members. There will be a central point at the end of the year so they can sell it to Smartbooks. They also offered us to implant a pickup point where members can pick up their books at the Babylon Room. Almost no one has chosen this option, but we allowed members to do this anyway. I am also the Confidential Contact Person together with Coen. We decided to do this because we valued having gender diversity. We also valued to have a person for multiple years so people can get familiar with a Confidential Contact Person, so we decided to choose Coen for a second year.

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Rianne: The university has advised us against having board members as Confidential Contact Persons. Why did you choose to do this anyway?

Marit: I remember that you asked this in the previous half of the GMM. We did not know that this was advised before the GMM took place. The previous board also had someone in for multiple years and we thought that was a good option.

Rianne: So, with this knowledge would you advice against doing this for the next board?

Marit: We still have to think about this, but we do value having someone in for two years still. I will also be following the Confidential Contact Person training next week.

Sven: Together with Coen?

Coen: I have already taken the course last year.

Sven: Don't you want a refresher?

Coen: Tssss.

Marit: My big goal for this year, which we already talked about a bit, is the No Taboo Lunches. We wanted to set up because we heard of the Lunch Workshops from last year. There will be speakers that really can tell something about the issues we are interested in like mental health, consent, body issues, etc. I approached in the first place companies that are a bit too popular and therefore too expensive.

Rianne: Very nice to see on a big goal, especially during a Lustrum year. I wonder if organising four lunches is going to be a big enough for a big goal.

Pien: For next year, we can add the knowledge that we learned to one of the Protocols as well.

Daniël: Have you already thought about what persons you will contact?

Marit: Speakers related to consent, without it feeling like sexual education. These is the kind of topics that we are looking at.

Rianne: In your plan you use a lot of words to say very little. There are three paragraphs here and it could have been way shorter; like only a few sentences. It could have been written more practically: what, why, and how. "The Lunches will feature distinguished professional speakers who possess expertise and knowledge in these areas. Each speaker will engage the audience with enlightening discussions, sharing valuable insights and practical advice." Which areas are you talking about and how?

Daniël: Which companies have you contacted?

Marit: I contacted GELIJKSPEL, Rutgers, and Over the Lijn.

Rianne: Maybe try GGD or Tactus.

Marit: I contacted GGD at first and afterwards also Rutgers. They don't do these kinds of workshops.

Daniël: Didn't SOFv last year do a drugs and alcohol related workshop? I thought it was useful.

Job: Hell no.

Marit: I will look into that. I will go more via-via from now on. Just searching on Google is not going to cut it anymore. Are there any more questions? Moving on, I will be the coordinator for four committees. The Protocol Committee will be there after we adjust the Policy Plan. These three committees will not change a lot. We will try to have different year layers within the committees. The Protocol Committee is a new committee that we have come up with from advice from the first part of the GMM. Every member can give their opinion. It is not necessarily about writing, but rather input and feedback. That's why we have decided to make a committee.

Job: Is it meant for one year?

Marit: After the Protocol GMM, the committee will be disbanded.

Daniël: Have you thought about fusing some committees together if needed?

Marit: We will look at that after the sign ups have come in.

Daniël: You should already make a plan just in case. At the Committee Market, there was not a lot of interest for the formal committees.

Lize: During the first part of the Switch GMM, we said that we will look at how many people will sign up. If they are not full enough, we will merge them.

Daniël: I am suggesting you already make a plan.

Pascal: Are you suggesting that we communicate this with potential Active Members?

Rianne: Yes, that you should do. We study communication for heaven's sake. Even if it just one activity that you add. People should have the opportunity to say yes or no to that.

Coen: A member of the Committee of Formal Activities and I told the people that there is such a possibility is there at the Committee Market.

Marit: Thanks for the tips.

Comissioner of External Affairs

Lize: Hello, I am Lize Waeijen, and I am the Commissioner of External Affairs. I will keep up the contact with our external partners and sponsors. I will look for a new main sponsor. Also, I will look into new sticker deals, because the previous board didn't do that. We thought about companies for sticker deals. We want another coffee café, also a bike shop, and second-hand clothing store, because it fits with sustainability.

Rianne: Those are not new ideas. The second-hand clothing store was my idea. You say you will maintain the LinkedIn; do you have a plan for that?

Lize: I will post about the formal activities and vacancies.

Tom: And also, we want to promote the LinkedIn Babylon as a lot of members do not know it exists. We want to do this by having an Instagram post.

Rianne: In that case it is nice to have a plan.

Lize: Great idea. I might make a media planning for LinkedIn specifically.

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Sven: It is not really missing, but under point 5.4.1 'Tasks and responsibilities', it does not say you are looking for a main sponsor. Add it and its okay.

Rianne: It says: "Look for potential new relations and/or sticker deals". I did not mention this explicitly in my year so I don't see why Lize should.

Sven: Well, you're not perfect.

Coen: Sven!

Rianne: You can just add a paragraph and it's fine.

Lize: As Vice-Chair I will assist Zoë where needed. The committees I have are the Congress Committee, Career Committee and Weekend Committee. I have already discussed with Mycelium that we will be doing the Congress together again.

Sven: I have a question about the Vice-Chairmanship. In your Policy Plan you state you will have a meeting with Zoë every two weeks. Has this happened yet?

Lize: It has not happened as many times as it should have. It is a good point of improvement, though.

Rianne: The task of the Vice-Chair is, in my opinion, overrated. You are all responsible for carrying out everything Babylon is and stands for. The title is just the one you get when Zoë is not there. The main responsibility lies with all of you. Meeting every two weeks seems like too much considering your workload.

Zoë: I partly agree. Maybe two weeks is too much, but I do feel like it is a good idea to have one every month.

Rianne: Have you thought about the advice I gave you about a coach to be your mentor. They do that at SPIN. You can talk with someone who checks non you every few months.

Pien: For everyone in the board?

Rianne: Yes, that mentor person does not have to be your direct predecessor because they already check up on you. This is better than creating different layers of responsibility within the board because you are all equally responsible.

Lize: That is a very good idea, thank you. As for the Career Committee, last year the Career Market took place. We want to continue doing that with the faculty. The Sponsor Dinner is an additional activity the committee organises where sponsors and members come together, and we will learn from each other.

Sven: Do you want the Career Market to have a similar lay-out as last year? The idea was that it was Babylon-specific, and it turned out not to be like this.

Lize: I personally thought it was really nice last year. StageMax for example was incredibly positive about it.

Daniël: If you do it again, you should pick out the right associations to do it with. Some associations just did not do anything and where simply there to be there.

Coen: And I would advise if you do it with anybody you get a specific section with companies that are related to CIS.

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Lize: We will consider those two points, thank you. I will also be the Coordinator of the Weekend Committee. It will take place from 12 April to 14 April. We made this decision as a board because I have the most experience with the Weekend and the respective committee.

Job: In our year, we advised to change the Weekend date to October. Have you looked into this?

Lize: We really liked this idea, but the moment we discussed it it was already too late. Within the Weekend Committee we will ask which committee members are interested in organising the Weekend twice. If there is a new Prospective Board, we will advise them to do it earlier.

Daniël: A comment on this topic. Most associations that have a Weekend Committee in the beginning of the year have a committee that starts the year before with organising, similarly to the Orientation Week Committee.

Lize: Yes, that is why, if we want to do this, we need to have a transitional period where one Weekend Committee organises the Weekend twice.

Sven: What is wrong with April?

Job: It clashes with the Study Trip, Prom, and the Lustrum/Dies Week. It is also a heavy period for the board as well. That meant that a lot of people did not join due to financial reasons.

Sven: Okay, just think of the weather. Organise it at the beginning of October.

Lize: We also see people on the Weekend becoming more active within Babylon. That is especially nice to have it in the beginning of the year for First Years.

Job: Agreed.

Coen: It could also work counterproductively, in the sense that less First Years are interested in joining because they don't feel so connected to Babylon yet.

Rianne: What if you just make sure that the Orientation Week mentors are instructed to promote it a little bit more.

Coen: It is simply a risk you have to take. If it does not work you can just change it back.

Sven: This year, the Orientation Week mentors were also instructed to hype up Babylon, but the After Intro Party was visited significantly less than last year.

Lize: I think that might be up to us not having the Babylon Information Kit that we could not execute due to our Policy Plan not having been voted in yet.

Rianne: It is not totally up to the Information Kit. There should have been more communication and instruction for the mentors in the way that Babylon wants. If you make sure that the mentors are more screened the Borrels afterwards would be visited more. My entire group was there because I told them they had to be there and couldn't miss out on it. It is very important that your mentors are instructed on this. Maybe you can have a whole mentor training session on top of the one that the university organises.

Daniël: We are very involved in the association, but not everybody is. They will not push everyone to do this.

Rianne: If you organise one training where you stress this, this might be different. The kids will form a strong bond and show up themselves. They feel like because one group member is going they all have to.

Commissioner of Activities

Pien: My name is Pien van der Heijden, and I am the Commissioner of Activities. I have already made the Annual Planning and organised the Committee Market. Almost daily, I am in contact with Tappers/RUIG. Even though we are not at Molenstraat I keep in contact with them for the BaMyPo and Inglorious parties.

Daniël: Regarding the contact with Tappers/RUIG, how is it going with the Borrels?

Pien: Tappers and I are communicating about this. For the previous Borrel we should have been in Tappers, but we were re-scheduled to RUIG. One of them has contact with the universities' associations and one with HAN's associations. They messed up their schedule by not communicating with each other which led to us being double booked with Ruis. We both were planned at Tappers at the same time. Luckily, we can get some compensation for this. From now, our Borrels will be in Tappers.

Lize: Might I add, the communication problems are due to the communication within the Tappers/RUIG company and not the communication that Pien is responsible for.

Daniël: It was not a comment towards Pien.

Lize: It is still nice to make that clear.

Pien: We really like the idea of the Charity Soccer Match with Mycelium for Stichting RAGweek. Of course, we also want to be at the Sexy in Stijl Kalender. One of the Inglorious parties will be during the week.

Rianne: These last few points are not stated in the Policy Plan, so you have to add them. As for the calendar, you cannot state that you will take the photos as you still need to bid for a spot. It comes off as you will be certain of your bid. You cannot do that.

Pien: I didn't know that. We will change that in our Policy Plan.

Sven: You bid with your own money, so be careful!

Job: If it's not in there yet but change it to Charity Football Match and not Soccer. Please, we are not Americans.

Sven: Also, please come up with an idea for yourselves instead of copying us.

Pien: So, an extra idea on top of the Charity Football Match?

Tom: ... or instead of!

Coen: I wanted to do a drag queen show, but the rest of my board did not want that.

Sven: Also, there is no point 4.6.6. It says 4.6.5 twice.

Pien: We will fix this. I will co-coordinate the Lustrum Committee with Zoë. I will also be responsible for the Committee of Informal Activities. I am also in contact with the respective associations for BaMyPo and Inglorious to discuss the details surrounding that.

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Rianne: Why two coordinators for the Lustrum Committee?

Pien: Because the Commissioner of Activities is connected to what would normally be the Diesweek and Zoë as chair is tied to the Lustrum.

Zoë: Also, it was advised by the previous board.

Rianne: Why would you do that?

Daniël: Zoë is the Chair, and it is the main event of the year. So, therefore it makes sense.

Rianne: I would disagree, but if it works for you that is great. Make sure there is only one person who reports to the board.

Pien: I will also coordinate the Orientation Week Committee. Not much will change, except for the fact that I will try to be stricter regarding who the mentor parents will be and the information towards the Orientation Week participants. This includes the Babylon Information Kit.

Daniël: I recommend starting earlier with the committee as we had lots of trouble finding sponsors. It is better to have everything sorted out in advance than having to do everything last minute during the summer break.

Pien: I would agree. Furthermore, I will also be the Coordinator of the Sports Committee. We recently decided that, which is why it is wrong in the Policy Plan. We will change this of course.

Rianne: I do have one general comment on the Policy Plan. There is no closing word at the end. It ends with the Orientation Week Committee and that's it. There is nothing word.

Tom: I am pretty sure Zoë wrote one.

Coen: I see it here. It is called 'Summing up'.

Rianne: Then one of the Secretaries may have sent the wrong attachment with the e-mail.

Sven: I took it from the e-mail, actually.

Coen: Where the Committee Challenges discussed during the first half of the GMM or are you skipping over it? Did you change anything about it?

Tom: I don't think they were.

Coen: Did you change anything?

Tom: Nothing substantially was changed. We did discuss promoting it extra, by for example sharing halfway through the year an interim score in the Active Members group chat to kind of give that extra motivation.

Pien: We also decided we want to have some kind of a Committee Battle as an Active Member Activity.

Zoë: If there are no further questions that concludes our Policy Plan.

Vote on contribution increase

Zoë: We will now be voting on the contribution increase from 14 euros and 16 euros.

Sven: Will we vote on 14 euros or 16 euros, or also 15 euros?

Zoë: Only 14 euros or 16 euros.

Rianne: Then why was the budget of 15 euros there?

Pascal: Just to make the picture clearer and illustrate our point sufficiently. I was advised to do this.

Rianne: Then we should vote on that too.

Pascal: Well, in the actual Policy Plan it does not state anything about 15 euros.

Sven: I am not saying it should become 15 euros, but we should be able to vote on it.

Zoë: I think we can also vote on 15 euros if that is desirable.

Rianne: It sounds like we are voting on a budget.

Job: No, we are voting on the contribution increase.

Lize: The budget will be voted on during the Financial GMM.

Zoë: The budgets that were shown were not final, but merely illustrations to show the effect of the contribution increase.

Sven: For completion's sake, let us vote on 15 euros as well.

Zoë: Let us do that.

Job: One more question. Am I allowed to vote since I was not at the first half of the GMM? Nothing about this is said in the Statutes or House Regulations.

Zoë: Yes, you are. You are a member and doing the studies, so you are allowed to vote.

Tom: The Continuation GMM is technically the same GMM as the original GMM. Therefore, you being here right now is similar to walking in late on the original meeting.

Rianne: Am I allowed to vote because I am no longer following the studies?

Zoë: Neither you, Daniël, nor Sven are allowed to vote because of this. I can say this because I can dream the Statutes by now as I have read it many many times. You were still a student at the first part of this GMM, but since you no longer are right now and we are voting right now, you are not allowed to vote. Therefore, only Job and Coen are allowed to vote.

Total number of voters: 2 + 9 (11 in total)

Zoë: Would anyone like to make a statement?

Sven: If I were able to vote I would vote for 16 euros because I think it will improve Babylon's abilities to help students throughout their student life.

Daniël: If I were to vote, I would also vote for 16 euros because we have seen some struggles last year in organising activities. We had big ideas but not the budget due to the inflation. If you have kept the contribution at 14 euros, you will only have 1500 euros more to spend than I did last year. The contribution has not changed since the birth years of Babylon. That is the 1980s, so it is only fair to do this.

Rianne: I do want to state even though it was not stated explicitly enough in the Policy Plan, I do think it is actually sufficient to justify a contribution increase. 16 euros is enough to achieve your goals. Make sure that if you want to do it again found it with better argument it better.

Vote on 16 euros contribution increase.

Vote in favour: 2

Vote against: 0

Blanc vote: 0

Withhold: 6 (35th board) + 3

Because the majority of the GMM has voted on 16 euros, there is no need to vote on the 15 euros and 14 euros.

The contribution increase has received 100% of the votes. The contribution increase has therefore been accepted.

Vote on Concept Policy '23-'24

We now will vote on the rest of the points of the Policy Plan.

Daniël: There is nobody here right now, except for the Advisory Board and me. I think that can be solely blamed on the fact that it started at 4.00 pm.

Zoë: This was discussed in the beginning of the Continuation; before you entered late.

Pien: As for my fellow Babylonians that I asked about the GMM, even those who were available and did not have class were not interested in coming anyway.

Daniël: That should not have been in an issue.

Zoë: I take full responsibility for the time management and planning of this GMM.

Job: Also, the question was not entirely valid as most chairs of the committees are still remaining from last year and therefore, they did not come today. They should officially have been here. In the future, try to emphasize this once again. Also by dividing the roles of the committee chairs.

Zoë: Would anyone like to make a statement?

Rianne: Some points were missing. The Policy Plan already stated that we were going to Tappers/RUIG without it being approved by the GMM. If I vote in favour, this should be amended. Besides, any adjustments you make may not be done with the knowledge of today. The three options offered to the GMM should also be named. Try to make it information dense and not word dense. 80 pages could easily have been halved. Look at what has real relevance.

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Zoë: Thank you for the advice. We will surely consider this.

Total number of voters: 2 + 9 (11 in total)

Vote in favour: 2

Vote against: 0

Blanc vote: 0

Withhold: 3 + 6 (35th board)

A minimal amount of 67% of the votes are necessary for the Concept Policy Plan to be voted in favour. The Concept Policy Plan has received 100% of the votes in favour. Therefore, the Concept Policy Plan has been accepted.

Applause ensues.

W.C.T.M.

Nothing has come to mind.

Question round

Zoë: It seems like there are no further questions.

Rianne: Hold up, you need to go past everyone.

Sven: Come on, that is ridiculous.

Rianne: We do that at SOFv. There are only five people in attendance, it won't take that much time.

Zoë: Does anyone still have a question?

Daniël: Let me think No.

Coen: No

Sven: Is Pascal single?

Zoë: No, he is with Pien.

Job: No.

Rianne: No.

Pien: No.

Lize: No.

Marit: No.

Pascal: No.

Tom: Can I go home?

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Zoë: Thank you all for being in attendance and that some of you have voted.

Closing

Zoë closes the meeting at 6.47 pm.