

Year Report 2022-2023

**XLIIInd board of SIB-Utrecht
"Defining our Destiny"**



SIB-Utrecht

Dutch United Nations Student Association

Preface

Dear reader,

Before you lies the Year Report of the academic year 2022-2023, written by the XLIIInd Board of SIB-Utrecht (*Utrechtse Studentenvereniging voor Internationale Betrekkingen*, hereafter: SIB). This year, the Board has focused on continuing and building on the work done before. We have worked on the process of defining the association's future and therefore its destiny by looking for new ways to enhance and increase SIB's diversity and sustainability. Moreover, the first multi-annual plan regarding member recruitment was written. Our focus furthermore was put on the quality of our two pillars, "*inhoud en gezelligheid*". Lastly, working towards the future was also carried out regarding SIB's legal documents and on newly set-up handover documents that ought to transfer knowledge between future boards. All in all, together with our members, we look back on another magnificent year at SIB.

Yours sincerely,

The 42nd Board of SIB-Utrecht,

Xavier Schreurs	President
Lotte Kruitwagen	Secretary
Mila Subotički	Treasurer
Britte Brontsema	Commissioner of Internal Affairs
Jasper Buren	Commissioner of External Affairs

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1. Vision & Targets

1.1. Vision

The vision of SIB-Utrecht¹ in the last year was focused on providing a space of interest for a wide variety of affairs of modern-day society, as formulated in SIB's Articles of Association. We have not only continued to provide this space for young people, but under our motto "Defining Our Destiny" worked on improvement on this part towards the next few years.

1.2. Targets

Last year's Board translated their vision into five main goals, the first of which was the diversity within SIB, meaning an aim to increase this and introduce members to all different perspectives. Continuation and stabilisation of the intellectual programme additionally was a focus point, which was also the case for member cohesion, including offering a safe environment for all members. Moreover, we aimed to maintain and expand the reduction of SIB's environmental footprint. We also took steps in ensuring a stable fundament of SIB's future. All of these goals are reflected upon in the targets, which will be discussed below.

1.2.1. Improving the Diversity Within SIB

This year, the goal was to improve the diversity within SIB, and this goal was partly achieved. Firstly, we wanted to improve the member registration and membership base by adding preferred pronouns. A question regarding pronouns has been added to the sign-up form to become a member and all current members were asked to fill out their preferred pronouns.

Secondly, the goal was to create a more diverse background in our speakers in terms of gender, background, nationality, (dis-)ability and expertise. To this end the aim was to cooperate with three organisations that fight for diversity. This goal was achieved through cooperation with the African and Caribbean Heritage Network (ACHN), Shelter Cities, and Blaka Online. Additionally, for the Internal Affairs Committee's (IAC) Talk we collaborated with Stichting Educatief Centrum Utrecht (SECU) and were invited to join an Iftar meal during Ramadan. This way of improving diversity worked well, because the collaborations allowed us to have speakers with diverse backgrounds. It ensured the focus was put on improving diversity instead of the specific topic of the Talk. This year, including the Talks at

¹ Note that whenever "SIB" is mentioned, this always refers to "SIB-Utrecht". When a different SIB city or when SIB-Nederland is referenced, this will be done explicitly, with the use of a hyphen.

Studium Generale (SG), 26.7% (4 out of 15) of the invited speakers were people of colour. Not including the Talks at SG, this was 25.0% (3 out of 12). We are satisfied with this increase in diversity, as it was 6.8% last year, but also acknowledge that there is still room for improvement. This year the focus was mainly on diversity in terms of skin colour, and improvements could be made in showing other types of diversity, like (dis-)ability.

Finally, the aim was to ensure that the speakers were divided across a representative gender spectrum, and this goal was unfortunately not achieved. Of the 15 speakers, only 5 were women, which is 33.3%. The reasons for not achieving this goal were divergent and included the switch in responsibility from the Commissioner of External Affairs (CE) to the Treasurer, not always being able to influence the speaker, the focus on diverse speakers and difficulties to find speakers throughout the year. It is important to note that more women than men were invited as speakers, yet unfortunately the invited women were less often available. In the case of diverse speakers, the aim was to collaborate with three organisations and in these cases we could not influence the gender of the speaker. It is advisable for future Boards to find a way to ensure speakers are both from diverse backgrounds as well as representing a diverse gender spectrum. This could for example be accomplished by keeping better track of the gender of the speaker during the year, which was unfortunately not done this year.

In general we would advise future boards to keep diversity in mind as an important topic, as we aim to be an association with an interest in the world around her and want to ensure our members are introduced to all different perspectives.

1.2.2. Maintaining the Quality of our Intellectual Programme

To maintain the quality of the Talks and intellectual activities at SIB this year, several subgoals were made. All in all, this goal was partially achieved. All explanations and backgrounds of the subgoals are found in Chapter 6. The goals are listed below with each a short description.

Firstly, the goal for at least half of the Tuesday evening activities to be different than the classical Talks was achieved. Half of the Tuesdays consisted of Tuesday Twists (TTs) (13 out of 25). The average rating for the Talks was 8.1 and for the TTs 8.0. For four TTs there are however no ratings. These are the movie night, the Heimweek light tour, the Iftar and the tour of the Grebbeberg. The End-of-Year member survey indicated that the TTs were appreciated with a 7.9 average. It is advisable to keep the ratio of Talks to TTS as it is, as the Talks receive more stable ratings and given the effort on part of the EAC.

Secondly, in line with the diversity goals, a guideline was set up with tips and sources for the External Affairs Committee to increase diversity of speakers. And as discussed in target 1.2.1., we collaborated with three organisations that fight for diversity.

Thirdly, we aimed to have at least 30% non-academic speakers. This goal was reached as well as 7 out of 15 invited speakers² were non-academic, which is 46.7%. People that were employed at an academic institution such as a university counted as academics.

The next aim was to have an average attendance of at least 25 people. It is important to note that we only kept track of the SIB members present at these activities, not of external people. This subgoal was not reached as the average attendance was 23 SIB members. For next year it is advisable to also keep track of external people present and calculate the averages with and without these included.

Table 1. Overview of average attendance at Tuesday evenings, Talks and Twists combined, over the past three years.

Year	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Average attendance	28	22	23

Additionally, to evaluate the Tuesday activities we aimed for an average rating of 8. This subgoal was achieved, as the average rating this year was 8.1. This year the success rating was introduced as well, more on that can be found in Chapter 6.

Finally, to ensure diversity in topics, the goal was for 40% of the Tuesday activities to be socially relevant, 50% international relations focused and the remaining 10% about STEM³-topics. This goal was not achieved, as we realised the following percentages: 52.2% international relations (12 out of 25), 43.5% socially relevant (10 out of 25) and 4.3% STEM (1 out of 25). One additional STEM-related activity would have been sufficient to reach the goal, as a 5% margin was in place. It is advisable to look into organising more STEM-related activities, as its rating was positive.

1.2.3. Keep Reducing SIB’s Environmental Footprint

As an association we carry a responsibility to inform our members about and set a good example regarding sustainability. Our goal regarding sustainability goal is achieved. We continued the previous sustainability plans and updated the already existing SIB Sustainability Protocol. We offered more vegan food options at activities and at all our activities the food was vegetarian only, with one exception, the Wine Tasting. We also started a collaboration with Strickers, a green clothing company, for the production of our committee shirts. We are very satisfied with this cooperation. Additionally,

² For some TTs we do refer to a speaker. This is for example in the case of a masterclass, where someone was invited to give it. This is why there are more speakers than Talks.
³ Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

we reduced the physical mail, which was previously sent to all members, but currently only to members who actively sign up for it. These preferences were added to the sign-up form as well.

This year, we exclusively travelled by public transport (bus or train) during the FIT, LIT and MEME. We encouraged the committees to make use of public transport.

We also reduced the production of promotional materials like posters and stickers. For the Symposium, the committee used posters made of sustainable material. We decided to not create stickers for one-time events and the Promotion Committee designed new timeless stickers. These are printed on vegan sticker vinyl.

We advise future Boards to continue to prioritise sustainability within our association, as members have been expressing their satisfaction with our efforts over the past year.

1.2.4. Continue to Prioritise Member Connection

To ensure the association can thrive, member integration and connection are essential. The goal was to continue to prioritise member connection and integration. These goals concern dropouts and active members.⁴ Three out of four subgoals were not achieved. However the margins were small, and in all three cases it came down to one member too much or too little. The goals were therefore not unrealistic. Member integration and connection can be accomplished through keeping an eye on the non-active members and trying to involve them in for example committees. Besides that, the mentors and September Camp play an important role in member interaction and connection. More on this can be found in chapter 5: Internal Affairs. Below is an overview of the different subgoals and elaborations as to why they were or were not achieved. Finally, there is a table with an overview of the numbers over the last three years.

Firstly, we aimed for a number of first-year dropouts below 30%, excluding internationals on an exchange year. This goal was achieved. SIB welcomed 44 new members this year, of whom 12 signed-out. That is 27.3%. There were no internationals on an exchange year.

Secondly, the goal was a number of second-year dropouts below 25%. This goal was not achieved. There were 24 second-years, of whom 7 signed-out. That is 29.1%. In order to have reached the goal the number of drop-outs could have been maximally 6. It is however important to note that of those 7, 3 signed-out in August 2022, so before the start of this year's Board. Without these three, the percentage would have been 19.0% (4 out of 21). One of these 4 was an exchange student that had left the Netherlands already and forgot to sign-out. In this year's policy it was included that internationals on an exchange year would not be included in the number of first-year dropouts. It's

⁴ An active member is a member of a committee, captain of a society and/or present every two weeks. Active members are integrated in our association and have a higher chance of staying members for a longer period of time.

advisable to also include this for second-year dropouts that are too late with signing-out, as these members cannot be influenced by the Board.

The third subgoal was “60% of the first years are active members”. This goal was not achieved. Of the 44 new members this year, 24 became active members, which is 54.5%. Two new members signed-up in July 2023 and were therefore not able to become active this year. Without them, the percentage was 57.1% (24 out of 42). In that case one additional active member would have been sufficient to reach this goal. This year the percentage of active members was higher than last year. Even though the goal wasn’t achieved, it did feel right within reach, and it was motivating to, even at the end of the year, try to get first-years involved in the association. Throughout the year the percentage of active members was updated and discussed with the IAC. This was taken into account when asking people for committees. By keeping a list of members who aren’t active yet and inviting them to join a committee, more people became active. It’s therefore advisable for future boards to keep track of active members throughout the year and involve the IAC. Since we almost reached the goal, it would be advisable for future Boards to keep it as it is, but exclude sign-ups during July.

Finally, we aimed for 55% of the second years to be active members. This goal was not achieved, as 13 of the 24 second-years were active members, which is 54.2%. Therefore, same as with the first-years, one additional person would have been enough to reach this goal. It also applies that three second-years signed-out in August 2022, and without these three the percentage would have been 61.9% (13 out of 21).

Table 2. Overview of first- and second-years of SIB over the past three years.

Year	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Number of first-years	21	38	42
Number of second-years	27	15	24
First-year dropouts	14%	38.4%	26.2%
Second-year dropouts	37%	20.0%	29.1%
Active first-years	80%	48.7%	54.5%
Active second-years	37%	53.3%	54.2%

1.2.5. Looking Ahead: the Future of SIB

This target consisted of four major subgoals, all of which were meant to improve the fundamentals of SIB. This subgoal has partly been achieved.

The first subgoal consisted of the formation of two multi-annual plans, on Member Recruitment and Programme of Talks. The formation of the Taskforce and therefore the process of writing the plans did not occur according to the initially planned moments, due to necessary prioritisation by available board members. The plan on Member Recruitment was to be presented at the Half Year GMA in February, but instead was presented at the Extra GMA in June. The plan on the Programme of Talks was to be presented at the Election GMA, but was eventually not presented during this boardyear. The formation of the Taskforce for the latter plan happened at the end of June, enabling it to start up in September at the beginning of the next Association Year. For the following plans, suggestions were made for the upcoming Board regarding the moments of presentation. This included the advice to start up the writing process of the plan next in line, Finances, in September, ensuring to keep the process of writing the multi-annual plans ongoing.

The second subgoal was the Alteration of the Articles of Association. After a new law was passed in 2021 (*Wet Bestuur en Toezicht Rechtspersonen*), the Articles of Association (*Statuten* in Dutch) needed to be altered according to this law before 2026. The Board was able to make arrangements on having them altered for a reduced price. The new Articles of Association were voted in at the Extra GMA in June and the process was finalised in August.

The third goal consisted of providing suggestions for alterations of the Rules of Procedure. Since the Rules of Procedure (*Huishoudelijk Reglement* in Dutch) are founded on some principles of the Articles of Association, it is our advice for the upcoming Board to alternate the Rules of Procedure, both to bring it in accordance with the changes in the Articles of Association and to update the older version, which is for most parts written in 2018. The 2022-2023 Board has thereupon provided suggestions for alterations.

The final subgoal was writing protocols on Succession and Transfer. These protocols have been written by the Board and are from here on passed on from Board to Board and shall be updated every year as the Board seems fit.

2. General

2.1. Alumni

SIB currently counts 118 alumni. They received the alumni magazine Ad Infinitum in February. The policy included that they would also receive a Christmas card and a Dies card, which they did. The mail was sent out mostly digitally, alumni could notify their mail preference at the beginning of the academic year. The alumni drinks were organised this year on the 24th of March and were visited on a small scale (15 attendees). Unsubscribing members were notified to become alumni via e-mail. The sign-up form for alumni has also been updated with asking for their preferred pronouns and mail preferences. We advise future Boards to continue to stay in touch with the alumni and keep inviting them to our activities.

2.2. Housing

SIB's office is located in Pnyx, currently located at Utrecht Science Park. Together with VIDUIUS, AEGEE, ESN, Histos and USHC, SIB took place in the Pnyx Committee. This year, the committee undertook steps to improve the general rooms in the building, for example by acquiring isolation materials to improve acoustics. Attendance to these were generally low, but future boards are encouraged to keep organising these, as it was felt they could connect boards of Pnyx well. Moreover, Bestuurlijk Actief⁵ held a general inventurisation with every board to have a definitive view of what boards require and expect for the future relocation of Pnyx, as the current building is temporary. The university has made some progress this year on the next steps, but at this point it is not expected that the relocation of Pnyx will be initiated on short notice.

Tuesday Talks were mostly held in Instituto Cervantes, alongside of which other venues have been used as well, both for the Talks and the Twists. These included Cafe de Tussentijd and Cafe de Beuntjes. The contract with Instituto Cervantes has been extended for another year. Further elaboration on the location for the Tuesday evening programme will follow under paragraph 6.2.

At the beginning of the year, there was no regular location for the Drinks, and we switched between Café 't Pandje, Café de Beuntjes, Café de Bastaard, and Café de Tussentijd. With the agreement of the GMA, it was decided to appoint Café de Tussentijd as the new regular location, and we agreed on a 15% discount policy for SIB members. Unfortunately, we were informed in May 2023

⁵Bestuurlijk Actief Utrecht is a collaboration between Utrecht University of Applied Sciences and Utrecht University for the benefit of student organisations.

that there were too few customers at Café de Tussentijd on Tuesday evenings and they would close on these evenings from July 1st and onwards. It's recommended to stay in touch with Café de Tussentijd and go back there if possible. Until then, members were asked again to voice their opinion about the location for the Drinks in the End of Year Survey and these results can be used to decide on the Drinks locations for next year.

2.3. Downscaling of Activities

Due to the gradual drop in attendance of activities, it was decided to reduce the number of activities to biweekly. This meant one week there would be a Talk or Twist prior to the Drinks on Tuesday and the other week there would be just Drinks on Tuesday and an activity on Thursday or Friday. With this alternating schedule and reduced number of activities it was aimed to increase the attendance and quality of the activities. This was achieved for the social (“gezelligheids”) activities, where average attendance rose from 15 to 24. For the Talks and Twists the average attendance was slightly increased, from 22 to 23, see table 2.

Table 3. Average attendance of activities over the last three years.

Year	Attendance Talk/Twist	Attendance social activities	Attendance Drinks
2020/2021	28	10-20	unknown
2021/2022	22	15	unknown
2022/2023	23	24	23

Both the Interim and the End-of-Year survey reflected that members were positive about the downscaling of activities. Therefore, it is recommended to keep the amount of activities at once every two weeks.

2.4. Internationalisation

We have continued to stimulate the process of internationalisation as per last year's Internationalisation Plan. This year we welcomed five new international members. Four became active members, of whom three joined a committee. In total, including senior members, we had three committees with international members. This was discussed beforehand with the chair of the committee, as we acknowledge communicating in English can be more complicated, but it was never

an issue. This showed that international members can be part of our association, even if there are only a few of them. It's advisable, if possible, to try to have more than one international member in a committee, to make the transition to English easier. Most activities were organised in English, a few exceptions were clearly communicated beforehand in the promotion chat or even to the international members personally as well.

In 2021 an Internationalisation Follow-up plan was written which included long-term goals that were proposed to be executed before August 30, 2023. Firstly, this was reaching international foundations and sponsors. This advice was not implemented, as FISA did not reach out to these external parties. There was an internationals-oriented activity organised during the This is UU-week in April, for which funding was acquired via their organisation. Other activities did not require funding by external parties. Secondly, it was to work through FISA (formerly: SIC) to help make the UIT more international friendly. This was accompanied, as we implemented a cooperative game element at the stands of Janskerkhof and continued to participate during the UIT debates as an umbrella organisation. We also continue to have strong connections with FISA around the UIT. Finally, it was to collaborate with student associations abroad. This final advice was not used, as it was not regarded as beneficial for this year. It is advised to reach out to these organisations for one of the trips abroad, as this would benefit the extension of SIB's international network the most.

As in the last few years, SIB continued to be part of FISA (Federation of International Student Associations) together with AEGEE, AIESEC, BuddyGoDutch and ESN. A couple of events were organised together, mainly meant to expand the contacts of the federation's members and boards on one hand and international students in Utrecht on the other hand. Furthermore, FISA attended umbrella meetings organised by Bestuurlijk Actief. In these meetings, we especially provided input from the perspective of international students, for example by ensuring the usage of English at activities open to all students in Utrecht. We have advised the next FISA board to discuss the workings of the cooperation and its future.

2.5. COVID-19

Last year, there were no restraints imposed by the government concerning COVID-19. As its status has been labelled as endemic per last March⁶, we advise to no longer take up COVID-19 into future policy documents.

⁶<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2023/03/10/laatste-specifieke-corona-adviezen-vervallen-maar-gebruik-je-gezonde-verstand-bij-luchtwegklachten>.

3. Secretariat

The Secretary is responsible for the association's administration, knowledge preservation, and the distribution of information to members and alumni. Further tasks were to maintain the Board room and its facilities. This year, the Secretary was also responsible for the IT and supervising the IT committee, as well as some promotional tasks.

3.1. Information Distribution

The Secretary has the responsibility of providing information to members, for example by sending digital newsletters and convocations. The internal newsletter, the e-SIB, was sent weekly to members on Mondays at 12.00 pm. 40% of our members read the newsletter e-SIB, which is a good result considering our percentage of active members . However last year this percentage was rounded of at 60%, it is unclear why this percentage dropped.

Due to lack of time, the Secretary did not send an external newsletter. We advise future Secretaries to invite relevant external parties to bigger activities like the Symposium with an official invitation by mail (like this year was done), since multiple previous years have shown that it is not feasible to create an external newsletter.

3.2. Administration and Knowledge Preservation

The management of members and alumni has been meticulously monitored. This includes keeping records of membership registrations and cancellations, alterations in committee and society memberships, and updates to members' addresses.

A total of 44 members registered and a total of 36 members deregistered throughout the year. Table 3 provides the number of deregistered members and the number of registrations in the last five years. Furthermore, a total of 8 alumni registered this year, while this number was 6 in 2021-2022 and 7 in the year before.

Another goal was to transfer all the information from the outdated wiki to the Google drive or NAS. With the help of the future Commissioner of Digital Affairs, this process has started and can be completed next year.

Table 4. (De)Registrations to SIB-Utrecht.

Year	Registrations	Deregistrations
2018-2019	49	52
2019-2020	56	48
2020-2021	21	34
2021-2022	29	31
2022-2023	42	28

3.3. Office and Archive

The Boardroom was our beloved workplace for the past year. However, due to our personal schedules with a lot of study related obligations, it was unfortunately impossible to open the office for members two days a week. However, if members wished to visit the office, they reached out to the Board members personally. Committees were welcome to use other rooms in the Pnyx building for meetings or activities. Several activities were organised in the building in agreement with the Board.

Important (policy) documents from (at least) the past ten years are stored in the archive, the Secretary reviewed the inventory of the archive and removed any redundant material. Other useful objects used by committees and members, are stored in a storage in the Pnyx building. The Secretary created an overview about these objects which is very helpful for committees, this document is available for committees by request. We advise to keep this overview updated in the coming years.

3.4. Website

This year members could sign up for activities via the website, in continuation with the previous year. The system works well, but like last year, it could use some user experience improvements. The webshop continued to exist and it was used for selling merchandise and ticket sales for the symposium. This system is also less time-consuming for the board, members, and also for externals since they could buy their symposium tickets on the website. There are no collections needed since the payment happens automatically and the Commissioner of Promotion (CP) has a nice overview of all merchandise orders. The current Board again had a positive experience and advises to keep using this platform in the future. Other than this, the Secretary experienced some difficulties, both time wise and IT-related, in keeping the photo page updated. It is recommended to explore new and more accessible possibilities for this part of the website. The Secretary reviewed the overall accessibility (regarding

users with reading or other difficulties) of the current website and wrote a plan for the future Commissioner of Digital Affairs to help improve on this element.

The Secretary supervised the IT Committee again this year. In several meetings, the committee worked on maintaining the website. However, the system behind the website is complicated and has some deep-rooted issues, thus it is recommended to thoroughly work on the website in the coming year. It is also recommended to have a board member take place in the committee since the board has an overview of what should be worked on, but it does not necessarily have to be the Secretary.

4. Finance

Throughout the year, the annual budget as established during the Policy GMA served as the financial guideline for the Board. A few changes were made to compensate for a difference in expected and realised expenses. These changes were discussed during the Half-Year GMA. Other updates regarding the finances were given to members during other GMA's and in the form of a Half-Year and Year financial report. The accounting was checked by the Audit Committee five times: in October, January, May, June and August.

4.1. Financial management

The Triodos payment account functioned as the main payment account for SIB-Utrecht. The amount in the deposit, which is stored in the safe, is currently €100,00, as the excess €474,63 was deposited into SIB's Triodos payment account in August 2023. The payment account did not exceed €2.000,00, except for times when the Board expected to need a higher amount on short notice, for example, when the location and transport for trips had to be booked. Other than those instances, any amount above the set threshold was transferred to the ASN savings account. Board members were informed about the state of the finances by the treasurer at least once a week, during Board meetings. They were also informed about the debits. Although these were supposed to be collected within 42 days of the activity taking place, this did not always happen due to unfinished realisations of the budget which can be due to unreceived invoices of external parties. This is why we recommend to increase the number of days to 60. Debits were always announced to debtors a minimum of fourteen days before they were collected.

4.2. Supporting committees

Training and supervision have been provided to the Treasurers of committees. Verification and finalisation of their budgets have also been done throughout the year. Committee expenses are further elaborated in the Financial Year Report.

4.3. Discount policy

Several committees are granted a discount for activities in which they are unable to fully participate due to organising responsibilities. This year, the discount policy was used for the Gala Committee and September Camp Committee.

4.3.1. Summer introduction offer

The special introductory offer for new members who register during the UIT, and Utrecht University Orientation Days was valid this year, where potential new members can choose to sign up for half an academic year for €10,00 or for a whole academic year for €50,00 instead of €60,00.

5. Internal Affairs

SIB-Utrecht's Internal Affairs are handled by the Commissioner of Internal Affairs (hereafter: CI), with support from the Internal Affairs Committee (hereafter: IAC). The CI is responsible for the integration and connection of (new) members, and their wellbeing. Managing most of the committees and societies is also part of the CI's responsibility, including the organisation of (social) activities. On top of this some External Affairs and Promotion tasks were redivided and added to the responsibility of the CI. These are discussed in the corresponding chapters.

5.1. Member integration

The CI is responsible for integrating new members into the association. This is done through Introduction Periods (hereafter IPs), a buddy system and a mentor policy.

5.1.1. Introduction periods

This year two Introduction Periods were organised, in September and February. New members received an email to welcome them to the association and invite them to the corresponding IP, based on the month in which they signed up. They were informed that they were expected to be there during the entire IP and asked to actively sign-out if they would be unable to attend. In these cases individual exceptions were made to ensure the welcoming and non-obligatory atmosphere of SIB. It was however emphasised that it is recommended to join the camp or trip. In case of the camp, it was recommended to first-years to still join even if it would be for a single night. In hindsight, this did cause some organisational challenges. It's advisable to discuss this option thoroughly with the September camp committee. If it's possible to accommodate, it's recommended to keep the option as the following numbers show the camp is a good way for member integration.

The September IP consisted of the September Camp and four introduction activities the weeks after. This IP counted 37 members, of whom 32 were actually present during (part of) the IP. This year's numbers show that 20 first-years joined the September Camp, of which 17 became active members, which is 85%. Therefore, in line with last year's recommendations, it remains advisable to focus on motivating new members to join the camp. To improve the way this was done this year, it is recommended to further explain the reasons to join the September Camp in the welcome mail, to further enthuse and encourage new members to join.

The February IP consisted of the Lovely Introduction Trip, hereafter LIT, and two introduction activities the weeks after. The LIT went to Cologne this year. This IP included three new members, one of whom joined the LIT. This person did become an active member. In total two out of these three

became active. After the February IP two more people signed-up. They were recommended to join next year's September IP. They have already become active members.

During the September IP an introduction about SIB's committees and societies was organised as an activity for all new members. All committees and societies were asked to send someone and come up with a game to introduce themselves. During the February IP, there were not enough members for such an event, so instead these new members, and members who were unable to make it during the first IP, were invited to a Powerpoint presentation on SIB's committees and societies before an activity, held by the board.

Due to the low number of new sign-ups during the second IP, it is advisable to consider moving the IP to a little bit later in the year. This is more convenient for promotion, because currently the period in which people have to sign-up coincides with the Christmas recess of the Board.

The buddy system was also used once this year in cooperation with the Promotion Committee (PC). It offers members outside of the dedicated IPs an opportunity to be introduced to the association. For next year it is advisable to look into the role of the IAC around the buddy system. It is now mainly handled by the CI and the PC. The role of the PC makes sense as people find SIB and its buddy system through promotion. However, the matching of a buddy could be a task for the IAC, as they have a strong affinity with member connection.

5.1.2. Mentor policy

This year prior to the September IP four mentor groups were created, and in February a fifth one was added for the February IP. Each mentor group had two mentors and consisted of no more than 10 first-years. Once again, international members were placed in a mentor group with other internationals, to ensure they could bond with/easily found fellow mainly English-speaking new SIB-members, while also meeting Dutch members. It's recommended to keep it this way, as it also helps the mentors in encouraging people of their group to speak English. We noticed that it was difficult to determine who was international and who was not, and therefore added a question to the sign-up form to ask members if they speak Dutch. This proved helpful later in the year when also more internationals signed-up.

Mentors were asked to join the corresponding IP, both the trip and the activities, and to eat together with their mentor group at least once. Eating together (preferably prior to a SIB activity) worked really well, also later in the year to reinterest people in the association. Mentors were asked to join the IP and eat together at least once. Besides the aforementioned, it's advisable to ask mentors to organise a dinner again later in the year, around February/March. This way it is easier for the CI to remind mentors in the second part of the year to eat together with their group again, without feeling encumbered.

5.2. Member Connection

Together with committees, societies, and members, a wide variety of activities was organised this year, as can be found in Appendix 2: Overview Activities. During the policy GMA it was announced that there would be a survey to gauge the members' interest in the Family Day and the Hitchhike weekend. Hereafter it was concluded that there was insufficient interest to organise a Family Day, which was therefore abolished. It might be an option to combine the Family Day with the Symposium, which is something future Boards could look into. There was sufficient interest to organise a Hitchhike weekend, as 10 people were interested, and six people voted "maybe interested" of a total of 22 respondents. Unfortunately, in the end there were not enough actual sign-ups and therefore it was called off. It is advisable to look into organising a low-key member weekend away during the late Spring or Summer, like last-years Lustrum Camp, as members seemed to be interested in that.

None of the regular Thursday activities were cancelled, however there were notable differences in the number of sign-ups, which seemed to be mostly related to exam periods, and a few times the type of activity. The attendance of each activity has been recorded as reference for future Cls.

5.2.1. Association-wide Activities

Association-wide activities are the more social activities, which took place on Thursday or Friday, and once on a Sunday. The average number of turn-out was 24. This is more than last year's number, which was at least partially due to the Covid pandemic of last year. This year was also the first year without activities every week. Instead they were biweekly, once every two weeks. As predicted, this allowed more effort and money to go into these activities and increased member attendance. During the year there were however additional activities, for example near the end of the year with the BBQ and party, or to allow societies to organise a Thursday activity. In conclusion, it's recommended to future Boards to keep the activities biweekly, and stay flexible for additional activities.

5.2.2. First Year Activities

Two first-year activities were organised, each following an IP. These activities were deliberately only promoted as first-year activities in the first-year chat, to avoid discouraging more senior members to come. This was regarded as successful and is advisable to implement next year as well. Following the September IP, the first-year activity was the Potluck in December, which twelve first-years joined. Following the February IP, it was Bowling in March, where 10 first-years joined. Both activities had 24 participants in total. Besides for promotion of the first-year activities, the first-year chat was sporadically used throughout the year to further explain certain activities, like GMAs and the

Simulation. This is advisable, and also recommended by the IAC, to continue to do so and to expand this to other aspects of our association, like the Heimweek and Dies.

5.2.3. Tuesday Drinks

The average attendance of the Drinks was 23 people. It is interesting to note the difference in attendance between Drinks with an activity beforehand and Drinks without. This was on average 24 with an activity beforehand, and 21 without. We also noticed some Drinks without an activity beforehand had a really low turn-out of below ten. Therefore, it is advisable to try and find a selling point if it is just the Drinks, like live music, a themed Drinks, or a game night. For more on the locations of the Drinks, see paragraph 2.2. Housing.

5.2.4. Members Surveys

Per usual, there were two member surveys this year: the Interim Member Survey in January/February, and the End of Year Member Survey in June. The surveys were aimed to provide the Board with feedback from members to help them improve and reflect. Specifically feedback about the reduced number of activities this year, the regular location for the Tuesday Drinks, and the new sweaters' icons were asked. Both surveys reflected a preference of the members to keep the amount of activities biweekly. The quality and variety of the activities were well rated in both surveys as well. When asked about their favourite activity this year, all individual answers were different, reflecting the variety and that there was something for everyone. The Interim Member Survey had 30, and the End of Year Member Survey 24 respondents. Both were overall positive.

5.3. Committees under the supervision of the CI

In total eight committees fell under the supervision of the CI. This year, next to the ones elaborated on below, these also included the UIT committee, in accordance with this year's policy, on which more information can be found in paragraph 7.5.2., and the Symposium committee. The Symposium committee was added to the responsibility of the CI after a redivision of tasks. More on the Symposium committee can be found in paragraph 6.3.2. Overall, compiling of the committees was challenging at times, due to it being a time consuming process and the relative small amounts of second- and third-year members. In the end all committees were filled. In case of time limitations within the Board, it's advised to start earlier with the search for committee members than usual.

5.3.1. Internal Affairs Committee

This year, similar to previous years, the Internal Affairs Committee assisted the CI with their tasks. They paid attention to the atmosphere, evaluated activities and introduction periods, assisted with filling committees, and organised the IAC-Twist and the IAC-cantus. Confidentiality surrounding the committee was enforced and agreements were kept. It remains important to discuss confidentiality during meetings and consider what is useful to share with the IAC.

5.3.2. Activities Committee

The Activities Committee organised activities and parties throughout the year. This year, there was one merged Activities Committee, instead of last year's Activities Committee, Cooking Committee, and Party Committee. This worked out well, as the committee had more autonomy in deciding what they would like to organise, and the committee was filled pretty well throughout the year. It was however also noticed that planning the meetings could be difficult with a larger number of people. Since all current members of the committee plan to stay in it next year, and it is a good committee to ask new first-years to join, the Activities Committee will be split again into an Activities Committee and a Party Committee. This way both committees can invite new members. This decision was made in agreement with the upcoming CI, and the current committee presidents and members. It does mean that a clear division of tasks and budget has to be made again. The Partee Committee will organise parties and VriMiBos, while the Activities Committee will organise regular Thursday Activities. It was decided to reinstate the Partee Committee and not the Cooking Committee, because for now two committees are enough and there was more enthusiasm for a Partee Committee. Cooking-related activities, like a dinner, can still be organised by both.

5.3.3. Massively Exciting Mid-Year Excursion Committee

The Massively Exciting Mid-Year Excursion (hereafter: MEME) went to Copenhagen this year. A survey was distributed to determine the destination of the trip. Options for travelling by plane, train or bus were offered and there was a clear preference for non-plane trips, which is in line with the sustainability goals. For the train, smaller travel groups were made, which worked really well. It ensured transfers went smoothly, as each group had a smaller number of people to focus on. Future boards could look into organising a Grand Voyage instead of a MEME. From the End of Year survey it can be concluded that for now, a MEME seems to be preferred, as eight out of 24 voted in favour of a MEME, four in favour of a Grand Voyage, and the others had no preference.

5.3.4. Lovely Introduction Trip Committee

This year's Lovely Introduction Trip committee consisted of three members and was a trip to Cologne. 22 members and one non-member joined. The LIT was right in between the first and second semester, which was nice because it was after the exam period. However, it was difficult with promotion during the Christmas recess. Organising the weekend in March might be better, since this is still the beginning of the semester, and the weather might be nicer.

For the trip, we took the Flixbus, which worked just fine and is a good budget-proof alternative to renting a bus.

There was no committee for the weekend away in November (Fall Introduction Trip, FIT), therefore this was organised by the Board. 24 people joined this trip to Texel. To decrease the workload of the Board, for next year a Fall Trip Committee was instated. Finally, as mentioned before, it is advisable to look into trying to organise a weekend in late Spring or Summer, to replace the Hitchhike Weekend. Members really appreciated the Lustrum Camp last year, and in that period the weather is likely nice for a short trip.

5.4. The HapHop, VriMiBo and themed Fortnights

The goal to achieve bimonthly HapHops was achieved, as there were five throughout the year. The exact frequency wasn't every two months exactly since the best dates were chosen, taking into account for example whether or not there was a Talk/Twist between the Drinks. We opted in favour of a HapHop when there was no activity that night, to encourage people to join these Drinks. The Homemade HapHop is a good way to introduce new members to the association, but the enthusiasm was clearly lower near the end of the year. It would be advisable to try to organise a HapHop at a restaurant near the end of the year. This way, at the beginning of the year everyone can get to know each other better in smaller groups, and at the end of the year everyone can eat together, as most of them know each other.

The goal to achieve three VriMiBos was also achieved, with a Halloween VriMiBo, one during the Heimweek and the VriMiBoot.

Finally, the goal to achieve two themed fortnights was also achieved. The first one was actually a themed fortnight, where the activities were spread over two weeks, whereas the second one was a themed week. This was because, near the end of the year there were simply not enough weeks left for all activities that the board, committees, and societies still wanted to organise. Themed weeks or fortnights are a fun way to combine an intellectual with a social activity, but they do not seem to influence attendance. It does however force the corresponding committees to compromise on a theme, and therefore it is advisable for future boards to reconsider the added value of themed weeks.

5.5. Member Initiatives

This year there were only three member initiatives, two of which were executed. These were the punch at the Halloween VriMiBo and the Beerdropping. The third was organised during the Christmas recess, and therefore not regarded as a SIB activity.

5.6. Societies

This year the policy surrounding societies was that all were required to have two captains, at least seven members, and organise at least four activities, one of which should be association-wide. At the beginning of the year, there were six societies, one of which was disbanded by its captains. Four new ones were founded. Two of those were founded in March or later and were therefore relieved from the activities requirement.

All societies met the requirement to have two captains, sufficient members, and organise at least one association-wide activity. This final requirement of course with the exception of the most recently founded societies. The number of society-only activities was checked at the end of the year, and some societies did not meet the requirement to organise three additional activities for their society. It was however decided to allow them to remain instated, as they were all still enthusiastic and activities were still organised. It might be unnecessary to keep it as a requirement, since it could be viewed as separate from the association and the choice of the society itself. The requirement to have an association-wide activity was upheld, societies were reminded about this, and quite early in the year specific dates were set, resulting in association-wide activities organised by all seven societies that were required to. For future boards, it is advised to look into the use of the requirement of organising three non-association-wide activities.

6. External Affairs

External Affairs include the public intellectual program of SIB, which entails the intellectual activities on Tuesday as well as the annual symposium. The Commissioner of External Affairs (CEA) is responsible for several committees, as described in paragraph 6.3. This year the responsibilities of the CEA were redivided between the other Board members.

6.1. The intellectual Tuesday evening programme

This year intellectual Tuesday activities were organised biweekly (once every two weeks), with a few extra activities in case of interesting collaborations or special occasions. The decreased frequency of Talks would take away some pressure from the External Affairs Committee and the Commissioner of External Affairs. Some positive consequences were postulated: increased attendance and increased quality of activities.

Besides the choice for biweekly Tuesday activities, there were a handful of other new initiatives this year. These were the reintroduction of a quota for STEM-related Tuesdays, a goal of collaborations with organisations that fight for diversity, and the increase in frequency of Tuesday Twists.

6.1.1. Topics

The diversity of topics remains a balance that is reevaluated every year. This year the target for STEM-related topics was reintroduced. Besides that, the categories of International Relations and Socially Relevant remained in place. International Relations was defined broadly as topics relating to foreign countries, while Socially Relevant was more focused on Dutch society. The reception of STEM Talks remains to be evaluated after this year since there was only one of them. Two Talks were STEM-related, but eventually fitted better in the other categories. It is advisable to include STEM-related topics again next year, as 56,5% (13 out of 23) of the respondents of the End-of-Year member survey indicated to be interested in these topics.

6.1.2. Diversity

Diversity this year was split up into several targets which, again, have been discussed further in 1.2.2. under the header 'targets'. Compared to last year, there were two new developments. The first was replacing the diversity target for background of speakers by a target for three collaborations with organisations committed to diversity. The reasoning for this was mainly to prevent selecting speakers

purely to meet a quota, but also because it prevents having to define the speaker as having a certain ethnic background.

The second was doing away with the explicit target for gender diversity. Instead of a 50/50 female to male ratio, a 'representative gender spectrum' was set as a target. This not only removed the binary target, but also allowed for a reduction in the amount of hard targets. Eventually, this was not achieved, which happened despite the effort that included preferentially inviting women first. More women were invited than men, however more of the men were available. Additionally, we cannot confirm the self-identified gender of speakers. We had to assume the pronouns we read about them or heard from them to indicate their gender.

We could not always influence the speaker as for example three Talks were organised by Studium Generale and three others were in collaboration with the organisations that fight for diversity. Those six Talks constitute almost a quarter of all Tuesdays this year. Besides those Tuesdays there were some other difficulties and limitations towards finding speakers, such as the availability of speakers and a less diverse speaker base regarding specific topics. It is advisable to invite speakers as early as two months in advance to increase the likelihood of availability.

6.1.3. Quality

The quality of the Tuesday evenings has been measured by a combination of attendance and evaluation. The targets (average attendance of 25 and average score of 8) have been discussed more extensively under 'Targets' in Chapter 1. Attendance was measured by the amount of visitors at the intellectual activity. This choice was made because in the case of collaborations there will also be people present that are not there for SIB, but for another association/ organisation. This would result in a distorted image of how popular the Tuesdays were. The evening with highest SIB attendance was the open mic with 37 visitors present. The highest total attendance of a SIB-Utrecht Tuesday was for Susan Kigula. Including the members of collaborating associations and her entourage there were over 60 people attending.

The quality of the Talk was also measured using Cognito Forms where people could insert a rating between 1 and 10. This year, an option for leaving a comment was added in an attempt to receive more in-depth feedback about the Tuesdays we organised. This resulted in more specific feedback and was regarded as a positive addition.

Together, the attendance and rating combined for a success rating for an evening. By multiplying attendance and rating, one number could quantify the success of an evening. This way a good rating could balance out low attendance and a high attendance could balance out a lower rating. Having one number to quantify success makes comparison and drawing conclusions easier. A successful evening would have a rating of 200 (25*8). The average success rate this year was 177,7.

Same as last year, the success rating system defined the SIB Open Mic as the best activity with a success rating of 340,4. The highest individual rating/ score however was earned by speaker Willemijn Dicke with a rating of 9,4. Making her the best speaker.

6.2. Locations

Attendance stayed stable compared to last year. In accordance with this smaller locations felt better fitting and made the room look more attractive. We spent less Tuesdays at Cervantes, continuing a trend that started the previous last year. This allowed us to save on the rent paid to Cervantes this year, while still being able to continue our contract. Our relation with Cervantes has not been compromised. It might be worth looking into the smaller rooms Cervantes has available. Additionally, locations like Café De Tussentijd or Café De Beuntjes offer a more intimate atmosphere for Tuesday Twists with groups of around 25 people.

6.3. Committees

6.3.1. External Affairs Committee

The EAC this year experienced several changes. Most importantly the reduction in Tuesday activities. This essentially halved the workload of the committee. Members of the committee were in agreement with this policy change, but somewhat lamented the decrease in intellectual activities. Especially at the start of the year, when there were still seven people in the committee, there was a sense of a lack of work to do. Throughout the year this changed, since several people left the committee. Four committee members seemed sufficient for the biweekly format of Talks. The Treasurer becoming the chairperson instead of CE had no negative impact on the functioning of the committee. If anything, having another person to help out was positive for the committee, as it offered a fresh perspective.

Some discussions have become recurring topics this year. One of the most long-lived points of discussion has been that of internationalisation, mostly in regards to which language would be preferred at Talks. Some people (speakers and attendees) would prefer Talks to be in Dutch. The majority of speakers invited are native Dutch speakers. Some people (speakers and attendees) would prefer Talks to be in Dutch. It is unknown in advance if any non-Dutch speaking members would attend the Talk. This left us to strike a balance between accessibility and comfort. We decided to prioritise accessibility and ask most speakers to prepare their Talk in English, while maintaining the option to switch to Dutch if everyone present agreed. Some other Talks however, were held in Dutch. This was

the case for three Talks and two TTs. With one exception these were in Dutch, due to the absence of any non-Dutch speakers. In case of the exception, this was announced in the promotion.

Another discussion was that of diversity. While everyone agreed that it is important and worth focusing on, in practice it turned out to be difficult. Difficulties and limitations are discussed under paragraph 6.1.2. The diversity of academic background and topics, though they were met, leave room for improvement. It is possible that this is the result of a bias towards academia within the EAC. As we are all students our interests and networks lie for a large part in the academic world. Determining in advance which Tuesdays are to be hosted by non-academics could help to remind of this goal. It is advisable to keep improving the current guidelines for the EAC concerning diversity. The manual lists a few networks that can aid in finding the right people.

6.3.2. Symposium Committee

The Symposium Committee organised the symposium with the title 'Becoming. An Inquiry on Identity', which appealed to a broad audience. This was reflected in the attendance of the symposium as well. 54 tickets were sold, and eleven people volunteered. This is more than last year's 40, which was also due to the symposium being only during the afternoon instead of lasting the whole day. Members as well as other visitors showed appreciation for it only being part of the day.

To improve attendance even further, it could be an option to reinstate the Family Day as part of the Symposium. This way members could be encouraged even further to bring their family and friends. Future boards could look into this possibility.

Starting the symposium committee this year was challenging. Eventually the preparations started in December, when the committee was complete. This meant that the traditional deadline of organising the symposium in March was no longer realistic. The date was moved to early May instead. As the Symposium approached, support of this committee was transferred to the Commissioner of Internal Affairs in February. This meant an adjustment for the committee members, which they handled really well.

Currently, the Symposium Committee for the 2024 Symposium is being set up. This will be a separate committee or can be added to the responsibilities of the EAC, which would make sense in regards to their altered workload.

7. Promotion

The association and the Programme of Talks cannot exist without effective promotion. The Commissioner of Promotion (CP) is normally responsible for the promotion of and within the association, and promotion of Tuesday evenings.

In contrast to previous years, this year, we did not have a Board member fulfilling the role of CP. Therefore, the tasks associated with the CP have been subdivided among all Board members. Additionally, more responsibility was laid on the Promotion Committee and we asked help from other committees for promoting their activities. However, the Board experienced a lack of capacity in promotion and we emphasise to future Boards to make sure to appoint a Commissioner of Promotion.

7.1. Brand Awareness

This year we promoted SIB on several platforms (see below) with promotion materials made by the Board, the Promotion Committee and committees themselves. We did not completely fulfil the use of the corporate identity document regarding this promotion, this was to experiment and give space to creativity. However, we advise future Boards to soon update this document in accordance with the new multi-annual plan regarding Member Recruitment. To regulate promotion between the Board members, an internal schedule was made, which will be discussed in 9.2. We did not achieve our subgoal to make a new promotion plan for the Symposium, but we do advise the next Board to do so to support the committee. A promotion scheme for the UIT was made and added to the UIT protocol.

An offline presence was established through attending one UU Open Day, and two HU Open Days. We also made an appearance at the UU Warm Welcome Week (Orientation Day) in February. Physical promotion of SIB happened in the most sustainable way, which means: sustainable paper and (mostly) timeless promotion.

7.2. Internal Promotion

The internal promotional plan was strongly based on the previous schedule and turned out to work nicely. However, on some occasions it was impossible to promote a Talk two weeks beforehand due to some complications in their organisation. All our internal promotion was in English, Dutch-only events excluded, since it should be accessible for all our members.

7.3.1. Channels

This year it was decided to use Instagram and Facebook for online promotion. The goal was to gain 60 followers on Instagram this year, totalling to 650. This was achieved, as our Instagram currently has 690 followers. Instagram is a great platform to advertise and promote external activities. This year we used paid promotion for promoting big events. We strongly advise upcoming Boards to prioritise Instagram over all other promotional platforms. Facebook was also used to promote bigger events, but Facebook is not really relevant anymore. We see this at the events posted last year, those did not have a large reach on Facebook. We advise to stop using Facebook as a promotional platform. We continued to promote on Uni-Life and believe that this platform has great potential. However, the platform is still not really big and we advise the next Board to keep an eye out for it and see if it is still fertile in the future.

7.3.2. Tuesday evening programme

The Promotion Committee (PC) was responsible for the promotion of the Tuesday evening programme. If the Talks were open for non-members, they were promoted on Uni-Life and to relevant study associations. Members of the PC were also always present at a promotion stand in Cervantes to provide information about SIB to external visitors. The Symposium was published in the Uitagenda and in Uitagenda English (formerly known as MAG). On the SIB website we also promoted our Tuesday activities. We advise future Boards to focus more on paid promotion of our Tuesday activities on Instagram, this could lead to more external visitors on our Talks.

7.4. Merchandise

The PC was responsible for selecting and designing new merchandise. Promotion of our merchandise happened in the SIB Link and e-SIB . We continued to use the webshop on the website for the selling process. At the end of the year, the PC launched the pre-orders for the new SIB sweater. We advise Boards to keep merchandise as sustainable as possible, since our members expressed an interest in sustainable merchandise.

7.5. Committees regarding Promotion

7.5.1. Promotion Committee

The Promotion Committee fell under the responsibility of the Secretary and was chaired by an experienced member of the committee instead of a Board member. The committee experienced more responsibilities during the year due to the lack of a CP. These circumstances led to a bit of a rough start

for the committee, but nonetheless, the committee created some new designs of promotional materials, made an appearance at several Open Days, and worked closely with the UIT committee. We recommend having the committee chaired by a Board member to keep the ties of the committee and the Board close, we think this could help the committee with executing promotional tasks.

7.5.2. UIT Committee

This year the UIT committee fell under the responsibility of the CI. The committee consisted of seven people and was set up in December. This year the UIT board decided to discontinue the parade, and therefore we asked to be allowed to join the “Cultuurfestival” (cultural festival), which we were allowed to. This meant SIB was represented at three markets during the UIT, as well as with a stand on Janskerkhof. The CI supported the committee by helping to search for volunteers, helping in communication with the UIT board and Café de Tussentijd, and organising the BBQ the evening before the UIT week. The UIT 2023 led to XXX new members.

8. Acquisition

8.1. General and the Acquisition Committee

This year, there was no Commissioner of Acquisition (hereafter: CA). The Acquisition Committee (hereafter: AC) therefore operated more autonomously and was chaired by an experienced AC member. The President took place in the AC, to ensure a good connection between the Board and the AC. This construction worked well, but an experienced member to chair the committee was required. The workload of the AC is not too high, so the coordination in this manner can work out.

Nevertheless, since subsidy requests are handed in by the responsible from the Board (i.e., the President last year), that Board member will always have a significant role. Last year, the structure was necessary because of the structure of the Board and association. For next year, it is strongly advised to let the CA chair the AC. It improves the general overview of acquisition affairs significantly.

Last year, subsidy requests were made for the Programme of Talks and the MEME. One was also prepared for the Simulation, but due to lower costs this was not necessary in the end. The subsidy request was therefore retracted.

8.2. Organisation and Communication

8.2.1. Newsletters

For the first time, no newsletters with updates on past and future Talks were sent to the funds supporting the Programme of Talks 2022-2023. This was due to the necessary reduction of tasks of the AC and the lack of effect this had for guarantees of subsidies. We have not noticed that this influenced the good relationships with the funds, from both sides. Therefore, the newsletters can be left out definitively.

8.2.2. Organisation and conservation of knowledge

Contact with potential sponsors and the regularly addressed funds went through the general SIB mail account. Occasionally, the mail account of the AC was used for potential new funds. The Google Drive account attached to the AC mail account was used for storage of (joint) documents.

8.3. Programme of Talks 2022-2023

The Programme of Talks 2022-2023 was supported by U-fonds and VIGU. Their support proved to be sufficient, requesting respectively €435,97 and €217,99. The finalisation has been completed and has been sent during August.

8.4. Programme of Talks 2023-2024

Subsidy requests for the Programme of Talks of 2023-2024 have been sent out to U-fonds and VIGU. VIGU has confirmed to guarantee the requested €500,-. U-fonds confirmed to guarantee €1.450,-, which is slightly less than the requested €1.500,-. Because of the limited difference in guarantee and request, some of the expenses shall be reduced, spread out over different posts. This is communicated with the funds. Because of this, it will not be necessary to use the reserve.

8.5. Erasmus Solidarity Corps Project

At the end of this academic year, SIB acquired a subsidy from the European Solidarity Corps. This is a funding programme of the European Union meant for projects organised by young people.⁷ In short, groups of young people can apply for a subsidy from the ESC if they set up a project that improves the solidarity of the local community, in line with the mission and principles set by the ESC.⁸ SIB has requested a subsidy to carry out a project with two aims: firstly, improving the accessibility to student life for young people with a hearing impairment, and secondly, to organise ways in which our members can work with European subjects (such as immigration, participation, and inclusion) in an (inter)active way. The execution of this project as a whole is to be done during the next board year, between September 2023 and July 2024.

The subsidy for the project is €5.950 in total. 80% has been paid in advance, whilst the other 20% is paid after the project. A report will be written and handed in shortly after the project. Our advice is to set up a separate committee to carry out this project next year. We will also provide suggestions for the formation of a project plan.

⁷ For more information on the ESC, see: https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity_en.

⁸ A more inclusive society, providing aid to those vulnerable and tackling societal issues.

8.6. Sponsorship

Sponsors were not actively searched for by the AC this year. The President would keep track of offers that the Board received via the general mail account. This did not result in new sponsorship deals. For next year, it is advised that the CA looks into a less passive position towards possible sponsors.

Epilogue

We hope that with this report we have provided you with enough insight into the workings of SIB-Utrecht during the past year, as well as the functioning of the XLIIInd Board. We have made an effort to further stabilise the SIB's fundamentals towards the association's future.

Yours Sincerely,

The 42nd Board of SIB-Utrecht,

Xavier Schreurs	President
Lotte Kruitwagen	Secretary
Mila Subotički	Treasurer
Britte Brontsema	Commissioner of Internal Affairs
Jasper Buren	Commissioner of External Affairs



Appendix 1: External Contacts of the President

Utrecht University (UU)

The contact and cooperation between SIB and Utrecht University has been maintained. The Board has been attending official UU events, like the UU dinner. Furthermore, the university's Executive Board was invited to SIB's Symposium in May 2023.

University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (HU)

The contact and cooperation between SIB and the University of Applied Sciences have been maintained. The Board has attended official HU occasions, for example the Opening of the Academic Year. Furthermore, the HU's Executive Board was invited to SIB's Symposium in May 2023.

Pnyx

Contact with the Pnyx porters has been maintained and a porter being present during these opening times. The mutual relationship between fellow Boards located in Pnyx was maintained and intensified where possible, mostly through the Pnyx Committee and FISA.

Bestuurlijk Actief

SIB kept good contact with Bestuurlijk Actief, the collaboration between Utrecht University of Applied Sciences (HU) and Utrecht University (UU) for the benefit of student organisations. In the first place via FISA and the umbrella meetings, as mentioned in paragraph 2.4. In the second place concerning the housing of the student organisations in Pnyx (both in name of the Pnyx Committee and individually), as discussed in paragraph 2.2.

SIB-Nederland (DUNSA-NL)

SIB-Nederland is the umbrella organisation of the four SIB cities (Amsterdam, Groningen, Leiden and Utrecht). This year, the President of SIB-Utrecht was the Commissioner of Acquisition of the Board of DUNSA. Contact between the cities was positive and much appreciated by each city's President. Meetings were held approximately every four weeks. Three events were organised by SIB-NL this year; the gala in November in Utrecht, SIB-NL Drinks in March also held in Utrecht and the SIB-NL conference in November in Groningen. We felt holding activities like these are a good way to bond, but the organisation and especially the sharing of promotional material at times went somewhat roughly. We have taken this into account for the transfer document for our successors. Furthermore, we have set up the organisation of a SIB-NL introductory event to be held in the next academic year in order for members to be introduced to SIB-NL and other SIB cities' members early on in the year. All in all,

cooperation between the SIB-cities is advised, but continuing to find the best ways for this is advised for the upcoming SIB boards.

Federation of International Student Associations (FISA)

The five international associations of Utrecht, SIB, AEGEE, AIESEC, Buddy Go Dutch and ESN, have an umbrella body. This umbrella organisation is called Federation of International Student Associations. Report on FISA has been covered in this document earlier on, under paragraph 2.4.

Utrecht University Hall

SIB makes use of the Utrecht University Hall several times a year. The Aula is used whenever we are collaborating with Studium Generale in the Tuesday programme and the Senate Hall is a beautiful accommodation for the Change of Board.

The Utrecht Centre for Global Challenges (UGlobe)

This year, the President of SIB officially took part in the Student Council of UGlobe. In practice, no meetings were held and it is unclear as to why. From neither side, initiative was undertaken to look for further contact, apart from at the very beginning of the academic year. Nevertheless, SIB organised a Tuesday Talk together with UGlobe, ACHN and CS Ubuntu. Keeping in contact with UGlobe might therefore still be advisable, although perhaps not for actively participating in the Student Council.

Appendix 2: Overview Activities

This overview was added to paint a picture of what SIB-Utrecht and its members have organised in the past twelve months. It excludes all the standard Tuesday evening drinks.

September

Date	Activity	Location
Friday 02/09/2022	Deventer trip	Deventer
Tuesday 06/09/2022	Talk: Mobile Phones and Mountain Gorillas	Instituto Cervantes
Thursday 08/09/2022	Park, Pandje, Poema - became Plens, Pandje, Poema due to rain, with a HapHop	Café 't Pandje and Poema
Tuesday 13/09/2022	Studium Generale: How China Takes Over	Academiegebouw
Wednesday 21/09/2022	Playing pool	Ozebi
Friday-Sunday 23-25/09/2022	CampCo: September Camp	Kampeerhoeve Koole
Tuesday 27/09/2022	TT: Food security: back on the menu	Instituto Cervantes
Thursday 29/09/2022	Meet the committees and societies	Café de Beuntjes (instead of Wilhelmina park, due to bad weather)

October

Date	Activity	Location
Tuesday 04/10/2022	HapHop and TT TT: Documentary David Attenborough: A Life on our Planet together	SIBbers house
Thursday 06/10/2022	Pingpong and inauguration of new members	PingPongClub and Café de Beuntjes
Tuesday 11/10/2022	Studium Generale: Rethinking Global Power: Russia's Power Game	Academiegebouw

Thursday 13/10/2022	Board Birthday Party	Pnyx
Wednesday 19/10/2022	Constitutional drinks	U-Bar
Thursday 20/10/2022	Boomer Society: Boomer Bingo	Café de Tussentijd
Tuesday 25/10/2022	Talk: Americanisation: American neocolonialism?	Instituto Cervantes
Wednesday 26/10/2022	Policy GMA	Minnaert Building
Friday 28/10/2022	Halloween VriMiBo	SIBbers house

November

Date	Activity	Location
Thursday 03/11/2022	AcCo: Pimp your own Jenga tower	Buurthuis de Leeuw
Tuesday 08/11/2022	Studium Generale: Rethinking Global Power: Europe's Revival	Academiegebouw
Friday 11/11/2022	GalaCo: Annual SIB-NL Gala	NSU
Tuesday 15/11/2022	Talk: Coral Lecture	Instituto Cervantes
Thursday 17/11/2022	FilmCo: Mystery Movie	Pathé Leidsche Rijn
Tuesday 22/11/2022	Talk: Susan Kigula Collaboration with CS Ubuntu, ACHN and UGlobe	Instituto Cervantes
Saturday-Sunday 26-27/11/2022	FT-trip to Texel	Texel

December

Date	Activity	Location
Thursday 01/12/2022	Themed week Scandinavia: Swedish Ikea Society: Ikea Scavenger Hunt	IKEA Utrecht

Tuesday 06/12/2022	Themed week Scandinavia: TT: Documentary and Discussion night	Café de Tussentijd
Thursday 15/12/2022	AcCo: December Potluck	Buurthuis de Uithoek
Tuesday 20/12/2022	TobeHuman Society: TT: Ulu mosque tour	Ulu mosque

January

Date	Activity	Location
Thursday 12/01/2023	AcCo: Amsterdam light festival	Amsterdam
Tuesday 17/01/2023	TT: Geography Quiz Night	Café de Beuntjes
Thursday 26/01/2023	Ice skating	Vechtsebanen
Tuesday 31/01/2023	Talk: Water Management	Instituto Cervantes

February

Date	Activity	Location
Saturday-Sunday 04-05/02/2023	LITco: Lovely Introduction Trip	Cologne
Tuesday 07/02/2023	TT: Open Mic	Café de Beuntjes
Thursday 09/02/2023	Wine Tasting	Café de Tussentijd
Tuesday 14/02/2023	XLlst Board: Lumen Tour	Utrecht
Thursday 16/02/2023	XLlst Board: Candle pot painting	Pnyx
Friday 17/02/2023	XLlst Board: Summer VriMiBo	SIBbers house
Wednesday 22/02/2023	Half Year GMA	Buys Ballot Building

Thursday 23/02/2023	AcCo Utrecht Underground	Utrecht
Tuesday 28/02/2023	TT: Philosophical Café: Hinduism	Café de Tussentijd

March

Date	Activity	Location
Tuesday 07/03/2023	TT: Simpol: Global Policy	Café de Beuntjes
Wednesday 08/03/2023	FISA: International Party	Back & Fourth
Thursday 09/03/2023	AcCo: Trivia thursday	Buurthuis de Leeuw
Monday 13/03/2023	Dies reception	U-bar
Tuesday 14/03/2023	Dies Haphop and drinks	SIBbers house and Café de Tussentijd
Thursday 16/03/2023	Laser tag: be your own hero	Kartfabrique
Friday 17/03/2023	IAC + AcCo: Dies cantus and party	SSR-NU
Tuesday 21/03/2023	SIB-NL Drinks	Café de Tussentijd
Thursday 23/03/2023	AcCo: Bowling First-year activity	Mitland bowling
Friday 24/03/2023	Drinks for alumni	Café de Beuntjes
Tuesday 28/03/2023	IAC: IAC-TT: Iftar	SECU Utrecht

April

Date	Activity	Location
Thursday 06/04/2023	AcCo: Open stage	ZIMHIC Wittevrouwen

Tuesday 11/04/2023	TT: Documentary 'The Fall of Mayan Civilisation'	Café de Tussentijd
Monday-Sunday 17-23/04/2023	MEMEco: Massively Exciting Midyear Excursion	Copenhagen and Malmö
Tuesday 25/04/2023	Talk: Human Rights in South Sudan	Café de Tussentijd

May

Date	Activity	Location
Monday 01/05/2023	Poema umbrella committee: Back to the ages party	Back & Fourth
Tuesday 02/05/2023	TT: Grebbeberg Tour. In collaboration with Stichting de Greb	The Grebbeberg
Sunday 07/05/2023	Symposium committee: Symposium: "Becoming: an inquiry on identity"	Instituto Cervantes
Tuesday 09/05/2023	Haphop	SIB'ers house
Thursday 11/05/2023	Acapella Society: Karaoke night	Café Ome Willem
Tuesday 16/05/2023	Talk: Masterclass: Meaning of Life	Instituto Cervantes
Tuesday 23/05/2023	TT: Debate Night	Instituto Cervantes
Friday 25/05/2023	AcCo: Pubcrawls	Pubs and cafés throughout Utrecht and Ekko
Wednesday 31/05/2023	Election GMA	Buys Ballot Building

June

Date	Activity	Location
Thursday 01/06/2023	Member initiative: Beerdropping	Nieuwegein and Utrecht
Friday-Sunday 02-04/06/2023	Simulation committee: Simulation: "The Golden Age of Piracy"	University College Utrecht

Tuesday 06/06/2023	Themed week inner peace: PAX Talk: West-Bank Ecuminal Accompaniment	Instituto Cervantes
Thursday 08/06/2023	Themed week inner peace: Yoga	Yogaya
Tuesday 13/06/2023	Committee Thank-you Picnic Dinner	Wilhelmina park
Tuesday 13/06/2023	Nacha Society: Pubquiz and nachos	Café de Tussentijd
Friday 16/06/2023	AcCo: VriMiBoot	Oosterkade
Sunday 18/06/2023	To be Human Society: Guided meditation nature walk	Landgoed Beerschoten
Tuesday 20/06/2023	Talk: Importance of the oral tradition around Afrocentricity	Instituto Cervantes
Wednesday 21/06/2023	Extra GMA	Buys Ballot Building
Thursday 22/06/2023	AcCo: End of Year BBQ, became End of year Pizza party	Café de Bastaard
Friday 30/06/2023	AcCo: End of year Party	Biton