

## **Minutes 2023 - 2024 Policy GMA 19-10-2023**

### **1. Opening**

**Lena:** With the next hammerstrike, I open the General Members Assembly of October 19th 2023 of SIB-Utrecht at 17:40.

*Hammer Strike*

**Lena:** For the benefit of processing our Minutes, we kindly ask if we can record this GMA. The recording will be solely used to finish the Minutes, and deleted after that. If anyone objects, please let us know now.

Then we proceed to the next item, Setting the Agenda.

*Hammer Strike*

### **2. Setting the Agenda**

**Lena:** The agenda is shown on the screen. One change has been made in comparison to the agenda distributed beforehand, namely that point 10 has changed from 'Finance' to 'Budget', as Finance is part of the Policy. Are there any requests for additions to the agenda?

That means the agenda is hereby set and we go on to item 3, the Minutes of the previous GMA.

*Hammer Strike*

### **3. Minutes previous GMA**

**Lena:** Now is your chance to discuss the Minutes of the Year and Inauguration GMA of August 29th and 30th 2022. This discussion is fit for the contents of these Minutes, textual or stylistic remarks can be emailed to Dana. Are there any questions on the Minutes of the Year and Inauguration GMA?

That means the Minutes are accepted. We then move on to the next item, the Mail.

*Hammer Strike*

### **4. Mail**

**Lena:** I'd like to give the floor to Dana.

**Dana:** We have received 15 authorisations.

1. Nina van de Voort authorises Maya Keur
2. Rogier Vonk authorises Britte Bronsema
3. Lian Mulder authorises Annika Boekenstijn
4. Pèma Janssen authorises Iris Veldhuis
5. Simone van Workum authorises Charlotte van Brakel
6. Lenne Steeghs authorises Kim Haartsen
7. Ottelien van den Bosch authorises Pieter Schultze
8. Vincent Kuhlmann authorises Dana van Uiter
9. Jeljer Aldershof authorises Elsbeth Smalbrugge
10. Martin Averdijk authorises Anouk van Wetten
11. Delenn Lapré authorises Mink Bijleveld
12. Emmy Swart authorises Lotte Kruitwagen
13. Dita Evenblij authorises Mila Subotički
14. David van Thiel authorises Maartje Delis
15. Marcelo Geurts Gàldamez authorises Xavier Schreurs

**Lena:** Thank you. We then continue to the next item, the Announcements.

*Hammer Strike*

## **5. Announcements**

**Lena:** Welcome everyone to the GMA! We are pleased to see so many of you here. There are a couple of announcements:

- Language: The used language for this GMA is English as there will be non-Dutch speaking members attending later. However, if you are uncomfortable asking a question in English, you can do this in Dutch. One of the Board members will then translate your question. We will answer in English. Don't be afraid to make any errors in your translations, we have trouble finding the correct words as well, so we will get there together.
- Please only speak when you have been given the floor. And please only speak one at the time. Otherwise, it is impossible for Dana to make proper Minutes.
- Please notice that the GMA is set to end at 21.45. We are on a bit of a tight schedule, so we kindly ask to take this into account when you ask questions or participate in a discussion.
- With regard to the voting procedure, as you will have noticed, we made a separate item on the agenda on this part. We will thus be talking about that shortly.

Are there any questions on this matter? Then we move on to the next point, number 6; Installation and Discharge of Committees.

*Hammer Strike*

## **6. Installation and Discharge of Committees**

**Lena:** We start with the discharge of Committees, so...

With the next hammer strike I discharge:

- as members of the Activities Committee: Laure Hehemann and Kevin Wei

*Hammer Strike*

**Maartje:** Thanks Laura and Kevin for your efforts in the Activities Committee, we've enjoyed all activities last year and you were amazing in starting up the committee this year. Although I'm sad to see you go, I wish you all the best.

With the next hammer strike I discharge:

- as member of the IT Committee: Dana van Uitert

*Hammer Strike*

**Wouter:** Dear Dana, your contributions to the IT committee have been instrumental. Your dedication and support remains an inspiration, and you can be proud of your legacy within the committee. Your role cannot be understated, and we are sad to see you go, but we will carry your lessons into the future. Thank you!

**Lena:** With the next hammer strike I discharge:

- as members of the September Camp Committee: Dana van Uitert, Delenn Lapré, Marcelo Geurts Galdamez, Roos Speelman and Vera ter Braak

*Hammer Strike*

**Maartje:** Dear September Camp Committee, I'd like to thank you for the wonderful camp! The theme was so good! Everyone had so much fun this weekend with the amazing games, the escape room in particular. I hope the vibes at September Camp will be the same throughout the entire year!

**Lena:** With the next hammer strike I discharge:

- As member of the Promotion Committee: Roos Speelman

*Hammer Strike*

**Lena:** Dear Roos, we would like to thank you for your lovely drawings you made for the Promotion Committee. You always made the Monday Evening Meetings extra fun. It is very nice to know that you are still willing to make drawings for SIB. We love you!

**Lena:** With the next hammer strike I discharge:

- As member of the External Committee: Mila Suboticki

### *Hammer Strike*

**Rick:** Dear Mila. We would like to thank you for your work in the External Affairs Committee. While you weren't in the committee for long, you joined at a very important time. The committee needed an extra set of hands and you were willing to help. With your help, the committee organised some fantastic talks and you should be proud of what you accomplished.

**Lena:** We now move on to the installation in committees. So, with the next hammer strike, I install:

- As member of the External Affairs Committee: Elsbeth Smalbrugge
- As member of the Acquisition Committee: Maartje Delis
- As members of the Activities Committee: Marthe-Maria Twisk and Lenne Steeghs
- As members of the IT Committee: Bram Schumacher and Sofie Kisjes
- As members of the Lovely Introduction Trip Committee: Mink Bijleveld, Georgina Hekkelman and Finn Koopman
- As members of the European Solidarity Corps Committee: Britte Brontsema, Mila Suboticki, Lotte Kruitwagen, Dana van Uitert and Delenn Lapré

### *Hammer Strike*

**Lena:** That was it concerning the committees. We now move on to the installation and discharge of Society Captains. Hereby I discharge:

- As captains of the Film Society: Maya Keur, Lotte Zijlstra and Benjamin Dekker

### *Hammer Strike*

**Maartje:** Dear Maya, Lotte and Benj, I think a lot of people are sad to see the Film Society go. Though I have not personally seen much of the Film Society, I've heard great stories and I want to thank you for your efforts as Captains!

**Lena:** Hereby I instal:

- As captains of the DRAGON, Dungeons and dragons society: Rick Grijpma and David van Thiel

### *Hammer Strike*

**Lena:** We'll now continue with the next agenda item, the GMA committees.

## **7. GMA-Committees**

**Lena:** I will ask one member of each GMA committee to give an update on their activities, beginning with the Board of Advisors. Can I give the floor to Anouk?

**Anouk:** Hello everyone, my name is Anouk and I speak on behalf of the Board of Advisors, which I occupy alongside Xavier, Els, and Iris. The Board of Advisors serves to advise the Board and the GMA on SIB matters. We answer directly to the GMA, which is why I give the GMA an update on our activities since the last GMA took place.

The past months we have gotten to know each other and the Board a little better. We helped during the process of preparation for this Policy GMA and the Policy document that we are going to discuss tonight. Furthermore, we introduced ourselves at September camp and helped the Board whenever needed.

**Lena:** If there are no further questions, I'd like to continue with the Audit Committee and give the floor to Léon.

**Léon:** Dear GMA,

For those who don't know us yet, I'm Léon and together with Annika and Mila we are the Audit Committee. In the last weeks, we have supported Matthijs with finetuning the annual budget and provided feedback on the financial part of the policy document. We have also done an elaborate first audit of the year, which went smoothly. We concluded that the accounting was all in order, and only suggested very minor changes. Finally, we will now go over the debtors during every audit in order to shorten the list, minimise workload at the end of the year and avoid unnecessary presence of debtors.

Kind regards on behalf of the Audit Committee

**Lena:** If there are no further questions, I would like to continue with the SIB-Link and give the floor to Maya.

**Maya:** Hello everyone! Because Nina can't be here (being in Frankfurt and all), I will give a quick update on behalf of the SIBlink. We've been working on the first edition of the year and had our first meeting. The new members are settling in nicely and we hope the next edition will bring some positivity to these rainy autumn days. All in all, we're doing very well. If you have any questions, feel free to ask them!

**Lena:** If there are no further questions, I would like to continue with the Taskforce and give the floor to Maya.

**Maya:** Hello, it's me again. The intellectual taskforce has been working hard. We sat with the EAC and had a fruitful discussion with them, we will be talking to the PC and AC, and board soon as well. We are very excited about our MCM HapHop next week, so make sure to come by and chat. We will also send in a survey soon, so make sure to fill that in as well :)

**Lena:** Are there any questions? Then we will continue with the next agenda item, the voting procedure.

**Maartje Delis:** This is out of pure curiosity, but what is your eventual end goal, like, why has the task force been formed?

**Maya:** Yes, so the taskforce has been formed because over the past few years there have been quite a few problems with the intellectual program, or challenges is maybe a better

word, so we are kinda trying to make an overview of that and to find a direction for the intellectual program to go into over the next few years.

**Annika:** I was wondering if there are other MCM's planned or if this will be the only one.

**Maya:** There will probably be another one as well, but we are still looking for a good date for that.

*Hammer Strike*

## 8. Voting procedure

**Lena:** There are a couple of notions to mention regarding the voting procedure, just to be clear this is the same as last year, but some members are joining for the first time:

- First of all, we use the QR codes when we have a vote. The QR codes will go around the room and you will be able to scan it with your phone. If you are authorised, remember to vote twice. Some of the members of the Board of Advisors will vote against, so everyone will feel comfortable to give their vote.
- Secondly, we would like to clarify the options you will have when voting takes place. You will have three options: pro, against, abstain. When you vote 'pro', you vote in favour and if you vote 'against' you oppose the case at stake. If you vote 'abstain', it means that your vote will not count in the set voting. You literally abstain from voting and we will not take these votes into account when counting votes. Nonetheless, we kindly ask you to fill in this option during the voting, so we can check whether everyone has voted, including the authorisations. The option that receives the majority of the votes shall be taken as the outcome and thus the result of the set voting. Are there any questions?

**Maya:** Yes, last year, we had a discussion about the members of the board of advisors voting against, because it was a bit confusing, like is that something they coordinate amongst each other, or is that something... yeah, how does that work? And I was wondering if this has been evaluated or if there are any ideas on that.

**Lena:** Can I give the floor to Anouk?

**Anouk:** Yes, so, why the board of advisors votes against, is the question, right?

**Maya:** Yes.

**Anouk:** Last year, we decided that we will remain with policy as has been going on for years, and this year as is in policy, the huishoudelijk reglement, the rules of procedure, will be revised and while doing so we will also look at the article that says the board of advisors votes against. So now we just stick to what we have been doing, but this year we will evaluate if that still is the right way to do it.

**Maya:** Okay, it's still a bit vague to me but if you understand it then it's good.

**Anouk:** Well, if it's vague to anyone then I'll clarify it further. The reason there is, we as a GMA committee vote against at random is that everyone feels safe to at least vote against. There might be instances where it might be clear within the association which particular person is against a certain thing that is voted on and we, because we are in an advisory position, feel that our vote, we can use that to ensure this one person or two persons who

are against feel safe to vote against. Because it could also be that the four of us voted against so it's not pinpointed on this one member.

**Maartje Delis:** So, if I understand you clearly, it's to encourage everyone to speak their mind?

**Anouk:** Yes.

**Maya:** I think I'm just curious what's going to happen if it's like a really tight vote and then the board of advisors isn't really able to give their opinions in a way. Like...

**Anouk:** The procedure is going to be revised during this year. This is a good point. When it comes to a tie, we will certainly discuss that with the board at that moment and take our votes into account.

**Lena:** I think the most important point is that right now it's still in the rules of procedure and that's why we're still following this procedure.

**Anouk:** Yes.

**Maya:** Okay, sure.

**Lena:** Does that answer your question?

**Maya:** Yes.

**Lena:** Are there any other questions?

Okay, well, we were supposed to have a break right now but it hasn't even been 30 minutes so I think we're just going to continue, if that's alright.

With the next hammer strike, we will move on to the next item on the agenda, the Policy.

*Hammer Strike*

**Lena:** With the next hammer strike, we will move on to the next item on the agenda, the Policy.

*Hammer Strike*

## **9. Policy**

**Lena:** Before we head into the Policy Document, we want to notify that we will discuss the policy merely content-wise. Textual or stylistic remarks can be sent to Dana by email. As for the content, only subjects containing major changes will be discussed deeply and are covered in the Powerpoint. We feel that this way, we cover everything that needs to be discussed. If you have further questions about parts of the documents we did not discuss yet however, you may ask those at the end.

### **Vision and Motto**

Okay our vision in a nutshell: we're focusing on making our digital presence better, increasing diversity, maintaining the quality of our events, promoting SIB to the outside world, strengthening our member community, and planning for the future.

Our 43rd Board is all about 'Embracing our Evolution. 'We've planted the seeds for our future, and now it is time for the association to evolve, so that it may bloom. We're here to

steer the club toward the future, focusing on staying strong, staying open to new ideas, and getting really good at what we do.

**Maartje Delis:** I'm curious as to what motivated you to create this vision, what information you're basing this off?

**Lena:** What our vision is based on?

**Maartje Delis:** Yeah, how it came to be.

**Lena:** Yes, well, we had a lovely policy weekend with the six of us, and we discussed the things that we were most passionate about, changing or putting in our time. And well, the point of our digital presence, promoting SIB are very important things to us, but also the intellectual activities and the members. So all the things that were just said are things that we are very passionate about putting our time towards.

**Maartje Delis:** Is it only based on the matters you're most passionate about or also including data about these topics from the last few years?

**Maartje:** In the next few slides targets, which will include data.

**Lena:** Yes, we have our goals and that's what we based our vision on, with more data.

**Maartje:** We will explain that now.

**Lena:** Yes, let's move on to the targets.

### *Target 1: Improving the digital representation of SIB*

#### **Wouter:**

As the first board with a Commissioner of Digital Affairs, we have set up two targets to improve the digital representation of our association.

Firstly, SIB operates 4 websites: one for the association as a whole (hereafter referred to as the "primary" or "main" website), and then one each for the Simulation, Symposium, and UIT. This is confusing for both the operators and the visitors. We aim to consolidate these websites, such that the primary website can be used for all these purposes.

Secondly, we intend to make the website both more usable for promotion and more promotable. We will aim for a 50% increase in visits to two specific pages: the About SIB page and the Tuesday Evening Programme page. Additionally, we aim to increase the number of visitors and visits to the website as a whole during the UIT by 50% and 100% respectively.

Are there any questions regarding this target?

**Maartje Delis:** Yes, how do you aim to do it?

**Wouter:** That is an interesting question, thank you very much. There are many steps, obviously, to such a project. Firstly, an interest form, we will send out, which details some potential avenues also where members can give their opinion on how the website is going to be shaped and how they wish to see it in the future. We intend to have an interesting discussion with the ITcommittee and board about what our vision is, and then have interest forms and discussions with members as well, about how these goals can be achieved. And then our estimate is that around half year GMA, when the half year interest form is send out,



we'll have several mock-up formats, several prototypes ready, such that members can vote on which of these implementations are interesting or what the decisions may be.

**Lena:** I think the website visits will also get more when it's more representative so we can promote it more, so we can actually go to our website.

**Maartje Delis:** So you are saying you want to improve on the visual style but also improve accessibility and readability of the website?

**Wouter:** For example, or cleaning up the technical background of the website as well.

**Maartje Delis:** I obviously do now know what is happening in the background on the website.

**Wouter:** That is understandable. There is a long list of changes that need to be made. And then a trajectory of many creative discussions with many people, to determine a path forward and involving members is always important of course, to ensure the website is made for the members as well.

**Maya:** You send out a survey a few weeks ago. Can you share something about the results of that already?

**Wouter:** No, not yet. I spend most time preparing for this GMA. However, I hope within the next few weeks I hope to tell you some findings in the future. Of course some data is personal and should not be shared. But there may be opportunities there.

**Maartje Delis:** I have a last question. I was wondering if you are intending to redesign with already members in mind or are you also targeting non-members and people on the outside. Because it's basically an information platform for everyone on the outside wanting to know SIB.

**Wouter:** Yes, target mentioned here to increase visitors to the website are mostly for external non-members. The about SIB page is our primary information page on the website and the Tuesday evening program page is for both members and non-members to find information about our program of talks which is open for non-members. However, in the chapter about digital affairs we will discuss more about potential for member-activity on the website. So we are considering both in our approach.

**Lena:** Are there any other questions? Then we'll go to the next target. Rick?

## *Target 2: Improving the diversity within the speakers of the Intellectual Programme*

**Rick:**

We wish to continue the trajectory of improving the diversity of the speakers in SIBs Intellectual Programme. To do so, we have set three goals concerning the speakers:

- Having a female speaker for at least 45% of the Intellectual Activities (where we have control over the speaker selection)
- Cooperating with three organisations that focus on minority representation and underexposed minority perspectives
- Having a speaker discuss a topic from a non-academic approach for at least 36% of the Intellectual Activities (where we have control over the speaker selection)

**Lena:** Are there any questions regarding this target?

**Pieter:** How so, non academic approaches?

**Rick:** That's a very good question. It's because sib often invites academic speakers and often approaches topics from a very academic standpoint, but we don't want to limit our perspective and, well, our intellectual program to only have academic topics. That's why we

wish to create a broader perspective towards all our SIB-members that come to our talks and to do so we want to have both non-academic and also academic speakers that approach their subject from a non-academic standpoint. So for instance, we won't always know the educational background of our speakers if they approach their subject from a non-academic standpoint they will still confirm to our target as non-academic. Does that answer your question?

**Pieter:** It does.

**Britte:** So, in your policy you also have a line about cultural background and I don't see it in your slide here so I guess, first I was wondering, why isn't it included in your slide? And, second of all, I had a more in dept question about it because, for everyone else, what it says in your policy is: Concerning cultural background, our goal is to have a speaker with a non-Dutch cultural background for at least 27% of the intellectual activities. So then I was wondering, why non-Dutch and are you going to look at people of colour?

**Rick:** Yeah, this is maybe a small conflict left over from previous revisions to our policy but a lot of diverse perspectives in our program of talks and to achieve this we have our goal of cooperating with three organisations that focus on minority perspectives and overall non-Dutch perspectives of things so that's where the non-Dutch angle comes from. I originally referred to this and I do refer to this as a non-Dutch cultural background but we don't want to apply positive discrimination on a specific background or specific cultural anything so that's why we have more broadly a goal of cooperating with at least three organisations to achieve this, and we also use this as a safeguard and mostly as a baseline so we don't... Well, we don't want to invite a speaker only because of their cultural background and by doing this we also approach a speaker not because they have an alternative background but also because they have something interesting to tell us, though usually that is because they have another perspective on things. Does that answer your question?

**Britte:** Well, I do have a follow up, but Els can go first.

**Els:** Yeah, it's just so basically you're saying that the 27% number can be discounted from your policy, that's no longer something you'll do or are attempting to obtain because you're attempting to do the collaboration with three organisations?

**Rick:** We will aim for it of course, we will aim for that. It's not our visual goal but we will aim for that. It's not listed as the goals because it is more of an aim for our committee itself than our actual goal and I think the number itself also comes from cooperating with three organisations and also doing three lectures of our own with, or cooperating with more organisations. So that's where that aim comes from. So cooperating with three organisations at least and then maybe doing two lectures of our own or having secondary cooperations.

**Britte:** So, then I was just wondering, because the whole reason why you would want to focus on people of colour is that we live in a world where academics are... We have more white people in academic high positions. If you google, you're gonna find more white people. That's what's gonna be up there the highest. So I'm still wondering why you would decide to exclude people of colour and if you are gonna keep track of it and maybe get back at us at the half-year GMA or at the end of the year. How much people were actually people of colour. Because I get your point that you do not want to positively discriminate but I think by not including it at all, you are working around the status quo and I think that's discrimination against people of colour.

**Rick:** Thank you very much. We will still aim for this of course. And we will present this at the half-year GMA.

**Lena:** What part of the question is still not answered yet?

**Britte:** Well, a part, but not the rest.

**Lena:** Yes, but what part hasn't been answered?

**Britte:** So, specifically, for me the thing was, you have here a non-Dutch cultural background. And that's something else than a person of colour, right?

**Rick:** Yes, it is. We do have a policy, both in the external affairs committee and in my document, of inviting people of colour, minorities, cultural backgrounds and also of other diversity targets such as female speakers and non-academic speakers. This is mostly policy and not our goal, because we don't want our entire lecture series to be confirmed to goal if we invite three people of African cultural backgrounds but no one of Eastern-European background, no one of Asian background. And that's why we don't want to limit ourselves to certain cultural groups. And I think the most broad way I could phrase this in my policy was non-Dutch cultural background because I think a non-standard, for example a Georgian background or a Spanish background is still considered a minority background here in the Netherlands. And of course that does mean that in our goal itself it has a lesser focus on more exotic backgrounds such as an African background, a Caribbean background, an Australian native background or any background that is not considered European. That is true, we do have a lesser focus on that. But that's because we do have the policy of inviting those people, even though it is not especially stated in the goals.

**Britte:** Yes, so then finally I'll shut up and someone else can ask something. But, for example Spanish, that could mean that you could invite Marcelo to give a talk and would you then consider it non-Dutch cultural or you know what I mean. Spanish could still mean white male. So is it then maybe, non-European or non-white or... Because a minority in the Netherlands is not per se a minority.

**Rick:** No, you are completely right, it both combines two aspects. You don't want to invite only people of African descent and you don't want to exclude anyone from a European descent with a cultural background that's non-Dutch. So, now we have made the compromise of saying non-Dutch cultural background so that it will include both of them. And of course our external affairs committee won't be satisfied if we only invite two Spanish speakers and one, I don't know, Belgium speaker and then say we have done our goal of inviting three people with non-Dutch cultural backgrounds. Of course we won't.

**Lena:** And also, I'll add the point about which you're working with, that's on top of the non-Dutch backgrounds.

**Rick:** Of course, the organisations we want to work with, some of them are also listed in the policy and those are also mostly focussed on people with an African background, a Caribbean background or people that are from non-European backgrounds. So at least we're working with them for one of these lectures, hopefully three or even more, as our goal states. So you are completely right and I do agree. We don't want to invite Marcelo three times and say we completed our goal. I do agree with that. This was the compromise we came up with because we don't want to exclude them either. And I think you are right, we could've been... I mean we could write an entire essay on, we want to invite one person of this background and one person of this background but we don't want to exclude or limit ourselves to these goals. We still want to have the freedom to invite someone with a native American background, someone with an African background, an Egyptian background, a Middle-Eastern background. We don't want to limit ourselves to specific backgrounds. And while confirming to this, we don't also want to limit ourselves to people that are non-Dutch but still European. And I know that it's a little difficult for both these things to be true at the same time, but we do want to have the ability to invite both these speakers and of course we

will invite people that are of non-European background. That's why we want to work with these three organisations, with most of them focussing on Middle-Eastern, African or, well, more exotic than European backgrounds.

**Britte:** Thank you, that answers my question. And it's reassuring, thank you. And I look forward to hearing your statistics at the half-yearGMA.

**Lena:** I saw Charlotte, Mila and Maya, so in that order I'll hear your questions.

**Charlotte:** *Is het nu wel of niet een doel? Want het staat niet op de powerpoint.* [Translation: Is it now a goal or not? Because it's not on the powerpoint.]

**Rick:** It is a goal of us to cooperate with three organisations that focus on minority perspectives, so that's the goal itself. It is the policy of our committee itself to aim for a, I think it is 27%, or I think even more; of a certain percentage of a non-Dutch cultural background. So I think that may be part of a grey area where you'll at least have these three organisations that focus on a more exotic minority perspective such as Middle-Eastern, African or Native American, and we still aim to have more lectures that are non-Dutch cultural backgrounds and those might be filled with a European background or even more people that are of non-European backgrounds. I guess, to make it short, the goal is to cooperate with three organisations and the policy is to do even more than that. So we will aim for more but the exact goal is to work with these three organisations.

**Lena:** So the goal is to collaborate with three organisations. Yes, it is.

**Mila:** So, well, maybe it goes on for too long, but I think, you say you don't want to exclude people from for instance East-European countries but with saying I want at least a collaboration with three people of colour you don't exclude others to speak. You can still invite East-European people but now you make it just really easy for yourself to just invite one old man from Belgium, Marcelo and one other guy who is also white and still have... So it's just... Well, yeah, I don't remember my question. I had a question but I forgot.

**Rick:** Thank you, I think I can rephrase your question to why do you limit yourself in this way?

**Mila:** Yeah.

**Rick:** I like these kinds of questions because I do want to explain this. The organisations we want to cooperate with won't invite old white person to talk about a random topic. We do have a list of these organisations and some of them are listed in the policy, and they do focus mostly on Middle-Eastern, African or Caribbean or very person of colour backgrounds.

**Lena:** And if I can step in, I would like to say that these are two separate goals, the organisations and the non-Dutch cultural backgrounds. They are in different parts in this target.

**Mila:** The last one isn't a goal.

**Rick:** No.

**Maartje:** Yes, they're in different parts of the policy.

**Maya:** First, I want to say that I would most definitely visit a lecture held by Marcelo, that would be amazing. Secondly, I was wondering, because you're saying you are going to cooperate with three organisations. I think that seems a very complex goal, as the discussion that we just had shows. Is there a good way to make it more structural, in a way? And why the number three? Why did you choose to collaborate with three organisations and not a higher goal for instance?

**Rick:** Well, of course, we think three was already a baseline goal, that was also the goal of last year. And we do aim for a higher target. It is actually in our policy that we aim for about six of our lectures to be... Or our talks and our other intellectual activities to be given or presented by someone with a non-Dutch cultural background. This is only our baseline

safeguard that whatever we do, we do want to have these three organisations that, well, safeguard that we do actually have people that certainly to be; have an interesting story, be an expert or at least familiar with their topic and are from a often non-European cultural background. It is more a safeguard than an ambitious goal, I do agree. But it's our goal to have these three cooperations and we aim for more than that.

**Lena:** If there are no more questions, then I think we'll have the break now. It is 18:22, we are going to have a short break, and then we move on with discussing more of our targets. So I suspend the GMA for ten minutes and I will see you all back at 18:35.

*Hammer strike*

*Break*

**Lena:** Welcome back everyone. It is now 18:34. We will continue. So with the next hammer strike, I reopen the GMA.

*Hammer strike*

*Target 3: Maintaining the quality of our Intellectual Programme*

**Rick:**

To maintain the quality and improve the attendance of the Intellectual Programme we have set 5 goals:

- Having an attendance of on average 28 people or more at Intellectual Activities 25 of these attendees being SIB members and 3 attendees being external
- Having the Intellectual Activities be rated an 8.0 or more on average
- Having at least 45% of Intellectual Activities to be in the category International relations
- Having at least 36% of Intellectual Activities to be in the category Socially relevant
- Having at least 14% of Intellectual Activities to be in the category STEM

**Lena:** Are there any questions regarding this target?

**Mink:** Maybe a weird question, but why do we care if there are external people there? In the attendance?

**Rick:** Well, the external program is as it says, external, so it's open for everyone. And now that we have a commissioner of promotion and hopefully a new website at the end of the year, we want to promote events more broadly in hopes to increase our external attendance. As we have had external attendance in the past and nowadays it's a little less, so we want to try and see if we can increase these as well.

**Maartje Delis:** So what you're saying is that you want to, how do you say this in English, to mirror on small scale the library of Utrecht and Studium Generale, with external people attending lectures from professionals and academic speakers?

**Rick:** Well, maybe a little, yeah. We do have lectures like Studium Generale does and they're also open for the public, so I think that the comparison to Generale is not that far off. As you might see, our goals are still very clearly focussed on SIB-members but it's more that

we had external presence in the past and we do want to see, by having more promotion and having a better website, we can try to see if we can increase this external attendance.

**Maartje Delis:** That would definitely be a great addition to SIB's identity I think, if we could achieve that. So, good for our image.

**Els:** It is also a way to find people who want to be members. So it's a way to reach people who'd like to actually attend the organisation.

**Maartje Delis:** I don't think it should be our main promotion channel. It should be part of the promotion plan I think, not the promotion itself.

**Els:** I don't think it is.

**Rick:** Yes, exactly, that's why it's still under me, as external, and not under promotion. But it is all connected of course. It's connected with promotion, with our website, with member bonding it's very connected all.

**Maya** This may be a question for Wouter, but I hear Rick saying that we want to promote the external activities more broadly. How are we going to do that?

**Rick:** I can repeat that question, so if we want to promote stuff more broadly, for example with our website? I think we're going to get back on that when Lena and Wouter are going to talk about their topics, promotion and digital affairs, but I think the short answer will be yes.

**Dana van Uiter:** This is not specified, but I assume that the speakers are not included in three external attendees. But the question is more, are you and the organisation included in 25 SIB-members?

**Rick:** Yes, I think, I have to have a look at the policy but I think it does not exclude us specifically. We are part of the 28. On average I would say about three external affairs committee members are present and I think four board members or less, depending on the week and other activities, so that would be seven of the twenty-eight. That is of course still significant but only a quarter of these people and I think the speaker is not included of course.

**Lena:** More questions regarding this target? Then we move on to target number four.

#### *Target 4: Expanding SIB's promotion*

##### **Lena:**

This year we wanted to have a promotion target again, because it is one of the big priorities for us. We want to do Social Media Expansion. We want to increase brand awareness through social media, particularly on Instagram. Our target is to acquire 200 new Instagram followers, aiming to grow from 740 to 940 followers. We will maintain a more active Instagram presence by posting at least 10 reels throughout the year and one weekly Instagram Story. This will help convey your message in a creative and appealing manner while keeping members and followers updated on SIB activities.

The Spring Introduction Period is another important aspect of our promotion regarding member recruitment. We want to gain a minimum of ten new members by participating in the February Warm Welcome Week, organise an activity for that week, create an Instagram campaign during the Spring Introduction Period, and host a 'buddy borrel' event before the Spring Introduction to encourage potential members to join.

We also want to host at least two 'buddy borrels' in response to the recommendations of the Membership Recruitment Task Force. 'Buddy borrels' are events where members bring

potential SIB members to SIB activities. Not only to recruit new members but also to increase brand awareness and expand the SIB network.

**Lena:** Are there any questions regarding this target?

**Maartje Delis:** I want to know which data you are basing the ten reels per... Is it yearly? I thought in the policy it said yearly. On what information is that based?

**Lena:** It is based on fact, well, taken into account that we want to do more reels than we have done in the past few years, so it is based on at least one monthly overview and then we have ten months, so that's why we decided on ten reels.

**Maartje Delis:** Okay, that's great, yeah. Because I was thinking, reels are obviously known to increase your Instagram's exposure because it is picked up more easily by the algorithm. At first I was confused about why only ten, why not maybe more, but now I think it's pretty smart actually.

**Lena:** Yeah, it's mostly based on the fact that this is doable and at least ten but if we have another great event or a member of the promotion committee or myself has time to take videos and make extra ones there is a lot of room for extra ones, but we want to do at least ten, so that's why we came up with this number.

**Dana vU:** You said you want to post more than previous years and well, that's not more.

**Lena:** Yes, that's not necessarily more, that's true, but there weren't goals to do at least the ten so we want to make sure we do at least ten and we hope to do more than the last few years and a bit more spread out than, well, last year there a lot of reels during or regarding the UIT, we want to spread it out a bit more throughout.

**Dana:** Yes, that was my second question actually. Do you have already your yearly schedule, so that you don't have to post five reels in the last month?

**Lena:** Yes, we want to do an overview every month. We didn't specify this in our policy because sometimes there are months with less activities or less film material, but our goal is to do one reel a month at least.

**Lotte:** I had a question about the spring introduction, because your goal is to gain a minimum of ten new members and the policy will says: 'this goal will be reached by joining the February warm welcome week' but people who join at the warm welcome week will not be able to join the LIT probably, because probably the *inschrijvingen* [Translation: Sign ups] already are closed, so...

**Lena:** We scheduled the LIT I think later than...

**Lotte:** The LIT is in February, right? And the Warm Welcome Week is like, one or two weeks prior.

**Lena:** I don't think they can join the introduction trip, but this year there... Last year you had the warm welcome week on let's say, the 6th of February and the introduction period started right after that. Right now there are two weeks, so there is more time, I think. So they still can't join the LIT, that's true.

**Lotte:** Yes, because we can't book a ticket for them or something.

**Lena:** They can join... The people of the warm welcome week are not the only ones who join SIB-Utrecht, so that's one point, and they still can join other introduction activities.

**Lotte:** Okay.

**Maya:** Are there other ways besides the warm welcome week you want to recruit members for the spring introduction?

**Lena:** Yes, we will do a buddy borrel, before the new introduction period starts, and we will do an Instagram campaign specifically for that introduction period, and we are going to do the collegepraatjes again.

**Maartje Delis:** To come back to content on the Instagram page, I was wondering why did you chose reels and stories but not include generic posts. Because I can imagine that generic posts of the activities that you do can also increase how much our appearance gets picked up by the algorithm. Are we leaving them out, or are you still going to do generic posts?

**Lena:** Well, these are the things we wanted to do targets about. That doesn't mean that we don't include any other posts, but we noticed that the things that take more time to make and it's good to have a minimum that you should do them, that's why we include them in our goals. But we are still going to do other posts as well. Marcelo is currently working on an amazing layout for the new instagram, so, that's going to be great.

More promotion target questions? Then we are going to move on to the fifth target.

#### *Target 5: Continue to prioritise member integration and cohesion*

**Maartje:**

This year's targets concerning member integration and connection are; a number of first-year dropouts below 30% (excluding internationals on an exchange year), a number of second-year dropouts below 25%, 60% of the first years are active members and 55% of the second years are active members.

These numbers have not changed from previous years. Two things which will change, however, is that we will look more critically at the accounting of members who leave the association in August, and members who join in July. Members who leave in August have previously been included in the second-year dropout percentage of that year, however, the CI of the new year has not been inaugurated at that time. These people will be excluded from the percentage. Secondly, members who join in July 2024 would have been counted as inactive members for the year 2023-2024. While, due to the Boards recess in July, there are no activities to make these members 'active'. These members will be seen as first years for the Board of 2024-2025 and therefore not be counted in the inactive first years percentage.

Two additional targets are; an average of 25 members at the social activities and an average of 25 members at the Tuesday drinks. We feel that keeping track of the attendance will give us an insight into the success rate of certain activities.

**Lena:** Are there any questions regarding this target?

**Els:** Will these 25 members include the board?

**Maartje:** Yes.

**Britte:** So is it actually members or is it external people as well?

**Maartje:** Only members.

**Maartje Delis:** Will you be talking somewhere about how you're keeping track of the data and how many members are attending the activities? I suppose you are going to use this data for future plans or getting people more integrated in the association.

**Maartje:** Yes, I will present this at the halfyear- and the yearGMA.

**Lena:** Any more questions? Then we move on to the last target, target number six.



*Target 6: Looking ahead: the future of SIB*

**Wouter:**

To continue ensuring SIB's future, we will continue making steps to do so. We have elected to focus on 3 sub-targets: A continuation of the Multi-Annual Plans, revision to the Rules of Procedure, and further updates to the Protocols of Succession and Transfer.

The Multi-Annual Plans we have planned are the Multi-Annual Plan regarding the Programme of Talks which will be presented at the Half-Year GMA 2023/24, the Multi-Annual Plan regarding Financial Health which will be presented at the Election GMA 2023/24 and the Multi-Annual Plan regarding Member Bonding which will be presented at the Half-Year GMA 2024/25.

Additionally, we will revise the Rules of Procedure, as they presently aren't aligned with the Articles of Association that were updated last year. We believe that a full revision is necessary to account for both the present and future of the association.

Lastly, we aim to update and revise the Protocols of Succession and Transfer. While they have been made during the previous year, we want to keep them as up-to-date as possible to ensure that they can be optimally used by future Boards. This is emphasised by the presence of the Commissioner of Digital Affairs, as the knowledge related to this function may - in the future - have to be used by people who do not have an expertise in the subject.

Are there any questions regarding this target?

**Annika:** I was wondering when you want to start the taskforce for the financial health of SIB because they present at the electionGMA and last year the taskforce that was started around this time delayed the GMA.

**Wouter:** Yes, so, last year this concept of a multi-annual plan and a taskforce was a novel idea, it took some time to get started and it took some time for the rhythm to settle in. But now that we have the program of talks taskforce operating currently we think that we can continue with the original plan presented two years ago to continue a multi-annual plan each half year, so we have moved the deadline for the program of talks to the halfyearGMA and then consequently every following taskforce half a year after that.

**Annika:** But when do you plan to start the financial health taskforce, because the deadline is already at the electionGMA.

**Wouter:** It is at the electionGMA?

**Annika:** Yeah. So when does the taskforce start?

**Lena:** We have a list of people we are going to ask and this will be done within this months. So we are working on it. It's supposed to start in October. So we will try to make sure that that happens.

**Els:** I was just wondering whether there is going to be a separate taskforce because the one from the previous multi-annual plan flowed over into this one, but my question was already answered.

**Maartje Delis:** I have a question about timing. Because as far as I know the taskforces are done one at a time, is that right?

**Lena:** No, I think it happens more often that taskforces flow into each other and are not completely finished when...

**Wouter:** They slightly overlap, so the taskforce Intellectual Programme was started couple of weeks before the extra GMA of last year, for example. And we are planning to start financial health this month or early next month, so that there is some transfer of information. So they can work somewhat simultaneously.

**Maartje Delis:** That's great, because I was about to ask you if it was possible for taskforces to run simultaneously.

**Wouter:** It is intended that the information gathered by one taskforce is then passed on to next taskforce, so that they can build on by future taskforces, like the Intellectual Programme taskforce is currently working on writing, however, starting up a taskforce and brainstorming can be done while the other taskforce is still wrapping up. So, certainly.

**Maya:** Yes, I want to propose considering a different wording for Member Bonding, because I think Member Integration or anything else something else sounds nicer

**Lena:** I think we will use what was introduced in the multi-annual plan and that's why it is called that.

**Dana van Uiter:** We used another name in the previous taskforce, I don't remember what it was. But it was actually because we had the same thought.

**Lena:** I don't think we are married to this name so we can change it.

**Wouter:** Are there any further questions regarding this topic?

**Lena:** Okay, then we will move on to the general chapter.

### *General*

**Lena:**

Firstly, I would like to introduce us by our Board functions. President, Secretary, Treasurer, Commissioner of Internal Affairs, Commissioner of External Affairs, Commissioner of Promotion, Commissioner of Acquisition, and a new position, Commissioner of Digital Affairs. The President takes on the role of Commissioner of Promotion, and the Commissioner of External Affairs also takes on the role of Commissioner of Acquisition this year.

We have sustainability objectives related to travel, food, clothing, and merchandise.

They focus on eco-friendly travel, vegetarian and vegan food options, and eco-responsible promotional materials.

We aim to keep SIB accessible and inclusive for international students.

We will actively recruit international students during Orientation Week and provide external and internal promotion materials in English.

We want to establish Tuesdays as the main association day. Different activities are planned for each week of the month, including talks, social events, and interactive intellectual activities and we have drinks after all the Tuesday activities. The goal is to build a habit among members to participate in association activities on Tuesdays. Flexibility is allowed for certain activities, at least one activity a month will be organised on a non-Tuesday.

Are there any questions on the general business?

**Pieter:** What if you can only come on thursday?

**Lena:** Well, I think that it is important to note that we will have at least one activity on non-tuesday, as well as trips...

**Maartje:** As well as bigger events, like the symposium, the simulation. We also have societies. But I think, what we want to work towards is to make it a habit to come on tuesday.

**Pieter:** I have plenty of time, but some don't and they already paid their fees, and now the activities are mostly going to go to the Tuesday. That's kind of... I don't know what to say.

**Lena:** Well, I think it is important to know there will be still plenty of activities for people to join. So that is one of the important thing. And we want to make sure that Tuesday is seen, in the future, as day to make sure that people will try to attend. The future people are actually more able to attend because it's one clear day.

**Maya:** I want to continue on what Pieter was saying as well, because for instance with university there are more lectures in evenings, from seven to nine. Lots of activities are on tuesday evenings as well, and people with lectures on Tuesday evening, can't come to SIB for months on end, or maybe once a month. I don't think that's enough to retain members, so that is quite a bit concerning. And I do think that is a main argument against Tuesday as the main SIB day.

**Maartje:** In our policy it states "at that least one time a month on a non-Tuesday", but in actuality it is more. We're not cutting down on activities, actually creating more activities. Previously we had the tuesday, always. But sometimes with what is now referred to with an 'empty borrel', we plan to move the activities that were on Thursday towards the Tuesday. There are still a lot of other activities, because we have the parties, also the AcCo has some activities on a non-Tuesday, the trips, the simulation, the symposium, the societies can always ask to do something on a non-Tuesday. So we're actually creating more opportunities to go to SIB, when you're not able to come on Tuesday.

**Wouter:** And something to add, there will always be drinks after the activity. Which will always start at half past nine so if you have lectures until nine, you can still come to the drinks and come to SIB regularly.

**Charlotte:** Ja, ik ga hem in het Nederlands doen. Ik vind het wel een mooie om bij aan te haken, om half tien kunnen we dan naar de borrel. Als lid van de Activiteiten Commissie, als een activiteit om 8 uur begint en we moeten om half 10 op een borrellocatie zijn, dan maak ik me daar een beetje zorgen om. Nu heb ik daar met Maartje al uitgebreid over gepraat en denk ik dat het voor de komende activiteiten best oké gaat, maar ik denk dat als andere mensen dan ook nog activiteiten moeten gaan organiseren op de dinsdag, want wij doen niet alle dinsdagen. Ik vraag me af hoe dat gaat, ik vind dat moeilijk. Misschien niet eens een vraag, maar gewoon een statement. Misschien dat iemand anders iets te zeggen heeft, of dat jullie denken "Wow, nee, wij kunnen in die tijd echt makkelijk een activiteit organiseren". Dat kan ook, ik weet het niet.

**Maartje:** Voor nu staan veel van de activiteiten onderverdeeld onder het Bestuur. Wij hebben er zelf vertrouwen in dat dat gaat lukken, dus ik weet niet of er verdere uitleg nodig is?

**Els:** I'll switch back to English. I was wondering if it is the right wording to switch everything to the Tuesday, because I feel like it's not the case. The way you're describing it now, seems that every empty tuesday where there was only drinks are simply going to fill up the time to encourage people to attend also the drinks. But then everything that wants to come outside of those time restraints that Charlotte mentioned, which I think is really important to take into account, and any other activity that is illogical on Tuesday can happen outside of that. So different wording, that not everything is going to go to the Tuesday, it's simply filling up the tuesdays.

**Lena:** Yes, it's filling up the Tuesdays and it's also trying to make Tuesdays more representative for the entirety of SIB, so both the intellectual side and social side come together. So Tuesday will be representable for every SIB part.

**Els:** So instead of intellectual Tuesday, it is SIB Tuesday?

**Lena:** Yes.

**Maya:** I feel like my question was waved away a bit before, because I'm just trying to understand why you put in your policy that you are going to organise SIB Tuesdays and one other activity a month, if that is not the case. That seems a little bit weird to me. I think, what Els said, that different wording can really help with that.

**Lena:** I think it is more that we want more flexibility. As in, the other day doesn't have to be a Thursday. So we actually want to make it more flexible where we can organise the other activity a month.

**Maartje:** For example parties, will more logically be on Fridays, and the Symposium is always done on a Sunday.

**Wouter:** You still seem...

**Maartje:** Does this answer your question?

**Maya:** It answers my question a bit, I still think you need to reconsider your wording.

**Lena:** Maartje, you had a question?

**Maartje Delis:** It has been answered along the way. I'm extremely glad you clarified on the SIB Tuesdays. I agree that 'SIB day', as an established day would be great and flexibility like a party on a Friday is great. It had also already been mentioned that it wasn't directly clear that other activities would still be organised, and like Maartje [Keijzer] said that there would be even more opportunities to join sib, outside the Lecture Tuesday. I actually think it's a very great idea. I just hope you will formulate it better in your policy.

**Lena:** Thank you. Do you still have your question?

**Annika:** Ja, ik heb twee vragen. De eerste vraag is misschien nu al beantwoord, maar waarom kan je meer activiteiten organiseren op het moment dat je naar dinsdag gaat, dan wanneer je altijd die activiteit op donderdag hebt? Ik snap die logica niet helemaal.

**Maartje:** Omdat, wat er nu was, is je had nu lezing borrel en dan geen donderdag activiteit en dan borrel en activiteit, als het ware. Als de main set-up van twee weken. Nu doe je sowieso twee activiteiten in de maand op dinsdag plus, hebben we dus in ons beleid, minstens een activiteit op een niet-dinsdag. Dus dan heb je er drie.

**Annika:** Dat zou toch ook kunnen als je de andere activiteit op donderdag houdt? Je hebt dan even veel vrije dagen, dus dan kan die extra activiteit ook op een dinsdag.

**Lena:** Het is voornamelijk omdat de borrels waar een activiteit voor zit beter bezocht worden dan de borrel waarvoor geen activiteit plaatsvindt. Dus dat is een van de redenen dat wij proberen de activiteit en de borrel ineen te schuiven op de dinsdag.

**Annika:** Oké, dus het is voornamelijk de borrel, niet de activiteit?

**Lena:** Dan heb je dus een langer moment dat je samenkomt. Want je hebt én een activiteit én een borrel. Want nu vaak, na de donderdag activiteit is er geen officiële borrel in ieder geval. En heb je dus niet dat latere aanhaak-moment voor mensen die niet bij de activiteit zijn.

**Annika:** Gaan jullie ook testen of het daadwerkelijk werkt, dat er meer mensen bij de borrel komen? Want stel jullie merken dat het eigenlijk geen invloed heeft.

**Maartje:** Ja, daarom hebben we in het target concreet gezegd dat we de aanwezigheid bij de activiteiten en de borrels bijhouden.

**Annika:** Dus daarop wordt geëvalueerd bij de jaar ALV?

**Lena:** Ja! Je had nog een tweede vraag?

**Annika:** Die activiteiten worden georganiseerd door het Bestuur, maar hoe zijn die in begroot?

**Maartje:** Niet.

**Annika:** Hoe willen jullie dat gaan doen?

**Lena:** Dat is vorige jaren ook zo geweest, geloof ik.

**Maartje:** Het zijn dan vaak of, goedkopere activiteiten, waar gratis ruimte of buiten of iets. Of er wordt een eigen bijdrage van leden gevraagd.

**Annika:** Maar er gaat dan geen geld heen vanuit SIB?

**Maartje:** Nee.

**Lena:** Maartje?

**Maartje Delis:** Even om het helder te krijgen voor mezelf, Jullie willen die dinsdag een soort activiteiten dag maken dat je een borrel erachteraan hebt. En dat je daar dan een soort samenkomst moment creëert. Wat losstaat van alle andere momenten om activiteiten te organiseren waar niet zo zeer een borrel aan vast zit. Waar je dus los van moet komen is dat template dat je iedere dinsdag en donderdag iets organiseert, nu dinsdag en een andere dag in de week.

**Lena:** Ja.

**Britte:** Jullie hebben bijvoorbeeld nu op 31 oktober een levend cluedoactiviteit staan, maar niks over wat er dan met de borrel gaat gebeuren. Dus dan neem ik aan dat je misschien niet ergens naartoe kan, hebben jullie wel een plan dat je duidelijk houdt waar de borrel is? Dat is misschien sowieso een uitdaging waar we jullie mee hebben achtergelaten, omdat er geen stamkroeg is. Maar hoe gaan jullie zorgen dat je duidelijk houdt waar de borrel is, dat mensen daar gewoon naar toe kunnen komen, en wat ga je doen als een activiteit uitloopt? Hebben jullie een plan?

**Lena:** Dat is een goede vraag. Ten eerste, had er in de promo inderdaad bij moeten staan dat we dan borrelen bij de Cambridgebar. Dus we gaan borrelen, dat komt gewoon goed! Daarnaast zijn wij weer met z'n zessen en bij activiteiten eigenlijk altijd met vier, dus in het erge geval dat het uitloopt, wat ook soms is bij een lezing, is er minstens een van ons die op tijd naar borrel gaat.

**Els:** Korte tip: Wat wij in ons bestuursjaar deden is tijdens lezing nog een berichtje sturen met "Hoi! De borrel is zo meteen hier!" Omdat wij ook niet altijd een vaste plek hadden.

**Charlotte:** Begreep ik nou goed dat de extra activiteiten, die er komen omdat we nu een ander schema aanhouden, dat die niet in begroot staan? Dus dat als ze geld kosten, wat ze altijd doen, want je hebt snacks, dat je die dan eigenlijk zelf moet betalen, dus dat dat bovenop onze contributie komt? Of heb ik dat niet goed begrepen?

*Maartje knikt*

**Charlotte:** Oké, dat heb ik wel goed begrepen.

**Dana:** Ik denk dat ik het nu wel beter begrijp, maar hoe zou je het gaan promoten, want SIB promoot zich als low key en toegankelijk enzo. Dus ik denk niet dat je zou gaan zeggen "Oh je kan niet op de dinsdag, dan kan je wel naar het symposium en de simulatie en de reisjes doen enzo." Want het is sowieso vaak duurder de reisjes, en dat is echt niet zo vaak. Dus hoe maak je het aantrekkelijk voor iemand die echt alleen op dinsdag of donderdag kan, daar ben ik wel bang voor.

**Maartje:** Dat is een goede vraag. Ik denk dat het voor nu een hele grote switch is en ik snap dat het nu onduidelijk is, maar waar we uiteindelijk heen willen bouwen is dat dat vrij gehouden wordt. Ik merk nu ook al, ik heb namelijk vandaag met wat eerstejaars gebeld, die snappen niet wat nu gebeurt. Omdat zij natuurlijk veel te horen krijgen van "Dit staat in het convocaat.", maar ik denk dat de kans dat ze het convocaat lezen erg klein is. Dus ik legde

uit van, vanavond gaan we stemmen, en toen kreeg ik ook al te horen van “Oh, maar dan kan ik tegen werk zeggen dat ik niet op dinsdag kan.” Dus het is nu een hele grote switch, maar het gaat uiteindelijk om een gewoonte bouwen.

**Mila:** Nog heel even aanhakend, ik denk dat het voor sommige mensen echt niet mogelijk is om het vrij te houden, ook al weet je het, met colleges en andere dingen. Maar dat was niet mijn vraag, want er zijn dus nu misschien meer activiteiten maar wel minder SIB-dagen. Symposium en alles en al die reisjes hadden we in alle voorgaande jaren ook al. Dan heb je minder SIB-dagen, dus minder SIB-uren, dat is toch juist slechter voor de bonding?

**Britte:** Als je nu een activiteit minder doet, want op zich kon je naar die borrel. Het aantal SIB-uren wordt minder, en want Mila ook zegt, je kunt elkaar nu minder door de maand heen zien. Want je hebt in principe een dag minder.

**Mila:** Ja, de borrel begon om acht uur, en de activiteiten ook. Dus je hebt minder uren.

**Lena:** Yes, a non-Dutch speaking person joined, so I will switch to English. But it is true, there are less SIB-hours, but we think with at least one activity a month and the trips, in reality it will probably at least be on average half an activity less, maybe.

**Maartje:** The thing is, we can't give numbers yet, because we have not tried it this year.

**Britte:** The number of hours?

**Maartje:** Well we have not done this year yet.

**Britte:** Yes, but in theory, the plan is to do one activity less? Or not one activity, but one Thursday less, a week. So that is 3 or 4 hours a month less.

**Els:** One of the things, it is to solve those empty borrels, so those are hours that members don't actually use.

**Mila:** But we saw, last year. For our hours, the difference between the borrels with something beforehand and without something beforehand was not that big of a difference, it was like two people.

**Lena:** I think two people is quite a lot, if you have about 20 to 25 people.

**Mila:** There are also a lot of people who can't attend on Tuesday, I think those will be more than two.

**Els:** Would it be a possibility to try this out and reevaluate at the HalfyearGMA? See how it goes, if it actually achieves what you hope to achieve? And what people here are doubting it will achieve. I feel there are many people on both sides, so there is not a clear decision on what to do.

**Lena:** That is one of the possibilities to us, to try until February, at the HalfyearGMA, if it hasn't worked then we can stop with it.

**Lotte:** I had a question on the activities organised by the Board, which A. there is not a lot of money for or no money for, how are you going to maintain the quality. It's usual that you ask for some money from the members, but you can't ask for ten euros from members. Like, you don't want to do that. So how are you going to maintain the quality of those activities and not make it a city walk every week, or something like that.

**Maartje:** I think that it is a challenge for us as a Board, but we feel like we have confidence in this. So that is trust in two ways. We hear your question, but can't give a definite answer because I haven't thought out every activity.

**Lotte:** And then the B. part of my question: Do you have time to organise these activities?

**Maartje:** We actually divided the activities amongst ourselves.

**Lena:** Some AcCo activities will be on Tuesday, but not a lot. So the rest of the activities divided, is like one or two for every Board member, which is doable. I think it might be a good idea to maybe Suspend the GMA so we can discuss with the Advisory Board on how to continue this process. If everyone is okay with that?

**Britte:** I just want to add something to help, but you have mentioned that you have divided these activities amongst yourselves. You know that there are about 8 societies. You know how many activities the AcCo will organise. Based on that, do you think there will only be one additional activity a month or do you think that there will be more?

**Maartje:** Realistically there will be more.

**Britte:** Okay, so it is realistic that is something you can say. Can you give us an estimate? Like two activities?

**Lena:** Would wording it like one and a half activities a month help?

**Maartje:** It is phrased as one activity, but realistically it is more.

**Britte:** Basically, what we're talking about here, is say five Thursdays. I would say then, we can do what Els mentioned, to try it out and maybe if you can provide us with some document parts at the HalfyearGMA, so that we could really evaluate how it is going, it would be really helpful. Because realistically, what we're talking about is not that many Thursdays.

**Mila:** I just want to quickly add: The societies do have a budget for association wide activities.

**Lena:** Then, we will suspend for a few minutes.

*Adjourned the meeting*

**Lena:** Okay. Please everyone, can I have your attention. Then we will reopen the GMA at 19:38

*Hammerstrike*

**Lena:** I would like to thank everyone for their input regarding this matter, we think that we want to make changes to the policy and wording. And we would like to vote about that, we want to vote right now on the changes with three options: One is that the wording will be different like we just worded it and there will be at least on average one and a half activity a month on a non-Tuesday, the other is that it will be rewritten and revised at Half year GMA, so the same changes but it will be revised at the Half year GMA where we will discuss whether or not we are going to continue this way, the third option is against even though the wording has been different and there are some changes and the fourth is to abstain on the voting. Are there questions about this?

**Maya:** Would it be possible to revise it sooner than the Half year GMA, because February is quite a while from now and we have a lot of new members, which you and the UIT committee worked really hard for. It would be a shame if it doesn't work and the new members are all gone.

**Lena:** The Half year GMA is the first GMA, I think that we have after this one, so I think that would be the moment to revise it.

**Wouter:** Additionally, we would need time to observe the effects of these changes. The Half year GMA is three months from now, which gives up three months to identify whether or not these changes have worked. Yeah, four months away, but including changes to the policy. So we don't believe it will be possible to evaluate this earlier than the Half year GMA at the soonest.

**Maartje:** Also, we are not voting on the Tuesdays. Now it is a voting on what the changes will be when we vote in the whole policy document.

**Lena:** Are there any more questions about this specific vote?

**Iris:** I would like to say something about this. But I think everyone should keep in mind before voting that it is very admirable that you are trying something new, but maybe some don't like it. But I think just trying something different can always be positive.

**Lena:** Any other questions that have not been brought up?

**Maartje Delis:** I couldn't quite grasp all the options. Could you repeat them?

**Lena:** Yes. The first option is that the agreed changes are going to be at least one and a half activities on a non-Tuesday and the wording will be different, like we just said, without revising at the Half year GMA. The second option is the same changes, but revising it at the Half year GMA. The third option is against, so against this entire idea. And the fourth is to abstain.

**Britte:** [What about agreeing] without the changes?

**Lena:** We agree with everyone that wording wasn't clear, and we should rewrite it either way. So that is why that is not an option.

**Britte:** Okay!

**Lena:** Okay, then we will pull up the voting screen.

**Lena:** And remember to vote twice if you are authorised.

**Lena:** I think there are some technical difficulties

**Rick:** Please only use one choice and don't apply your choice on multiple options. (That would be very annoying)

**Britte:** Are we voting on the entire policy or ...

**Lena:** No, only this part

**Lena:** Did everyone that was authorised vote twice?

**Charlotte:** (Nee nog niet!) *Translated from Dutch:* No, not yet!

**Lena:** Okay everyone. I have the voting results, so please listen. The total cast votes were 41. 9 were against, 1 abstain, 10 pro without the Half Year evaluation, and 21 pro with the evaluation at the Half year GMA. So those will be the changes, that we will vote on later.

- Total: 41
- Against: 9
- Abstain: 1
- Pro: 10
- Pro with revision at Half-year GMA: 21

**Lena:** Should I hammer?

### *Hammerstrike*

**Lena:** I think we can then move on to another slide than general, unless someone else still has some questions on general

**Britte:** Not related to the Tuesdays, but it is also about sustainability. It says in your policy that: "vegan options when possible". I was wondering, when is it impossible to provide a vegan option?

**Lena:** I don't think it will be impossible very often, but last year for example there was a wine tasting ...

**Britte:** I made a mistake!

**Lena:** Was the wine vegan?



**Britte:** Yeah!

**Lena:** Okay.

**Rick:** It is always possible to not eat, and that is vegan but some restaurants don't offer a vegan choice, so we can't guarantee that on a trip or when having dinner we will always have vegan options. But we will ensure that we will have a vegan/vegetarian option. And we will try to have a vegan option available.

**Britte:** But then the thing is, you are going to a restaurant and it is possible to go to a restaurant without vegan options. Then it is not much of a priority.

**Rick:** If they only have 1 vegan dish and they don't have it anymore or isn't stocked, we can't guarantee it. But we will always try to.

**Britte:** But I think you can assume that the restaurant will have the dishes stocked. So you are saying that it is a priority ensure vegan options?

**Lena:** Yes

**Lotte:** I have another question for Dana.

You mention that you would send out birthday cards to the alumni, but we know that we don't have all the information why would you give yourself more work?

**Dana:** Because I think it is important to have great connections with our alumni, and I think this is a way of doing that.

**Lena:** More questions regarding the general section? No? Then we will move on to the secretariat chapter: Dana, I give the floor to you

### *Secretariat*

#### *Information distribution*

**Dana:** This year, the information distribution won't change much compared to last year. The newsletter will be sent out on Mondays at five. The main goal for the newsletter is to inform members about what SIB has been up to and what activities are coming up, as well other information about the association that may be relevant to them, requests from committees and societies.

I will keep track of the board's physical and digital e-mail, which means I make sure the board's mailbox stays organised.

I also keep track of our member and alumni administration, for which we use Conscribo. There are some older physical documents in our archive. We want to make sure any information that we store is stored conform to AVG (Which is the Dutch privacy law).

This year, there won't be days where the boardroom is generally open to members, but if members wish to visit the boardroom, they can always contact us and we'll let them know if they can visit. There will be four occasions during the year where the boardroom is open for members to visit freely. This could for example be around uni lunch breaks where members would be invited to eat lunch with us.

**Lena:** Are there any questions regarding the secretariat chapter? Well, then we move on to finance: Matthijs.

**Els:** Whoop, Whoop!

### *Finance*

**Matthijs:** The first point is that for year we are planning to increase the membership contribution. This is because in 2019-2020 SIB lastly increased its membership contribution. In the meantime inflation has increased all of SIBs expenses. In addition in 2020-2021 a budget reserve was put into place to compensate for the lowered funding SIB gets from the UU and the HU. And as planned this reserve will be empty after this academic year. And therefore we want to increase contribution with at least €5 from next year, so 2024-2025 onwards. And since the financial taskforce will present their plan regarding financial health of SIB during the election GMA of this year and we value the opinion of this taskforce, the exact amount of increase will be determined during that GMA.

Now the discount policy for committees. Secondly, for the discount policy for committees we have made some minor changes. The committees which are able to get a discount this year are: the September Camp Committee, Symposium Committees and the Party Committee. The September camp committee will only have to pay for half camp instead of a whole camp. The symposium committee will be treated the same as volunteers for the symposium, so they don't have to pay for the symposium. And lastly, the Partee will also be able to get a discount, since they can have responsibilities, like being sober during their parties, therefore these people are able to get a discount for these activities, but the amount will be determined per activity per person.

And lastly, the Summer introduction offer. The summer introduction offer largely stays the same for this year. Only when taking into account that the contribution will likely be increased, there are some minor changes. Just like last year people can sign-up during the UIT, they can opt for a €10 discount on the annual fee or the first 6 months for a price of €10. And when new members register via the warm welcome week they may opt for a €10 discount on the annual fee or they can opt for a 6-month membership for half of the annual fee. This half year fee will be the same as this years, but taking into account the increased contribution, it will likely be a couple euros more. But that depends on the exact amount the contribution is increased.

**Lena:** Are there any questions regarding finance?

**Maartje Delis:** Is the idea to increase at least five euros or do you also plan to cap that amount, so you don't have an excessive increase?

Or are you just going to observe what happens to inflation? Because I understand why you do it, but am just concerned that it might increase a lot and will be too expensive for some of our members

**Matthijs:** No, of course we won't. We will look at what the task force says. But we will keep track that it won't be too much.

**Lena:** And I think it is important to know that we will vote about it again. So, it is not like if you vote this in we will raise the contribution with 30 euros and you won't have anything to say anymore. There will be a vote on this at a GMA, so it is good to keep that in mind.

**Lena:** Any other questions regarding finance? No? Okay, then we will move on to acquisition

*Acquisition*

**Rick:** Okay, this year we once again have a dedicated Commissioner of Acquisition. That is me. I will be responsible for leading the Acquisition Committee as the chair of this committee and be responsible for preparing and leading the meetings.

The Acquisition Committee itself will be applying for subsidies for the Intellectual Activities organised by the External Affairs Committee and, when needed, also for other committees, which are usually the Meme committee, the symposium committee, but can also include other committees. The Acquisition Committee will also be responsible for the contact with (possible) sponsors.

**Lena:** Are there any questions regarding acquisition?

**Mila:** I think I saw in policy document that we get 1576 euros from cervantes, but in the budget it was 13-honderd and something.

**Rick:** think that you are correct. There was a revision of the budget because there are ongoing contract negotiations with Cervantes. I think the number in the acquisition part of the document might be outdated. We will revise that.

**Mila:** So it is 13-hondered ...

**Rick:** Yes, is budgeted at 13-hondered

**Lena:** But the negotiations still taking place. The budgeted amount is the one in the budget.

**Mila:** Is this 13-hondered realistic?

**Rick:** We will go into that during the budget, I think. But contract negotiations are still ongoing, so I can't divulge much about that.

**Maya:** For sponsorship: What is the amount we want to aim for?

**Rick:** That is also part of budget, we will come back to that

**Lena:** Any more questions regarding acquisition? Okay, then we will move on to internal affairs, so I give the floor to Maartje.

### *Internal Affairs*

**Maartje:** So, for committees: This year the Big AcCo, has been split up into a AcCo and ParTee again. We have made some clear guidelines on what they can organise. So the ParTee will organise more activities like; Vrimibo's, parties and cocktail workshops, while the AcCo will organise more lowkey activities.

The FIT name will be changed, since the introduction period in November has not happened in a few years. And the LIT committee had already been formed this year, as the trip is in February. And once again, we will have a MEME this year. The Simulation Committee will be under the supervision of the Commissioner of External Affairs this year.

Then, Themed fortnights. This year, we have decided to do away with the themed fortnights, as they do not seem to reach their intended goal of bringing together SIB's intellectual and social side.

And lastly, Society activities. The requirement of three society-only activities will be lifted. The societies can make their own choices in how many society-only activities they want to organise. Instead, I will do 3 check-ins during the year with the captains to see if they still have faith in the liveliness of their society.

Are there any questions?

**Britte:** Of course I have a question. You mentioned vrimibo's just now, but there isn't anything in policy about them. Does that mean they stay the same?

**Maartje:** Yes

**Lena:** Any other questions?

**Iris:** I think I read in the document for the societies you still want some kind of reason you want to get in, but I think in the last couple of months there was no check.

**Maartje:** Yeah so, for now I just gave all the society captains a list of the first years that were interested. I am planning to email all society captains asking for the names and motivation that you have received.

**Iris:** So they still have to give motivation?

**Maartje:** Yes.

**Lena:** Are there any more questions about the internal affairs chapter? No? Then we will move on to the external affairs.

### *External Affairs*

**Rick:** Okay. This year: Intellectual Activities, the symposium, and the simulation will fall under External Affairs and will be by the responsibility of the Commissioner of External Affairs, that is me.

As per usual, the External Affairs Committee will continue to organise the Intellectual Activities. The frequency of these Intellectual Activities will remain biweekly, so every other week. These Intellectual Activities will consist of Talks and Interactive Intellectual Activities, previously known as Tuesday Twists, and the External Affairs Committee will try to alternate between these two formats. The committee will also experiment the usage of different rooms within Instituto Cervantes for the Talks, so be prepared for that.

**Lena:** Are there any questions regarding External Affairs?

**Britte:** I have a small question, because our dear Jasper came up with the success rating last year, and you decided to do away with that. So I was wondering if you could clarify why.

**Rick:** Yes, I think mathematically the success rating was not the correct way to correct for such a bias. For anyone that was not aware, last year there was a policy of a success rating, where they multiplied the amount of people present at an intellectual activity by the rating on average that the activity got to achieve a certain number. That number or the success rating itself was introduced because if there are less people present at an activity, there are relatively more board and committee members which may skew the rating itself. So for instance: If there are only 10 people present, it will probably get a higher rating since half of the members present are likely the board and the committee. While if there are 40 people, the board and the committee will only make up a quarter of the people. So, to counter this, they did this success formula. But I don't think mathematically it is accurate to correct it in such a manner. Because a low attendance will be heavily penalised, even if it has a high rating.

[A long explanation with two examples why Rick thinks it doesn't make sense]

Long story short, it did not mathematically not make sense to correct it in such a manner. I will brainstorm with the EC on a method that does mathematically make sure this bias doesn't exist. But it is very difficult to do so since it isn't known how much every external

affairs committee or board member rates an activity since it is private. So we don't have any clear data on how much this skews.

**Lena:** And I think it is important to know that we keep track of the average rating and we keep track of the attendance for these moments.

**Els:** Maybe it is an option that the board and members of the external affairs committee don't vote? Because it is already evaluated during meetings and also during board meetings.

**Rick:** That is an excellent suggestion, I don't have anything against it. But it will be a little difficult to implement now, because there already have been events and, like I said, I don't know which vote was cast by which person. So it would be unfair for me to just remove the highest 8 votes.

**Lena:** But you could start doing it from now on?

**Rick:** I could start doing it from now, so I will.

**Els:** I mean, that is with all policy, it starts from now.

**Rick:** Exactly, so I will just say: you will probably see in the year report that I couldn't do this for the first few Talks, but I will start doing this from now on. Great suggestion.

**Lena:** Are there any more questions about external affairs? No? Then we will move on to promotion.

### *Promotion*

#### **Lena:**

As Commissioner of Promotion (CP) I am responsible for both promotion within and outside the association. I aim to attract people to these activities and increase awareness of the association. I want to do that by doing the following points:

Regarding Brand Awareness: We are going to update our corporate identity document and align it with the outcomes of the Member Recruitment Taskforce, which includes using SIB as a brand instead of an abbreviation. And making sure Promotion plans are in place for events such as the Utrecht Introduction Time, the Symposium, and the spring introduction.

Regarding Internal Promotion: Promotion will mainly occur through WhatsApp and emails, the weekly newsletter will promote activities of the week, and all internal promotional materials will be in English for the accessibility.

Regarding External Promotion: We will use social media to promote our association and activities, especially on Instagram and if possible on TikTok, we are discontinuing the use of Facebook for promotion, and we will be present at university events and orientation days.

Regarding Merchandise: We will continue promoting SIB merchandise through various channels such as the SIB-Link, Instagram, and the E-sib. And merchandise will be available for purchase at specific events, such as introduction periods.

To achieve these goals we have not only me, but also the lovely Promotion Committee and UIT committee. And the UIT committee starts no later than December.

Are there any questions regarding the promotion chapter?

**Annika:** Yeah, I was wondering if you still use the Google agenda for SIB? Because I noticed that it is used for 1 or 2 weeks and then it is completely empty.

**Lena:** Ah, yes. I have to be honest, we haven't been keeping enough track of the Google calendar, and I think that should be done better. So, we will try to improve that.

**Dana:** I noticed the weekly overview was also posted on the , every week?

**Lena:** Ah, yes. The promotion committee discussed this and we want to try posting it as a post instead of a story and then just archiving it every week. So it isn't just the week promotion.

**Dana:** Ah, so it won't stay on the ...

**Lena:** No, not forever. That's the idea.

**Maya:** I may have zoned out a little bit, but I am not sure it was clear what is meant by external promotion. Could you maybe elaborate on that?

**Lena:** Well, the external promotion is not about necessarily the promotion regarding the external affairs program but our promotion to non-sibmembers. So we will use social media to promote our sociation, especially Instagram and possibly Tiktok. We are not going to use Facebook anymore, and we will be present at university events like the open day and the orientation days. That is what I talked about.

**Mila:** You mentioned Tiktok.

**Lena:** Yes

**Mila:** How will you do that with AVG, whatever it is in English,

**Lena:** Privacy law

**Mila:** Yes, privacy law. How will you do that?

**Lena:** Yes, that is why I said possibly using Tiktok. Because we first want to know if our members are okay with being on Tiktok and if they agree to that on the AVG form. So if there are ...

**Mila:** So you will ask that specifically for Tiktok?

**Lena:** Yes, because if there are not enough members that are comfortable with being on Tiktok, then I am not going to make promotion material for Tiktok. Because we don't post members that didn't approve the AVG. The same for instagram, but people might have different opinions about Tiktok.

**Mila:** Yeah, I think so. That's great.

**Lena:** Any other questions regarding promotion? Okay, then we will move on to Digital Affairs.

### *Digital Affairs*

**Wouter:** Ah, yes. So, Digital affairs.

Firstly regarding the digital modernisation of SIB:

#### *Digital Modernisation*

##### *Reducing Human Engagement Reliance*

We want to reduce the amount of interaction between people operating the website and the website itself. At present, the SIB website, and the IT linked to it, requires a lot of manual maintenance. To ensure that future boards, that may consist of individuals with less expertised in digital skills, can better use the website and its possibilities, we intend to reduce the amount of time one would spend on interacting with the website. We believe it

should be intuitive and easy to use tool, and with as much automation as possible, to make it a more enjoyable part of SIB for members and board members.

### *Secondly regarding Encouraging Member Activity*

We believe that the website has great potential as a fundamental cornerstone of SIB's operations. In order to transform the website from an informative series of web pages to an interactive community-driven platform, we, in cooperation with the IT committee, will discuss opportunities and experiment with ideas. We aim to have a functional, 'member community' on the website, with interactions between members streamlined and central to the identity of the website by the end of this year. We believe this will help member cohesion and allow for more cooperative projects.

### *Office IT and Archive Maintenance NAS (Network-Attached Storage)*

The NetworkAttached Storage (NAS) as detailed in previous year's policy, we aim to replace the NAS currently at the office by a modernised version. To comply with GDPR (AVG) legislation, we intend to have as little personal information as possible outside of the NAS. Due to several board members having to access this personal information, usually at the same time, a NAS is necessary.

### *SIB-Utrecht Wiki*

In previous years, the SIB-Utrecht Wikipedia has been neglected in favour of other tools used to transfer information. However, we aim to revitalise this tool, and adapt it to the current needs of the association. Examples include the addition of the Protocols of Succession and Transfer created last year, member contributions, and possible integration with SIB's website, most notably its 'member community'. If such ideas prove unfeasible, the Wiki will be made obsolete by archiving its information and taking the website offline.

Are there any questions regarding Digital Affairs?

**Iris:** Do I understand correctly that you are trying to make a way for members to chat with each other on the website. Do you think people want that?

**Wouter:** So a preliminary view of the interes form shows that there is some interest, however we believe that due to the magnitude of such a change. We believe that it can provide a larger impact than people may perceive it to have. Thats why we want to invest time in such an operation. So I believe that in the future people will come to appreciate it more after there are more features added to the project. As of right now the member feedback has been cautiously optimistic.

**Lotte:** One thing that I am thinking that was in your policy I think, the whole think about base of website not functioning, I know and you know it as well, that is something that is not mentioned are you going to work on that?

**Wouter:** It is in part mentioned mostly under the part of reducing human engagement reliance, 10.1.3, it is not explicitly stated but is a goal. It is not explicitly stated in the policy, you are correct, but we could add it.

**Lotte:** is it a goal?

**Wouter:** It is a goal, it is not mentioned in the policy, but we could add it if you want to.

**Dana:** What is your main goal or the one thing you want to achieve this year. I think it are all good ideas. You have a strong IT committee, but it is still a lot in one year.

**Wouter:** Primary focus will be on the member community platform, because it requires many different aspects of the site to be revised, modernised or reevaluated and then the promotion towards external members (10.1.1), promotion within and outside of SIB, to make sure our brand identity and we as an association can be promoted via website more efficiently, those are the two major aspects that we and I specifically will focus on.

**Dana:** I agree with the second thing, but as Iris already said, you should do more research on how much people want the member community and maybe focus more on the NAS and wiki, that I also neglected.

**Wouter:** These are all very interesting discussion of course and the results of the form have not been inclusive in any direction, but we believe that the member community will prove a vital part, however the wiki will also demand attention, especially by integrating it into the website.

**Els:** maybe you should then maybe should add into you policy that creating that creating the member community will depend on the results of the survey. You said it takes a lot of work and if members prove not to need that a lot then you could use your energy for a thing what members find important

**Wouter:** I understand what you are saying I believe that the more such a platform is created the more it will be used, the more people see the value of it.

**Els:** how does it add to what we currently have with the whatsapp group? Because I feel that the whatsapp group is quite a thriving place

**Maartje:** I think it is also what Wouter wants to work on is making everything in one place, so you have the information on the website, internal promotion can be on there, it is kind of a SIBapp

**Els:** will it be an app? Because the website is quite hard to use.

**Wouter:** The IT committee is currently working on app, yes

**Els:** is that in policy?

**Wouter:** That is not in the policy. We are still working on the app and it is still in a preliminary phase and we do not yet known what features will be or are able to be put on the app, so it is not in policy that we will have an app. But then I can not guarantee that some features discussed in the policy will be on the app as well as on the website, but they would be on the website if they are in the policy.

**Els:** If I think personally these things sounds fun but they are hard to use if I have to open the browser on my phone. So, I think these things are Interesting to explore but under condition that it can be in app

**Wouter:** We as the IT committee are working on it yes

**Els:** We could put that in the policy, I don't know how other people think about that. But I don't expect me to use it if it is not in an app, the way I can use whatsapp now.

**Wouter:** I can understand yes. If there is nobody that objects I will put it in the policy that we will work on an app and add the features discussed in the policy to the app as well.

**Mila:** Are you planning to only add the features on the on app then or both app and website

**Wouter:** both as of right now, the app uses the same api as the website, but more usable on app on mobile but on desktop as well.

**Mila:** Are you also planning to add in a function for [inaudible], because last year we were planning into looking into the function when we are in the board room, but I don't remember anything about that.



**Lena:** I think specific things like this, like what is going to be on the app and the website should be discussed later at member consultation moments or surveys or suggestions like this to be on the website.

**Britte:** Maybe a general point. Visiting hours in the board room, right now you said something about that you have to make an appointment?

**Lena:** yes, because current pnyx location you can't just walk in, you have to call us to get in so have to make appointment anyways and not a lot of people come by, so we thought it would be more fun to organise specific moment when there is something to do, when there is a place to sit and hang out and have board members actually available for social vibes, so that's why we decided to do that.

**Britte:** No, I agree I think it is a good idea, but then it is maybe something, like Mila said to put then on website again. Just to clarify making an appointment means that I can just text? Because an appointment sounds really official.

**Multiple Board members:** yes, just send us a text.

**Wouter:** So we will definitely take that into consideration to make that a possible feature on website.

**Lena:** I think Jeljer had a question or am I wrong?

**Jeljer:** No, [inaudible]

**Lena:** Any other questions regarding digital affairs?

**Maya:** just want to say that I agree with Els that if you are looking into making an app you could put in into the policy, maybe this is a change we can determine

**Wouter:** fully agree

**Lena:** I think that will be a part of the agreed changes. Any more digital affairs questions? Okay, then it is time to vote.

**Lena:** We will vote in the entire policy, with the following changes we talked about.

- Reword part about tuesdays with the change that we will evaluate it at the halfyearGMA and change to average one and a half activities on a non-tuesday
- Sponsorship part about cervantes will be changes in the way as it is in the budget
- Boardmembers and EC members don't score the events anymore
- Part about making website working will be put in the policy
- And the App

**Dana:** so the voting also still on the thing we already voted on

**Lena:** No, these are just the agreed changes

**Els:** What we voted on before are the changes to be made that she just said.

**Lena:** I just said the changes that we voted on that we want to make, because the last voting was on what agreed changes would be to the part about the tuesdays. The outcome of that was to reword and revise at the half year GMA, we will put that in our policy and all this other stuff. Now we vote on the entirety of the policy with these changes. Does that answer your question? Is it clear for everyone what is happening now?

**Anouk:** one question about acquisition part, which will be discussed in the budget, but is in the policy, so we are voting it in now?

**Lena:** what is the question

**Anouk:** I was wondering what the budgeted €250 .... Income for sponsorship. This is the goal of the acquisition committee, you mentioned that it is further to be discussed in the budget.

**Rick:** I can have a quick word about the acquisition itself, the acquisition policy is as stated and what we are going to vote in and that policy is how we are going to approach

sponsorships and how to manage acquisition overall. The amount we expect to get from this will be discussed in the budget, so that will be discussed by Matthijs later on and the amount that was budgeted incorrectly will be adjusted as well.

**Maya:** So if I understand it correctly we are now voting on the way we believe we can get sponsorship?

**Rick:** yes, we are going to vote on the policy and not on the expected amount.

**Maya:** Okay, so for how far I know the sponsorship goal hasn't been reached in the last couple of years. How are you going to make sure that you reach this goal this year?

**Rick:** The goal is what we are going to approach later on, but I can quickly divulged. We have an acquisition committee, we have a more passive approach like previous years, and we hope that we will get sponsorship. But we also want to keep the possibility open for approaching companies. That is something that has not happened in the last years. Because of a more determined to be .... effort, we want to keep the possibility open, so we hope that we do have some additional sponsorship and we have been approached for certain sponsorships. So we do have hope of getting a smaller sponsorship, so that is why we came to the lower amount as you will see in the budget, which we think is at least reachable.

**Lena:** Then we move on to the voting. The QR code will go around the room, so you will be able to scan at your own spot. Please do not forget to vote twice if you are authorised. In this scenario some members of the BoA will cast votes against, to ensure you feel safe to vote against if you want to.

The cast votes are as follows: 44

- Pro: 36
- Against: 4
- Abstain: 4

**Lena:** Hereby the policy document with the agreed changes is accepted.

*Hammer Strike*

**Lena:** As it is 20:30, I suspend the GMA for 10 minutes. We will commence again at 20:40

*Hammer Strike*

Break

**Lena:** Welcome back everyone. It is 20:40 and we restart. With the next hammer strike I reopen the GMA.

*Hammer Strike*

**Lena:** We will now move on to the next item, the Budget.

## *Hammer Strike*

### **10. Budget**

**Lena:** For this, I give the floor to Matthijs.

**Matthijs:**

Couple notes: for you, the left lane is the budget from 2021, the middle from 2022 and the right one is from our year, so 2023. So, first we, we came with the income. You can see that the contribution from members is increased with around €500, this is because we have a bit more members than last year and we have calculated the expected amount of contribution we get from the members this year. For alumni, we have around the same number of alumni as last year, and since last year we got around €2500 from the alumni, therefore we increased this amount with €100.

The Cervantes budget, we talked about it a little bit, but, for, because of corona we had like, some changes in the contract, so it's a bit hard to estimate the exact amount we will get from this one, and we are still working on the contract with Cervantes, but, since we have a bit more costs than last year, we expect that this amount is a bit higher than last year. So we think the €1300 is reasonable.

Then we go to budget reserve. So, this reserve is a reserve that's been put into place a couple years ago (consequent?) the lowered funding from the UU and the HU, and we can get the predetermined amount from this reserve, and this year it is €400.

And then for the IT reserve, as Wouter already told, we are planning to buy a new NAS, and therefore, to buy that NAS, there will be money taken from the IT reserve.

The donations; think as most of you probably know, this year the CFI that was normally on another budget is now incorporated as a donation for SIB and is also in this budget. So, for the CFI, the donation this year was €2250, and the other amount, the €300, is because donations we normally get from people.

And now, as we already talked about sponsors, the last couple of years we haven't gotten that many money from sponsors, so we decided to lower that amount.

And lastly, the European Solidarity Corps, we got money from the European Union, and for this money a committee will be put into place which will spend that money, will divide that money for activities.

**Lena:** Are there any questions about this part of the budget, the income? Mila?

**Mila:** Cervantes was on 1300... something, but are you planning to go more often to Cervantes than last year, that's my first question, because if you don't, I don't think €1376 is realistic. You're in, overleg met ze, dus wat denk jij?

**Matthijs:** I think we talked about it...

**Mila:** Ik denk dat het vooral voor de EC is

**Rick:** I'll step in a little here, because I'm the one responsible for going to Cervantes for lectures. We technically do have planned to go to Cervantes a little more than last year, so that is true. I also think this is the budget from last year, and that budget was actually lower than they got, because they were still relying on the COVID-19 version of the contract. So they got more than they got budgeted for, and so we also expect more than actually they budgeted for. The exact amount, as Matthijs will say, still depends on contract negotiations, but we do expect it to be both more than the previous years' budget, and we're also gonna go more to Cervantes.

**Lena:** do you have another question?

**Mila:** no, if you think that's reachable, then I will shut up.

**Lena:** are there other questions regarding the income? Then I think we move on... oh sorry, sorry, sorry Anouk!

**Anouk:** the European Solidarity Corps is a big income, will we hear something about the division of that big income here or... when can we know something about where that money goes to, because obviously there's a committee for it, but there's also these 1 and a half activities per month that are not budgeted in. Is that something that this budget can be used for, or not at all?

**Matthijs:** Yeah, that will be possible, but I think in like, cooperation with the committee

**Rick:** I think I'm also gonna step in here, since I'll be the contact person for the European Solidarity Corps commission. We applied to this grant last year, and because it's such a large amount, well, both boards, us and the previous boards, as well as some of the members, agreed that we should put up a committee on this instead of us just dividing the money. That's why the committee exists, and they are in charge of dividing this money, within their mandate of the terms we applied for. So, they are responsible for dividing the money. Every committee can go to the European Solidarity Corps to ask them 'hey, can we have a talk about how we gonna divide this money and can we use some of it' and make plans with them. The distribution of this money will probably be presented, partially at the half-year GMA, and fully at the end of the year.

**Lena:** I think it's also a good moment to give the word to Britte, the chair of the ESC committee.

**Britte:** Yeah, so, there will be some activities - so for example, the AcCo, we are already cooperating for the comedy night, and we have the form where you can fill out any of your ideas. And we have the study day, so that's an additional activity as well. So there will be some throughout the year, but what we're currently doing is we are trying to put on a project with other associations as well, so it will take some time to see what kind of activities we can do. And most importantly, what our assignment is is that we have to prove to the European

Union, where we got this money from, that we did something substantial. So we can't just randomly spend this money on some activity, like for example Cluedo Night, there has to be a reason why it's affiliated with our funding. So really, what I want to say is, if you have any ideas, and that can be from the board as well, just fill out the form, we check it regularly, you can leave your ideas there. The AcCo knows where to find us just because we already do things together. But this is not meant to help the board with their financial issues, because this is a separate project, and we're trying to include refugees in student life, we're trying to include deaf people, so we're not trying to help the board with some financial issues.

**Lena:** Anouk.

Anouk: That's a good distinction to make, thank you. Does it say on top of the form what the goals are, like, what the aim are?

**Britte:** Yeah, and I tried to explain it a bit in the promotion text as well, but it's the same.

**Lena:** And I think it's also important to know that we as a board do know what the goals of the grant are, so if we do have an idea for an activity that does align with this grant, we can of course talk to the committee about it and work together. Any other questions regarding income? Oh yes, Annika?

**Annika:** Yeah, I kind of had a follow up question. I'm not sure, but I thought that somewhere it once said, either in the Huishoudelijk Reglement, or the statuten, or the policy, but if a budget of a committee exceeds a certain amount, or activity, they have to look to the GMA. And I'm not completely sure, I can't find it currently, but maybe it's something to look into if it's still the case or not, or maybe it's something that used to be the case once, I don't know.

**Lena:** Very good question.

**Britte:** Yeah but, still, this is technically separate from the association, so we used the association as a bank account amount number, but this project is associated to our names personally, and we are personally in our name responsible for this money. So, I would be willing to present something to the GMA, if that's what it is, but as much as the European Union is concerned, it's the money that I am getting, the five of us are getting.

**Pieter:** Nice holiday!

**Britte:** So, yeah.

**Annika:** But it does go through SIB, right? So it has, it's on the rekening of SIB, so it has SIB's name on it.

**Britte:** Yes, but there are difficulties with actually... The European Union has difficulties with us being a student association, as much as it is already. So it's our personal names, not SIB, that it's linked to, so we use SIB's bank account.

**Annika:** Yeah, I'm not sure whether or not you have to present it, or like, I thought I saw it somewhere once, but I don't remember where and I can't find it right now.

**Lena:** I think it's a good idea to just check if we are not breaking rules, I think that's just a good idea to do. And then we as a board will be in contact with the committee, and see if there's anything that needs to be presented. Any other questions? No? Then we'll move on to the expenses.

**Matthijs:** Okay. So first the expenses for administration and board, yeah, administration and board costs. The constitutional drinks we decided to lower that amount with €50 because there were a few remarks last year that it was quite a high number.

For the IT and electronics, of course, because of the new NAS we normally wouldn't, so the expense will be higher.

The representation and board costs, normally the oud-besturen cantus was paid from the CFI, but for this current year, it will be paid from this post, so the €200 that normally went to the oud-besturen cantus is now... what was previously paid from the CFI is now under this post.

The secretariat, it was, last year they did it with €100, so we think we can do it with the same amount this year.

And for the inauguration GMA, we also think we can do it for €50 less.

Now to the committee support: if you already heard, the AcCo split into the AcCo and the ParTee again, and therefore the AcCo gets some less money than last year.

For the committee thank you gifts; last year they didn't spend the full amount, and we think we can do it with €50 less.

For the committee shirts: we calculated the amount of people we expect in committees and the price for committee shirts and we came to €350.

Then for all the increase in expenses for the External Affairs Committee, the ParTee committee - the ParTee committee not, but the Introduction Trips, the MEME, the Symposium and the UIT, they all are higher than last year, but this increase in expenses are because normally it was paid from the CFI, some part of this money, so therefore this amount is a bit higher than last year.

And, for the ParTee committee, of course, last year there was no ParTee committee, but this year, there is and they will need this money for like the parties, the cantus, the vrimibo's, enzovoorts.

And then, we already talked about it, the European Solidarity Corps, the spending of this money has to do with certain eisen, it's a different committee that will spend this money.

**Els:** The money for the Solidarity, will that all be spent in one year, or that can be spent later than this year?

**Lena:** Has to be spent within a year, before, the end date is May, right?

**Britte & Mila:** Yes.

**Lena:** End May.

**Els:** Oh God... So much money...

**Lena:** Do you want to have the questions when you finish the entire...

**Matthijs:** Yeah, I think...

**Els:** I'm sorry I crossed you...

**Matthijs:** No, I think it's best to do it like every slide

**Lena:** Oh, then you skipped this.

**Matthijs:** Yeah, I know. But, I think it's more, yeah. So... okay. Any other questions about this slide.

**Lena:** Yes, the slide that came before. If there are questions... I see Annika?

**Annika:** Yeah, a question about the board office, because I thought it was always open to members, but now it's not, so I was wondering how you are planning to spend the money.

**Matthijs:** It's just for things important for like, a table or something. Just, the common things.

**Lena:** We need a new bureau, because we are with six again, so stuff like that.

**Matthijs:** common stuff for the board room.

**Lena:** Any other questions regarding this part of the budget? And any questions about this part? Dana?

**Dana v. U.:** Just why we lowered the committee shirts?

**Matthijs:** We just calculated the amount of committee, like, how many committees there are and how many people are in the committees and calculated the price of what we expect to spend on the shirts, so...

**Dana v. U.:** Okay, but since there is a committee extra, the ParTee committee, so I would assume it wouldn't be less...

**Matthijs:** I think we already have taken that into account.

**Dana v. U.:** Okay.

**Matthijs:** We go to the next slide?

So for the contributions, nothing changes, so not that exciting. For the heimweek, last year the expenses were around €125, so we budgeted the same for this year. As for the closing of the year, the expenses were around €400 last year, so we have the same for this year. And for the gala and the liftweekend we don't have plans to organise that this year, so there are no expenses for that. Any questions about this one?

**Matthijs:** Then, we go to the banking costs. The banking costs are the fixed costs that are a bit higher than last year, so, just the fixed costs. And then, for the programme of talks, we planned to have a bit less talks than the last years, but I think... the amount budgeted for the last couple years hasn't changed, but in the last few years they've had a bit lower income so this amount is a bit lower. I think that's all, so, are there any questions?

**Lena:** No further questions? If there are no further questions, then we move on to voting about the budget.

**Lena:** Oh, sorry, that's true, we have the CFI.

**Dana v. U.:** Can I have more questions?

**Lena:** About the previous slide?

**Dana v. U.:** Yeah, like, because I see that the unforeseen expenses are quite the same, but the total expenses are way higher than last year, so. I dunno, maybe...

**Matthijs:** It's... yeah, the amount that it's higher is mainly because of the ESC and the CFI that were not budgeted in the budget last year...

**Dana v. U.:** Yeah, I understand that, but then the percentage of the unforeseen expenses, should that be around the same?

**Matthijs:** Yeah, good question, denk ik. The audit committee, whether they have anything to say about it.

**Léon:** Yeah, I mean, I think last year's €600 of unforeseen expenses wasn't really necessary, so this is still around the percentage that you want. I think last year's it was a bit around 5%, now it's maybe a bit below, I think it won't be a problem. But fair point.

**Lena:** Then I think we move on to the question Maya had about a different slide.

**Maya:** Yes.

**Lena:** About what slide was it?

**Maya:** It was about the reserves, because if I understand correctly, the reserves for the intellectual programme are empty, are they?

**Matthijs:** they aren't.



**Maya:** Could you maybe explain why they aren't there then? Maybe I'm just...

**Matthijs:** This is the expenses, yeah, this is the expenses, so the amount we put into the reserves every year. But the intellectual programme reserve is not empty.

**Maya:** Okay, good to know.

**Lena:** are there more questions about the budget?

**Lena:** If there are no further questions, we move on to the voting on the budget. The QR code is up again! Remember to vote twice if you are authorised. The Board of Advisors will vote against, so everyone is comfortable.

The cast votes are as follows: 44

- Pro: 36
- Against 3:
- Abstain: 5

Then hereby the budget is accepted.

*Hammer Strike*

**Lena:** Then we will move on to the next agenda item, the Board Round.

*Hammer Strike*

## **11. Board Round**

**Lena:** Now all Board members will briefly tell you about their activities of the last period.

**Lena:** In the last couple of months, I have been busy with setting up and writing the Policy Document. Furthermore, I have been preparing for this GMA tonight together with my Board. Also, I have had meetings with FISA, SIB-Nederland, VIDIUS, YourStyle and Drukbedrijf. I also had lovely meetings within SIB with mostly the Promotion Committee and I am also already busy with thinking about an UIT committee.

Then we move on to Dana.

**Dana:** Since the inaugurationGMA, I've added our new members in conscribo, I worked on our policy and written the minutes of the yearGMA. I've also written seven eSIBs. And I kept up with the board's e-mail and agenda. And I've studied for the exam I had last week on Friday.

**Matthijs:** For the first months I have been busy with getting to know the basics of conscribo and kept track of the bookkeeping. In addition, I have paid the declarations made by the SIB members, made my first incasso's and last week I finalized the September camp budget. Lastly, I have also had my first meeting with the audit committee.

**Maartje:** In the last few months I've been working on our policy, I've been getting to know our lovely new first years, setting up the first introduction period, filling SIB's committees, emailing with cafes such as de Tussentijd and having meetings with my amazing internal affairs committee. I've also been busy with the PABO and being juf Maartje and of course working some shifts at Humphrey's.

**Rick:** With a double function, I have been pretty busy. I have been in contact with a lot of possible speakers and organisations for our wonderful Intellectual Programme, and I have also been in contact with Cervantes about various things. Next to that, I have been chairing the External Affairs Committee and Acquisition Committee, and lastly I have also been trying to start and fill the symposium committee and simulation committee.

**Wouter:** In these past months, I have been spent many hours making improvements to all certain facets of IT within SIB, with obvious assistance from the amazing IT committee. Besides that, I have been engaging with our lovely first years, assisting my board members wherever possible, and of course, preparing this GMA and writing our Policy Document.

**Lena:** And now you can ask us all the questions in the world. Are there any questions about this board round? Dana?

**Dana v. U.:** Who is responsible for keeping up the Google Calendar, because, Annika was it, asked a question you answered, normally it's the secretary.

**Dana:** it is the secretary.

**Mila:** When are you going to sing?

**Lena:** Don't worry. Or do.

**Lena:** are there more questions for this board round?

*Hammer Strike*

## **12. Any Other Business**

**Lena:** Then we move on to any other business. I don't think any other business has come up, so we are just going to move on, to the question round.

*Hammer Strike*

## **13. Question Round**

**Lena:** This is your time to ask all the questions that you have, but keep in mind we are going to the Cambridge Bar afterwards, so if you have personal questions, you can also ask us there. Els.

**Els:** I just want to say congratulations on your policy, and also your budget. I think you worked very hard on it.

**The entire board:** Thank you.

**Els:** and discussed with us and other changes you made.

**Lena:** Thank you. Maartje

**Maartje Delis:** I would also like to compliment you, as had been said before, for trying new things, for standing up, for breaking out of the traditional pattern, and I would ask a round of applause for this fabulous board.

*Applause*

**Lena:** Thank you. Applause is always welcome.

**Els:** Now sing.

**Lena:** Are there any other questions? Then we move onto the Closing. Thank you all for coming tonight.

*Hammer Strike*

#### **14. Closing**

**Lena:** Then we move on to the closing. Thank you all so much for joining us tonight, and for all your input and questions. With your remarks, we believe we have a great policy and we will follow it to our greatest ability this year, so thanks a lot.

So, hereby I close the General Members Assembly of SIB-Utrecht of October 19th of 2023 at 21:14.

*Hammer Strike*