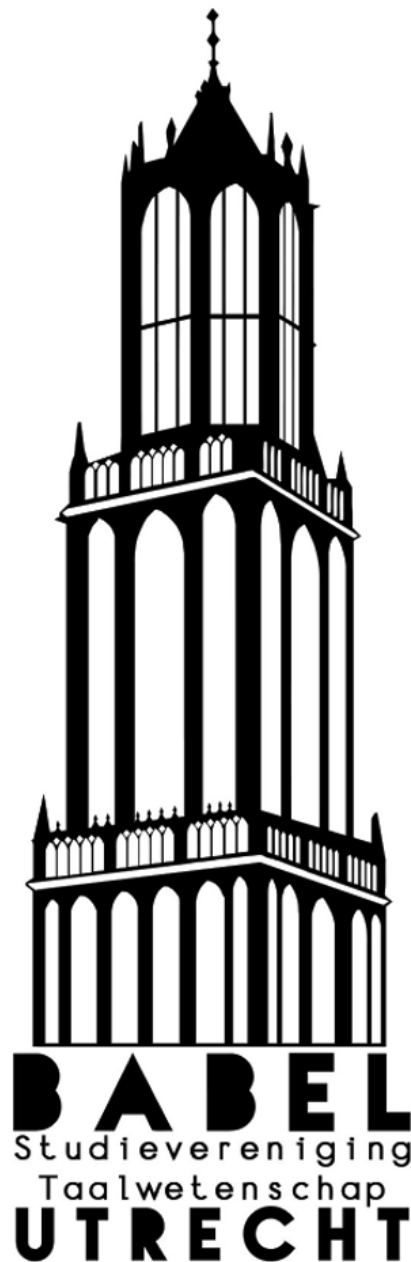


Policy Plan 2023 – 2024

Board XIX

“Putting the *babe* in Babel”



Policy Plan Board XIX – 2023/2024

Dear Babelaars,

In the following pages, you will find the policy plan for the academic year 2023/2024. Unlike the previous year, our board will consist of five people. We sincerely hope that in addition to our enthusiasm and new ideas illustrated below, the additional two people on the board will represent an even better association

XO,

Board XIX

Tadeusz Kaźmierczak, Chair

Eva Wagner, Treasurer

Arianna Pontieri, Secretary

Bram Buijkx, Commissioner of External Affairs

Ellis Schiavi, Commissioner of Internal Affairs

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1. Charter

The Management and Supervision of Legal Entities Act (WBTR) became effective as of July 1, 2021. Our legislation will need to be amended in four years. This year it may be necessary to ratify changes in the organisation of our association at the notary. We consider it necessary to gather advice and opinions from Babel members before making this important change. Therefore, we will gather suggestions during GMMs and collect them. Consequently, the ratification may take place at the end of the academic year or will be delegated to the next Board.

2. Internationalisation

a) Shift to bilingualism

All association affairs will be conducted in English with the exception of proper names and specific terminology such as the *Dolfijn*, the *Haai*, the *Babelkamer*, for which a translation or explanation of the concept will be provided. We would like Babel to be fully bilingual. This includes documents being presented in both English and Dutch. Furthermore, same as last year, announcements in the WhatsApp group chat and on the Instagram page will first be given in English, followed by the Dutch version.

b) Language learning group chats

We know how difficult learning a new language can be, so we thought of a way to help students with this. By creating WhatsApp group chats for different languages, students learning that language can ask questions and discuss things, ideally with the help of a native speaker in the group chat, in order to aid Babel members with learning their target languages. The task will be delegated to the language learning society.

The links to these language learning group chats will be placed in the SV Babel group chat. Certain aspects that will be discussed in these group chats can also be brought up during certain seminars, to provide further examples of how languages do or do not differ from each other.

c) Language of the month

Every month, we will elect a language, be it a widely-spoken one or a less common one. Interesting features and facts, such as peculiar or untranslatable words, will be provided and published in the monthly newsletter.

d) International Linguistics

We would like to establish relations with linguistics associations in other countries. This could help all students who would like to do an exchange or master's course abroad to find out what possibilities exist. It would be nice if each foreign student (or group of students) could identify a linguistics association in their home country and share it.

3. Introduction week

a) Lay-out

This year, we want to add some features to the Introduction Week, with the help of the Introduction Committee. We feel like mentors should be more present during the Introduction Week, so we plan on organising activities with them. During the city tour for example, the mentors will guide their group through the city, and during the pubquiz, the mentor groups will compete against one another. Moreover, we want to promote Babel's societies through a "society market" (see chapter 7) that will take place during this week.

b) Introduction booklet

During the introduction week, we experienced first-hand the usefulness of an introduction booklet, containing instructions on how to become a member of Babel and the week's programme. We plan on keeping this introduction booklet feature for next year too.

4. Website

SV Babel's official website is frequently the first point of contact for potential students with Babel. This is because they are directed to the Babel website via the university website. As a result, we wish to improve the website in a variety of ways.

a) Language

The 2022-2023 media committee worked on fixing the SV Babel website. However, we noticed that some labels are still in Dutch. Therefore, we plan on adjusting some minor things related to the language on the website.

b) Lay-out and contents

We would like to improve the sign-up form and add the choice of preferred pronouns. The job will be carried out in collaboration with the Media committee. Furthermore, we would like the contents, specifically the pictures, to be more up-to-date. This renovation would go along with the Babelkamer's one.

5. Social Media

a) WhatsApp

In Babel's WhatsApp group chat, announcements and reminders of activities/trips will be posted frequently. Potential deadlines for a sign-up will be provided in the announcements and reminders too, as well as the link to the WhatsApp group chat of the activity. In the group description, the Babelkamer opening hours will be given. Additionally, future activities with their dates and locations will also be given here. Potentially, after an activity, a message will be sent in the group chat letting the members know that pictures of the activity are posted on the Instagram page, as a way of promoting Babel's Instagram page further.

b) Instagram

The Instagram page will be used to place announcements, reminders, updates, and pictures of activities. Smaller announcements and updates will be posted on the Story, whereas bigger updates and pictures will have a main post. We plan on using the Instagram page more actively, by means of posting pictures of activities only one or two days after the activity has taken place.

c) Facebook

Since more people are active on Instagram compared to Facebook, we will mostly put the Facebook page to the side this year. We are, however, planning on updating Babel's Facebook page, since it still contains old information about the Babelroom's opening hours, as well as old pictures. We will update these opening hours and post more recent pictures there during the summer.

6. Committees

a) Committee market

During the introduction week, a committee market will be held to advertise the seven main committees and recruit new members. This will be done with the help of former members and committee posters with basic information about each of them.

b) Modifications

During the past year, three committees had a low sign-up rate. The Study Committee and the Career Committee have been thus merged into a single one, and it is our goal to keep this next year too. If it turns out that many students sign up for this committee, the committee chair is allowed to consider the idea of separating the committee into its original two halves. Furthermore, the Internationalisation Committee will be integrated into the Activity Committee, which will be in charge of organising international activities during the year.

c) Sign-up periods

A new feature is presented this year: the possibility to sign up to committees for one block. This will give first years a chance to get to know the committee and understand how it works, but would also give the chance to second years and up to concentrate on their studies while having fun organising activities. At the beginning of each reflection week, we will advertise the sign-up period. Naturally, there will also be the option of signing up for the entire academic year.

Most likely, the Travel Committee will require semester-wise participation, so in this case, the sign-up will open at the beginning of block 3.

7. Societies

a) Society market

Once again, our first-hand experience during the introduction week allowed us to come up with an idea to promote Babel's societies. During the introduction week, we would like to organise a society market, ideally right after the presentation of the committees with a short break in between, to promote the societies and recruit new members among the first years.

b) Modifications

This year we noticed that societies are centred around a very specific topic, rather than a broader domain. Furthermore, we noticed that some of them are not very active. We thought it appropriate to put those societies considered too specific or inactive on stand-by. We will give the opportunity in the next academic year to create new societies, that way students start up their own society which might make them more active.

8. Babelkamer

a) Lay-out

This year, the lay-out and condition of the Babelkamer will be improved. It is our goal to thoroughly clean the room and reorganise the wardrobe, shelves and desk. The lay-out may slightly change, but this will be decided later. In addition, the members will be asked to keep the Babelkamer clean.

b) The Dolfijn and family

We plan on washing the four plushies of the Babelkamer, as well as adding two other stuffed animals to the ocean family. What these will be is going to be a surprise for September!

c) Plants

The board isn't planning on keeping plants in the Babelkamer, as we are not well-fit to take care of them. However, should other members or the plant society like it, they are free to bring their plants and create a green space in the Babelkamer. We may consider buying artificial plants.

d) Pictures and decorations

It has come to our attention that the Babelkamer is full of pictures, which is naturally a good thing! However, most of the pictures seem to be of previous boards and members, therefore most of the older pictures will be taken down, with the exception of a few chosen ones, and replaced with more recent pictures. A photo album will be purchased to keep the remaining pictures archived. This will be available to all members of Babel and will be kept in the Babelkamer. If the chance arises, new decorations for the room will be purchased.

e) Colourless green ideas box

We plan on having a box in the Babelkamer, where every Babelaar can leave notes to us during the Babelkamer opening hours, whether it is an idea, a compliment or a problem that they might have. We intend to open that box regularly and discuss those topics during the board meetings.

9. Study plan

a) Exam trainings

In this case too, our experience as previous first years has allowed us to see the help that Babel's exam training can give. We want to keep this feature next year and plan on asking older students to help with this. However, we as the board, are also willing to organise some of the exam trainings.

b) Blocks with Babel

The "Blocks with Babel" feature created by the XVII Board will continue to be organised. It is a time when students can prepare for the upcoming exams in the company of fellow students. A room will be reserved by the Board for this purpose. The moment for Blocks with Babel will be chosen every exam week.

c) Available summaries

The XVI Board created summaries of the first-year courses. Next year, these will be published on SV Babel's website, instead of the joint Babel Teams account, and reminders will be sent on the WhatsApp group chat. Should it be necessary, we will update the summaries. Furthermore, we would like summaries to be written for second-year courses too.

d) Help for second years

In our opinion, second years could also use help with exam preparations. Therefore, we would like to add "exam trainings" for second-year courses. If necessary, summaries of the courses can be provided, too.

10. Sponsors and Drinks

a) Monthly drinks

This year the attendance on the monthly drinks day was relatively low, especially the first years, likely because the drinks were organised on Wednesdays before an exam. For this reason, we thought of changing the drinking day to Thursday, so that the likelihood that exams take place the following day is low and more students will join the monthly drinks. This will have to be discussed with our Sponsors. By choosing Thursday we also allow students who travel back home for the weekend to have Fridays free for travelling.

b) New sponsors

The possibility of securing new sponsors from various sectors, such as sports, movies, and books is being explored, however a final decision has not yet been made at this time.

11. LANGU-Day

There is the likelihood that Babel will have to host the LANGU-Day next academic year, as Groningen University's linguistics association may be inactive this coming year. If that is the case, we will set up a committee to organise the LANGU-Day.

12. Babel's 20th Anniversary

This year, Babel will turn 20! We plan on creating a committee that will organise a beautiful and fun birthday party for Babel. Ideas for this day will be developed further in the academic year.

13. Confidants

There will be two confidants again this year. One will be an active member at Babel, while the other will be an inactive member, to decrease the barrier for going to the confidant depending on the scenario. During the introduction week, the confidants will be introduced in the WhatsApp group, and they will be promoted again at the beginning of the third block.