

Applications Board of Advisors 2023-2024

Anouk van Wetten

Dear GMA,

This past year, I have taken a seat on the Board of Advisors. It was an insightful year for me, where I have learned a lot about supporting a board with their policymaking, GMAs, documents, and other general queries. As well as in supporting individual board members. I believe I have added to discussions with the SIB board and Board of Advisors, and that I have offered useful advice, or rather a listening ear when necessary. I look forward to a second year of this and hope to convince you of my value as an advisory member in this letter.

I started the year being extra aware of adopting a helicopter-view, as I presumed my passion for SIB would make it difficult for me to keep a distance between the board's ideas and my own. This, however, has not proven to be an issue for me – at least insofar as I have been (made) aware or am at liberty to determine. I did encounter something else which I would want to work on next year. Namely, safeguarding my personal boundaries when it comes to my own time management and the place SIB or my role as advisor takes up within that. The motivation for this stems from the time of the board's succession process, which coincided with my partaking in the symposium committee and an exam period. This was a learning point for me, and I intend to prevent such a culmination of activities next year. To do so, I have made it a priority to in advance take notice of which moments in the SIB year translate to a peak in advisory tasks, so I can plan other responsibilities around those, and vice versa. In line with this, and most importantly, I have learned the need of redirecting advisory tasks towards other Board of Advisor members in time.

More generally, I have enjoyed working together with the board and the other advisors to help create a well-run SIB year, and enjoyed navigating responsibilities, teamwork and group or one-on-one conversations. The experiences and energy I gained from this, is what I would be mostly looking forward to next year. Being aware of my learning points and having acquired more knowledge and feeling of "how to be in the Board of Advisors", I trust that I can fruitfully fulfil a valuable role within SIB's Board of Advisors of 2023-2024.

Lastly some practicalities. Next year, I will continue my master 'Religion and Society' until November, after which I will pursue having a job. As it is unclear what my future truly holds, I cannot make many promises on how frequent I will attend SIB activities. I will therefore lean more on new Board of Advisor members to do so. However, I do look forward to getting to know the new Sibbers at September camp, and I look forward to supporting the 43rd board and GMA where I can with all my experiences and capabilities from previous SIB years.

Kind regards,

Anouk

Elsbeth Smalbrugge

Dear General Members' Assembly,

For those of you who may not know me, my name is Elsbeth and I have been a member of SIB for the past three years. With this letter I hope to explain to you why I think I can be a valuable member of next year's Board of Advisors.

When I became a member of SIB three years ago, I quickly realized what a great place this is and what it offers people. I quickly felt at home here and wanted to contribute something. I have filled my time at SIB so far with committees and a board year, and now I am looking for a new place and function from which I can strengthen SIB, which led me to the Board of Advisors.

My experience within SIB is broad. I have participated in committees across the spectrum that SIB has to offer, from the MEME to the Symposium committee, to the gala committee, to the SIB-Link and Film committee. Not to forget, of course, the Internal Committee, in which I have served with great pleasure and passion both during and outside my board year and have committed myself to SIB. The years I have been a member have been years full of changes. The influences of corona and low membership numbers have forced SIB to change and I have always actively contributed to those changes from committees that had to adjust plans to comply with regulations, and as a member and board member that kept an association running through a lockdown.

The experiences and knowledge I have gained in these committees and during my board year have led me to find myself a suitable candidate for the Board of Advisors. I have broad knowledge about SIB from a member's perspective, but also from a board member's perspective, and I have an optimistic but sharp view on change that will also come with the multi-annual plans in the coming years.

In addition to the qualities I have just mentioned that I have learned from SIB, there are also other sides to me that make me think I am a good addition to the Board of Advisors. I am an empathetic person who gladly lends a listening ear to those who ask for it. In my own board year, I experienced a lot of support from my Board of Advisors, and I think I can offer the same support to the upcoming board. Their emotional well-being is essential for the well-being of SIB, and after my own experiences with burnout, I think I can provide good support with advice and a listening ear.

In addition to a place in the Board of Advisors (hopefully), I will start my Master's in Education and Communication next year, and I have a job at Albert Heijn. Although I do not yet know exactly how much time my studies will take, I expect to be able to combine this well with a visible and regular presence at SIB. I personally find that visibility very important, because it contributes to the approachability of the Board of Advisors.

In short, I think I am a suitable candidate for the Board of Advisors because I have broad experience both as a member and as a board member, and I think I can be a supportive Board of Advisors member for both members and board members. Hopefully, you think the same.

Yours sincerely,

Elsbeth

Iris Veldhuis

Dear members of SIB,

Through this letter I would like to apply to the position of member of the Board of Advisors. Although it feels a bit redundant, I will introduce myself. My name is Iris Veldhuis, I am 25 years old and a 6th year member of SIB-Utrecht. In this letter I will elaborate on why I think I would be a competent member of the BOA.

First and foremost, I think I would attribute to the BOA with my wide range of experience within SIB. The running theme of my SIB-career has been my membership of the Internal Committee. I became a member in my first year and liked it so much that I decided to stay in the committee for 5 years. Being a member of the IC brought me a lot; from many 'gezellige' Monday-nights and weekends away, to an insight in what it takes to run an association, and also a huge amount of knowledge about anything and anyone SIB-related the previous 6 years. I've seen what works for SIB-members and what does not, what can happen within a board or a committee, what is needed for people to function well within SIB, and much more. This is why I think I can attribute a lot to the BOA, I've been doing empirical research for the last 6 years! Of course, I didn't only perform this research within the IC, but also within the LIT-committee, septembercamp-committee, introduction-committee, the MEME, the Lustrum-committee, the cooking-committee, the acco and of course the parttee!

Secondly, I think that the skills I maintained within my studies, internships and work-experience have given me a wide skillset that will make me a valuable addition to the BOA. I have learned to dissect problems in a way that makes it easy to create a clear overview of the situation, making it easier to come to a solution together. I am trained to look at the abilities of a person, and see opportunities where they themselves might only see problems. When dealing with problems, I am never afraid to give an honest opinion, when I feel this is in the best interest of the people in question.

Because of these skills, and because of my personality in general, I would aspire to be more of a coaching member of the BOA. I am looking forward to helping the board by supporting them with possible dilemma's and problems, and to be a listening ear for them. I would also see myself as an active and involved member of the BOA. For example, I am still active in the parttee and plan on staying the chair of the committee for at least the coming 6 months. I also still like and plan on attending activities.

Concerning my personal planning for the coming year: I will graduate coming December, when I finish my internship. As I have already completed my master thesis and all my courses, I have enough time on hand to spend on SIB. After December, I am not quite sure yet what life will bring me, but looking for a real grown-up job will most likely be on the agenda.

Being a member of the BOA would be a very interesting and fun step forward in my SIB-career. I feel very driven to commit myself to SIB, as it is the association that made my years as a student infinitely better.

Thank you for your consideration!

Kind regards,

Iris Veldhuis

Xavier Schreurs

Dear General Members Assembly,

With this letter, I would like to announce that I am interested in taking a seat in the Board of Advisors of SIB-Utrecht of the year 2023/2024.

Next year, I will be in my 7th year as a member of SIB, after becoming member in 2017. Throughout the years, I did several committees, among which are the Acquisition Committee and the Simulation Committee. Additionally, I have been part of the Board of last year as President. I have therefore been involved in the ins and outs of the associations in various ways throughout the years, as a general member, as a committee member and as a Board member.

During my Board year, I personally had much benefit from the help of the BoA. This was the definitely the case regarding writing policy documents and the processes considering drafting official documents, but also as an advisory body concerning problems and as a sounding board. That was very pleasant for me, but it was also instructive, because I also had to deal with things that I was not yet familiar with and I could rely on the experience of the BoA for this. These different roles together is what I think is most important when being part of the BoA. I would thus mostly commit to these roles as BoA, especially for the upcoming Board, so I can support them well.

I think I have what it takes to fulfil this well. I am always prepared to offer a listening ear and to think along as good as possible, if necessary for solutions. Additionally, I am generally down-to-earth, which helps with being able to adopt a neutral and open attitude in conversations, whether that's in a group or individually. I also have a flexible attitude, so I won't stick to my own opinion too much, but I am always willing to think along from perspectives of others. That is something in which I can also improve myself. Especially last year, I have learned to reason and think from the perspective of people with different personalities, but I think there is still room for growth in that. Another learning point is to stay sharp to take a critical point of view in fields in which I know less of and have less experience in, as thinking along in these cases helps others the best. I therefore hope that I can develop these skills more in a year in the BoA, especially following last year.

It is not common in our association to take a seat in the Board of Advisors directly after one's board year. In principle, the reason to apply now anyway is because of practical reasons. In the upcoming study year, I will be doing my Master programme until December or January. Somewhere in the months after, I intend to get my first job. If I would have kept the usual year between my Board year and the possible BoA year, I would already be an 8th year member of SIB when I get in the BoA, if I would be elected. I think that that would be a rather unpleasant and unpractical situation to start as BoA member. Since I wanted to put myself forward as possible BoA member, I decided to apply this year. I do not expect this to cause any problems. On the contrary, I think it will be beneficial that I am closely involved in the association's organisation at this moment, because it benefits thinking sharply. Moreover, I think that my personality as described before is suitable and I will not reason solely based on my Board year. Considering all of this, I think this year is most fit for me to apply for the Board of Advisors.

Yours sincerely,

Xavier Schreurs