

**The 44th board**  
**Letter Board Twisk GMA 5th of June 2024**

Dear board, dear GMA,

Thank you for reading our individual motivational letters. You might have known some of us already, but maybe this is the first time we have met. It is the same for us: some of us have known each other from when we became a member, others did not really know each other before we heard we would be writing this letter for the GMA.

The last couple of weeks we have already worked on becoming a real dream team. By getting to know each other, we have noticed we are consistently perfectly balanced in groups of three. For example: three of us have been a member since this year, three a longer period of time. Three of us are older (dare I say boomer-material), three are younger. When asked to choose between drinks, a lecture, a party, or an activity, three of us chose activity, the other three chose the other options. We're even split right through the middle on our opinions on custard! Together we form an interesting mix of people that complement each other on the different sides of SIB as well as student life.

One thing we all have in common is that we have experienced SIB to be welcoming to us. We are all motivated to make sure others feel the same way by staying true to SIB's values.

While we all intend to work part-time, the heaviest points of our years differ for each member. Whether it is a thesis deadline in November, the busiest month of work in February, or an extremely important exam in May - we are confident we can support each other when needed.

With this letter we do not only ask your support for us becoming the 44th board. We also ask you to support us during the year as we face challenges and maybe even some (exciting) changes in our association. We are fully aware that SIB works thanks to you all, and we would love to give our time and effort to help the association further along in the coming academic year.

We look forward to a year of fun and learning!

Thank you all,

Marthe-Maria Twisk  
Vincent Kuhlmann  
Gemma Veenstra  
Ayla Abbenbroek  
Elisa Jeuring  
Charlotte van Brakel

## **Letter Marthe-Maria Twisk – President**

Dear board, dear GMA,

With this letter I would like to apply for the position of President of the 44th board of SIB-Utrecht.

For anyone that doesn't know me, let me introduce myself. My name is Marthe-Maria Twisk and I am 19 years old. I'm a second-year history student at Utrecht University and a first-year at SIB-Utrecht. I had no plans on joining a student association starting my bachelors. However, SIB got my attention during the UIT of 2022 and I kept a close eye on what was happening within the association that year. I attended a lecture last UIT and at the end of that week I decided to become a member. I was welcomed with open arms and immediately felt at home. That is also one of the reasons why I would like to do a board year. I want to give something back to the association that has been so welcoming to me.

The position of president suits me because I can keep a good overview and work in a structured way. As president, I consider it important to hear all sides of a story, but at the same time he or she has to make decisions. I can lend a listening ear to different opinions, but I'm not afraid to make decisions.

In addition to my board year, I want to continue studying and working next year. My studies will take a back seat and I may drop one of my jobs. I have full confidence that it will be possible to combine all these activities.

I hope you consider me for a board year and I look forward to next year.

Yours sincerely,  
Marthe-Maria

## Letter Vincent Kuhlmann - Secretary

Dear board, dear GMA,

With this letter I would like to apply for the position of Secretary in the 44<sup>th</sup> board of SIB-Utrecht.

First, I will introduce myself. My name is Vincent Kuhlmann and I'm 24 years old. I joined SIB two years ago, in September 2021, during my bachelor's in Mathematics and Physics. I am now doing my master's in Mathematics and Computing Science, for which I will be writing my thesis next year.

When I started my studies, I briefly joined Orca, and have been active at my study association and ESN Utrecht, but in the end, I found my home at SIB. It had been corona times, and study friends went different paths, and so I was once again looking for new long-term friendships. As SIB combined the real 'gezelligheid' with an open, international character, and also an intellectual programme, SIB was the perfect choice. I am really happy I decided to join SIB; the members are amazing, and I am very thankful to everyone who welcomed me, and has made me feel welcome ever since, friends with whom I have enjoyed many happy moments.

I see myself as a good fit for the function of Secretary; I like to keep things organised, create overview and make things more efficient. My double bachelor's and double master's, or more generally my tendency to saturate myself with work, made me develop those skills. In the function of Secretary, I would also continue the efforts to improve the IT of SIB. This could also include creating new things, like tools for the board, or a handy SIB app for members. For this, my knowledge and experience in software development which I have accumulated over the last 10 years will be very helpful.

I would fulfil the function part-time, besides writing my thesis. While I expect this will pose a challenge, I am not unfamiliar with challenging myself and as such, I think I know by now what I can handle. Moreover, I actually like to challenge myself, because that is when I learn the most. Learning is just one of the reasons I am excited for doing a board year; I very much look forward to working closely together with the rest of the board, on a shared mission to keep our association thriving and make it the best place for all of our members.

Lastly, I am excited to further improve the administration and IT, making sure there will never be anything restraining us from what we want to achieve; for a new member registering for an activity the first time, a visitor of the website looking for information, a member inquiring what committees the association has on offer, and in numerous other cases, the experience should be as good and easy as it can be, to keep our pillars of 'inhoud en gezelligheid' front and centre at all times.

I hope you entrust me in this position and look forward to contributing to our beautiful association.

Best wishes,  
Vincent

## **Letter Gemma Veenstra - Treasurer**

Dear Board and GMA,

With this letter I would like to apply for the Board as Treasurer.

Let me first introduce myself; I am Gemma Veenstra and currently 19 years old. I am in my second year of my Bachelors Molecular and Biophysical Life Sciences, MBLS for short. I'm planning on taking a break from full time studying next year to focus more on hobbies and being a board member at SIB.

I'm currently with SIB for two years and I've been with the Promotion Commission for around one and a half years. I was introduced to SIB at the UIT and rather quickly decided I would like to join. Despite me having to travel some distance I always had a lot of fun in activities, learned fascinating things in talks and enjoyed spending time with everyone. The journey was always worthwhile. SIB has always been a very welcoming place to me, so now I'd like to return some of that joy to the position of Treasurer in the Board.

I believe I'd be a good fit for this position because I have experience with the role within SIB as Treasurer of the Promotion Commission. I'm good at finding balances between things we want to do and things we can do. Because of my degree I have also learned to work meticulously with numbers and that every action needs to have an arguable reason. With the Promotion commission I have gained experience in realizing ideas, which is important in translating policy into budget.

I hope to have convinced you I am suitable to be Treasurer in the 44th Board.

Kind Regards,

Gemma Veenstra.

## **Letter Ayla Abbenbroek – Commissioner of Internal Affairs**

Dear Board van Duifhuizen, Dear GMA,

Through this letter I would like to submit my application for the 44th Board of SIB-Utrecht.

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Ayla Abbenbroek. I am 24 years old and I am currently doing a Master's in Political Economy at Radboud University. Some of you also may not know that I joined SIB without ever having attended an event or spoken to a member. I just took a leap of faith, which worked out perfectly. In the last year, I have felt so welcomed by both new and older SIB-members. Next to making new friends, I also learned a lot and gained new perspectives on societal issues, partly because the members of SIB are so diverse. There will always be someone with a different opinion, but the openness and respect with which it can be discussed is something I truly value at SIB, even if the discussions are silly and centered around Mark Rutte's sexuality. I would love to contribute towards maintaining this atmosphere within SIB as a board member.

I would add value to the board by being the happy, energetic morning bird in the boardroom on a gloomy Monday. Furthermore, I have great problem-solving skills and a go-getter personality, so if a problem arises or a fellow board member is stuck on their tasks, I am the first to offer help and create a plan to get us through whatever it may be. My creativity helps me with problem-solving, but may also add a fun twist to this board, SIB's activities and maybe even its identity. However, this does not mean that I do not have flaws. As the chair of the UIT-committee, it was reaffirmed that I am not the best at overseeing projects that last more than a month. Additionally, I am not very detail-oriented. Luckily, my potential fellow board members seem to have these skills, and I am more than certain that I can develop them as well under their guidance. And otherwise, hopefully my enthusiasm can make up for these flaws. An example is that I took the initiative to re-organise the CoCo. Furthermore, I can be quite persuasive, so the CoCo actually already has a lot of enthusiastic members, and I will see many of you as a volunteer during the UIT.

I would like to apply for the function of Commissioner of Internal Affairs. I would describe myself as a social butterfly that knows almost all active SIB-members, and also those who are a bit less active. I feel that this skill will be a great asset to a CI, as I am likely to hear what is going on within the association from multiple perspectives, as well as that it will help with new member-retention. I hope to be a CI who is approachable to all SIB-members and can be a bridge between members and the board. Ultimately, I hope that within this function I can help SIB remain a place where everyone is welcomed, respected and valued.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to see positive results after this GMA.

Kind regards,

Ayla Abbenbroek

## **Letter Elisa Jeuring – Commissioner of External Affairs**

Hello board van Duifhuizen and GMA,

With this letter, I would like to apply for the position of Commissioner of External Affairs in the 44th board of SIB-Utrecht.

For those who do not know me, I am Elisa, 19 years old and studying history. I will begin my second year of my bachelor next year. At the beginning of this academic year, I joined SIB. Since then, I have spent a lot of time at SIB and am an active member. Before starting my studies, I didn't plan on joining a student association, but after a few enjoyable evenings at SIB during the UIT, I decided to give it a try. I have had nothing but positive experiences since then. I find SIB to be a very enjoyable and pleasant association with a nice atmosphere and friendly members. Additionally, the program is very interesting with a good mix of gezelligheid en inhoud. I love attending a lecture, and chatting about it or other topics in a café, before ending the evening at Bambi. Feeling so welcomed at SIB immediately made me want to do more for the association. I am currently part of the EC & IC, but to do even more, a year on the board seemed like the best option.

Something that particularly attracts me to SIB is the lecture program. I always enjoy learning new things, and attending lectures with a student association sounds like music to my ears. For this reason, I joined the EC almost immediately, which I found enjoyable right away. Due to my perpetual desire for new knowledge and also for passing it on, I think it would be incredibly exciting to be responsible for SIB's intellectual program for a year. I believe this position would suit me well due to my experience with the EC, my curiosity, but especially my motivation for creating a strong intellectual program.

I will fulfill the role of CE part-time alongside my studies. Even though I will continue my studies full-time, SIB will take priority for me. If necessary, I don't mind dropping a course this year to contribute more to SIB.

A year of board membership at SIB seems like a rewarding and enjoyable experience. I am looking forward to the challenges and friendship that this board year will bring, and I hope and believe that we will make it a great year together.

I hope that this letter convinces you to consider me for this position.

Best regards,  
Elisa Jeuring

## Letter Charlotte van Brakel – Commissioner of Acquisition

Dear GMA,

With this letter, I apply for the position of Commissioner of Acquisition and Sponsorship within the 44th board of SIB-Utrecht.

My name is Charlotte van Brakel, and I have been a member of this wonderful association for three years now. I joined during the pandemic, and it took over two months of looking anonymously at lectures and another month of online gatherings before I could finally meet the lovely faces of board van Wetten in person. Despite SIB not being my first student association, and having a general idea of how physical activities usually go, I was incredibly nervous. What if I didn't click with anyone? What if I could not live up to unknown expectations? In this setting, I couldn't simply switch between Discord channels or feign a poor connection if things got awkward.

Three years later, I can confidently say that I've been warmly welcomed with open arms and an abundance of love. Not only during that initial activity, but in all subsequent events and gatherings. I feel at home here, and despite my initial stance never wanting to do a board year, I am eager to give back. I want to dedicate a year to SIB, to help many more students experience the same sense of belonging that I've felt over the past three years.

Now that I've graduated, I surprisingly find myself missing report writing. I enjoy bringing structure to texts, figuring out what people truly want, and I love bringing in more money. I think there couldn't be better reasons to aspire to become Commissioner of Acquisition and Sponsorship!

My ambition is to take on part-time board responsibilities, to secure more funding than ever before, and actively seek out sponsorship deals. I not only want to provide SIB with sufficient financial support for the coming year, but also alleviate concerns about the future, particularly regarding the uncertainty surrounding our board grants. Additionally, as a general board member, I aim to create a welcoming environment for all current and future SIB members.

I eagerly anticipate the challenges that a board year will bring and am confident that, together, we can make it a fantastic year with our team of six. I hope to earn your trust and support.

With love,  
Charlotte