

## AsianBorrelClub Minutes GAM 28-02-23

### **Opening 19:23**

#### **1. Opening**

Lin Welcomes everyone to the GMA and introduces himself. Asked the audience to agree to keep it more casual since it's the first GMA for most people. Asked when someone has a question, to raise their hands when then after someone will pass on the microphone to them.

#### **2. Determine Agenda**

Lin goes through the agenda with everyone. Asked if everything is clear. No comments were made.

#### **3. Approval of the minutes of the GMA of June 30, 2022**

Lin asked if there were any comments regarding the previous minutes. No comments were made.

#### **4. GMA for beginners**

Lin asked the audience if anyone has experience regarding the GMA. No comments. HAnded over microphone to Kevin from the supervisory board to explain the GMA.

Kevin: it's a moment for board members to, verantwoordiging afleggen. Talk about the association the goals, objectives, perhaps some changes to our goals, our policies. It's also a moment for general members to share their feelings about the association.

Lin explains that the GMA is the serious part of the association. ABC as a dutch association is by law required to host GMA's. Mentioned that we don't have share holders, that we are non profit and mentioned that the ownership of the whole association is with the audience, the general members. Explains that the GMA gives a voice to the audience. The board of ABC does the daily tasks and has a responsibility towards the audience. Mentioned that everyone in the audience is the boss of ABC Board.

Lin mentioned that ABC has 700 members, where it's not possible for everyone to vote. Therefore the GMA's are hosted, so that people who attend can vote.

Lin explains how the voting process works. Asks the audience if it's clear. No comments were made within the audience. No hands were raised when asked to raise hands when it's unclear.

There is one proxy, voting is done by 2 hands

## 5. Discharges and Entries Board

Lin showed the discharges and entries of the board. Mentioned that the head of Intro resigned back in October, due to lack of time and busy studies. Mentioned that because of that, the Board had a bit of trouble covering another person's task. Mentioned that Quynh took over the sports committee and that Lin and Sofia took over the Introduction committee.

Lin asked for any questions. No questions were asked.

## 6. Policy Plan 22/23

Lin mentions that the policy plan describes the plans of ABC for the coming year. He mentions that the policy plan was supposed to be shown at the beginning of the year but due to all the problems at the beginning of the year, it's presented now. So some of the plans have already been worked out.

Lin started describing the committee structure mentioned the increase in active members, 56 current compared to 40 last year.

Lin mentioned the planned frequency of events hosted by committees. Further asking for any comments from the audience.

Audience comments: it can get quite expensive at times if you always join the events.

Lin: So you think it's too much? It's approximately 3 events per month.

Audience: Nahh I think it's okay.

Audience: on the other hand it is not mandatory to join every event.

Audience comments: people were also complaining about gaming

Lin: what about gaming

Audience: just more gaming events would be nice

Lin mentioned that everything is being noted down by the Secretary of ABC and therefore take every comment seriously.

Lin continues on by explaining that one of the main aims for ABC this year is to enhance professionalism and ABC's appearance. Since ABC is 2 years old there were quite a few items to sort out. ABC board members have board suits nowadays for business meetings. At regular ABC events the board will still wear ABC shirts. Another thing that changed this

year is that we have acquired Active T-shirts, since it was quite unclear for visitors to who they could go to to ask questions. ABC also wants to implement a corporate visual identity, so all documents and presentations will look the same, email signatures, a new website which already has been launched and invest in new software since ABC nowadays has some spare money to invest. There will also be money invested in Hardware. Storage has also been a problem, it has been stored at personal homes currently. Plan is to have find a new place to store all the ABC inventory.

Board also wants to work all the rules and documentation. Since the association is so young, not everything in the House Rules align with what's stated in the statutes. Board wants to clean that up. Boards wants to make new tiles for declarations. Rules for a internal legal system (rules regarding incidents at events). Make a brand book and connect with other associations and universities.

Lin asked for comments from the audience.

Audience comments: is there any chance regarding a physical location for ABC itself.

Lin: for this year it's not possible to get a physical location, I think you mean what other associations in Amsterdam have where they can party and can do social drinks. That's too expensive for ABC. I also don't think it's a good idea to do so cause we have to increase our membership prices in order to facilitate that. Maybe it's possible in the future if an Alumni invest in it for example.

Audience comments: could you specify which articles in the HR don't align in the statutes?

Lin: if you want to I can show it during the next GMA, cause otherwise we have to go through the all the documents now, you will get a follow up.

Audience comments: Does the physical location need to be Amsterdam, because of the costs?

Lin: not per se, we are based in Amsterdam. That's why we are connected to all the universities like Vu and HvA. They are partnering up with us since we are based in Amsterdam. We can have a location outside of Amsterdam but then you have the problem that everyone needs to travel outside of Amsterdam. Anyone in the Audience with any ideas?

Audience comments: I would like to know where ABC wants to be in 10-5 years

Lin: What specific? events ? brand? It's a very good question. Currently as a board we try to lay a very good foundation. We are really focussing on laying a great foundation, we still have to make the basic rules for this association, we still need to get the events to the right quality. We've grown really fast in 2 years. Previously it was really casual but now it's

getting really serious. We have hundreds of people coming to our events. We just wanna form a stable basis, that people will still come every so often, and i think for the first 5 years that is the most important to tackle. For me, for ABC it's to create this community where all the students can meet each other, keep it affordable, welcome to everyone, with the identity of introducing all sorts of people to the asian culture but also to the dutch culture. That is really the core of our association.

Lin: We don't have a choice, the founders of ABC decided to make it a non profit organization. In the Netherlands, if you are in an association you can't actually make profit. You have to be non profit. You can make profit but with the profit you have to reinvest into the association. All the money we earn will go back to the association or the members. That is really what we try to do. We try to keep the prices as low as possible. All our parties are already way cheaper than other Asian parties. The small bit of money that we earn we liked to keep in our bank account to be able to host bigger events.

Audience comments: Are you already recognized as a student association by UvA or Vu. because it helps to get a physical location and storage.

Lin: We have a storage place at CREA but we can't have a physical location at theirs since all their locations for associations have been filled by other associations. We have been acknowledged by all the universities within Amsterdam. They are testing us out at the moment. See if we are an association that fits within Amsterdam. Since we are connected to 3 universities, it is sadly not possible to get a class room or a room in general for ABC use only. We do like to stay connected to all 3, because in that way we can get the most members.

So being a student association, being connected to 3 universities. I think in the association there are a lot of members around the age of 20-23 that are quite interested into career focussed events. Are there any plans to have those maybe next year?

For our board, we as a board are already involved in this matter. We know, we are all students and wanna make a career besides partying and drinking. So that is why we are focusing on this year as well. As we speak we are having a lot of talks with businesses and other associations to think about how we can achieve this.

Did you encounter any difficulties since we are such a young association, Big companies might not be interested in cooperation.

When I talk to other companies, they are quite impressed with how many members we have. We already have 700 members right now, so they see potential in us, also we are all highly educated. The only downside is that we are very diverse. What I mean by that, is that we are not associated with a specific study. We have people from all different kinds of studies. So we need to find a way to connect the right people with the right companies. I don't think it will happen this year but we are already making the contact, so that maybe

next year we can.

Do you guys see ABC as a student association or rather a recreational association? Because compared to other associations I don't see any job hunting events for example.

In Amsterdam you have 2 kinds of student associations. The one where you can just have fun and meet new people, but you can work on your career by just being an active member by organizing events. You can meet new people and companies. But we are still very new. We don't have any events focussed on careers but we are working on it. Because we are also the first. It is hard to connect the right person to the right company.

You mentioned that we share Asian culture and Dutch culture, we have a lot of Asian partners and organized a Korea trip. But besides those few things, what are things that ABC is planning to do on sharing and how is it going to do that?

We always keep that in mind. We are an open association. We want to mention our asian culture and roots but also welcome everyone interested. We already do that by our partners and events. Especially social events like workshops, we like to celebrate cultural things from asia. We are constantly thinking about improvement but a clear answer i can't really give you now. What i can tell you is that we are working on a racism awareness event and our ABC Merch, where you can see some Asian influences too.

I was wondering if a good idea could be to set up a system, where ABC alumni who are going to career ... get connected to students. Second question is regarding the cultural sharing point. I was wondering if there are plans to share.

Regarding the first question we have already been busy with that right now, we are talking to a partner called bridges network. It's a platform where people of color from big law firms can meet with young professionals to set an example. You suggested we could use our alumni to connect with our members, currently we don't have a lot of alumni since we are 2 years old so this will be a great idea for in the future. Regarding the second question, we really want to have a good base for our parties and borrels. Since those are the Once that's been set we can focus more into career events and maybe debates.

Lin mentions that there will be time at the end of the GMA to ask questions.

Racism awareness events are there to tackle societal issues, what do think about the potential polarization.

Lin: what do you mean by that? I think an event regarding racism, it's obviously not our goal to blame people or to say we are all victims, but we do need to talk about the topic and think about how we can discuss this as highly educated people. I think an evening to talk about this topic could make people closer.

I like the idea of the event. But i have some issues with it. Potential moderation. Third party moderation. Like how are you gonna run it? It's a sensitive issue, especially post covid. How are you going to deal with potential backlash from both inside and outside of the organization. But then also its a sensitive discussion, do you already have ideas on how to handle it and deal with it?

Lin: I have to be honest that we are still in the talking stage, talking with other associations regarding this topic. For me, I don't want people to get hurt because of these events. What i really want is that ABC becomes a place for everyone and not solely for asians for example. We do need to think about this first with board. We are still in the talking phase so i can't really answer this question.

Then like bouncing onto that, are you thinking about east asian regarding anti racism or are you also gonna delve into different aspect of other types of asian racism?

lin : Personally as the president of ABC it is important to talk about Asia as a whole. I get what you mean, that there is a stereotype when talking about racism that it is regarding east asians. But I think we need to look at the whole picture. Most importantly we want to celebrate the cultures and connect people from different cultures with each other. So of course we want to think about not only the east asians. Preferable i don't want to talk about racism at all, i think that will separate people.

Last year ABC was all about fun, i hear that this year you are planning to do more career events.

Lin: We are thinking about. Like how can we let ABC grow? The most important part for now is for people to have fun, meet each other, party together, drink together. But since we are also growing, we also need to think about what we can do more for the students. For now its really just brainstorming.

But are we still gonna vote on this during the GMA or is this gonna be a board decision.

Regarding the events themselves, board has a responsibility regarding all the events. I think if there will be a new board they will have to discuss this in their Policy Plan and then we can talk about it. I want all members to know that if there is something about ABC that you don't like or you have an comment regarding an event, you can always email the board, even when we don't have an GMA

Lin mentions that he wants to go on with the GMA and that further questions can be asked at the end of the GMA

Lin continues to talk about the next part of the policy plan regarding the fact that the board wants to offer free membership to Active Members. Give Active Members, Actives Shirts for free. Invest some ABC income into Internal Events. Give Active Members free access to

events when they are helping out.

Jacky Cheng: i have a question about the free access at events where they help. Can you specify what kind of events? Or is it every event of ABC?

Lin: good question, obviously there are some events where that's not gonna be possible to let them help for free since we as ABC do have to pay for the venue for example or for the food. But where we can we would like to provide free access. That is the main thought. For now we are focussing on parties and borrels, we are able to give the tickets for free. But for sports events and social events for example, it's not possible. Since it will cost ABC too much.

Matthijs Fok: I have a question about the ... I don't think you have sent the minutes of the last GMA within the documents.

Lin: That's a good one, we will put it in our last agenda point, other remarks.

Lin: Last but not least we thought about mental health. As a small association we know that our active members and we as a board need to work a lot since ABC is just starting out, we need to improve a lot, we are getting there. But we also want to take some measures to tackle mental health issues such as burnouts. We already try to reduce the workload by hiring more active members than last year. We thought splitting the committees would be a good idea since last year one committee needed to focus on a lot of other aspects. We thought if we splitted it they can focus more on one aspect in a smaller group, focussing on those events. For board members we thought about being able to take a break if they want to. We as a board discussed that me as a president will take over anything when a board member can't handle it anymore. Other board members agreed to help each other as well. We also thought about bonding activities within the ABC actives would be a good idea because last year, due to all the work we needed to do to make the association grow, we heard some noises that there were not a lot of opportunities for committees to bond. That's why this is an active point that we as a board are focussed on. For example we heard that Events Committee only had 2 bonding moments in the whole year, so we are thinking about increasing that.

That was the policy plan

Lin asks if there are any questions regarding the policy plan, any changes that people would like to see or addition to the policy plan.

Voting regarding the policy plan starts

Chilok is counting

Audience: can i still ask a question before we vote?

Lin: Yeah of course, okay, we go back.

Audience: so you said something about matching the HR with the statutes, that not complete yet right so...

Lin: The thing about this agenda point is that we are trying to, some things in our House Rules and in our statutes are not up to date. They need to align too. We put this into our policy plan to make sure that we will look into it. If you guys don't want us to look into it, you will have to make a comment regarding that. All the changes that we make have to be voted on during our upcoming GMA too, so we can't change anything with your consent.

Lin: Do you need time to think about this? I can set a break for 5 minutes.

Both the board and the audience agreed to set a break for 5 minutes. Break starts at 20:14

GMA resumes at 20:31

Lin mentions that we left off with the voting regarding the policy plan and asks if there are any questions and/or remarks regarding the topic before voting.

Voting regarding the policy plan starts

Chilok is counting

**Voting results:**

40 in favor

1 against

6 blanco

**Policy Plan 22/23 has been accepted by the GMA**

## 5. Semi-Annual report 22/23

Lin explains that the Semi-Annual report talks about ABC during the period from August till the end of December. Lin calls the Secretary of ABC forward to explain the Semi-Annual Report.

Chilok personally thanks the audience for being there, and mentions that without the audience the future of ABC won't be possible. Mentions that he will explain the Semi-Annual Report. It starts off with a brief message from the chairman/president. It further explains ABC itself. The visions of ABC, the values and what ABC stands for. The



biggest milestones from August till end December are mentioned. ABC's strategy and Policy Plan are mentioned. The main objectives of the Policy Plan are mentioned. It also elaborated on progress made regarding the Policy Plan objectives. Explained the objectives and results page. Mentioned that it also elaborates some statistics regarding ABC's General Members. Mentioned that it also highlights ABC's partners and their importance. Mentioned that it credits ABC's Active Members. Chilok also showed some important stats and milestones that ABC reached by the end of December.

Chilok asked the audience to take 30 seconds to look through the important milestones that were mentioned on the presentation slide. Asked if there were any questions. There weren't any.

The ABC partners were put in the spotlight.

Audience: Is Madame Cheung also a partner?

Lin: There are one of our sponsors, they sponsored our Barcelona Trip and Actives T-shirts.

Audience: Are there fundamental changes in involving partners more in ABC activities like you were planning on doing so?

Lin: Yes, this year around we look first towards one of our partners, to see if they fit the event. For example we are in talks with Bar-B and Hongdae regarding our borrels and try to host our Food Crawl with our partners.

Lin mentioned that the partners currently shown are the ones that partnered up with ABC before January

Audience: have we lost any partners worth mentioning?

Lin: yes, last yeah we had Yuan's Hot Pot, Jen's Bing, 24K karaoke Bar. But this year we focus on how we can keep our partners. That's why we try too keep in touch with our partners more and involve them more. Besides the partners supporting us it is important that you as students can go to many places and have discounts.

The audience got asked for any comments regarding the Semi-Annual Report. There were no comments made.

Chilok explains what ABC has achieved in the past academic year, we then go further with Voting regarding the Semi-Annual Report 22/23 starts.

Chilok is counting.

**Voting results:**

47 in favor

0 against

0 blanco

**Semi-Annual Report 22/23 has been accepted by the GMA**

The Semi-Annual Report 22/23 has been approved by the complete majority.

## 5. Semi-Annual Realization (Financial Report) 22/23

Chilok introduces Quynh to the audience to talk about the Semi-Annual Realization.

Quynh introduces herself and explains the period that the Semi-Annual Realization covers. She mentioned the changes made in the budgeting approach. Switching to a per event budget instead of an annual budget. Explains that this allows ABC to be more flexible and fully utilize the potential of an event. She mentioned that active members that are also within the audience have already made use of the realization format that has been created. Every committee that organize a event use this template, easier to use, easier for future generations to look back at it. She mentioned that she changed the way how the auditing is done. Last year ABC used a very manual approach which left room for errors, which is very time consuming to fix these mistakes. This year Quynh decided to invest in auditing software called "E-boekhouden". It helps her analyze data and create reports, it saves time, leave less room for errors and lowers the risk for every event by being able to use more accurate information.

Quynh asks if there are any questions. There are none from the audience.

Quynh explains the General Section of the Income statement as of 10 February 2023. She mentions the Contributions received and overhead with an explanation of how those figures came to fruition. Mentioned that there were no Donations or Unforeseen costs and income.

Audience: what is the income for the overhead?

Quynh: Active T-shirts Sponsorships

Tommy Liu: I have a question regarding the overhead expenditures. It's it largely fixed or variable costs? Since you mentioned both software and hardware in Expenditures.

Quynh: I would say the majority is fixed since most are subscriptions that we intend to keep. Investment in board suits is also something that we instead to keep.

Quynh: Any other questions? No? Then we will continue to the next section of the income statement.

Quynh further explains the next part of the income statement which includes budgeting per committee. Explaining the logic behind the profits and losses per committee. Showing the profit margin per committee. Showing the Partner contributions. Explaining the ½ Annual Realized total. Quynh explains that because of a bigger cash reserve this year, left by last years board, ABC has been able to gain more than 3x profit compared to last year.

Quynh: Any other questions? No? Then we will continue to the next slide

Quynh explains the chart regarding the profit allocation as of 10th of February 23

Quynh: Are there any questions regarding the pie chart?

Lin: Please keep in mind that it's not a race between which committee earns the most money, we are focussed in keeping the costs low for the students, our members, and try to gain our money mostly through other methods.

Quynh explains the Balance Sheet as of 10 February 2023. It compares this year's figures with last years and shows the difference between the 2. Explanation of Assets. This year there has been an increase in hardware investments since it's viable now with the cash reserve. Software comes from investments in editing software for marketing purposes. Depreciation is 0 but is expected to increase at the end of this academic year. Inventory investments come from a bulk purchase of bobby pins. Mentions that vouchers won't be included in the next Financial Report since the decision was made not to include the ones received from our partners. Quynh explains the cash reserve, why it's important that we have one and that ABC aims to grow the cash reserves.

No questions regarding the balance sheet

Question

Voting regarding the Semi-Annual Realisation 22/23 starts

Chilok is counting

**Voting results:**

47 in favor

0 against

0 blanco

## **Semi-Annual Realisation 22/23 has been accepted by the GMA**

The annual report has been approved by the complete majority.

## **6. House Rule Changes**

There are no House Rule Changes for this GMA

## **10. Other Things to Discuss**

Lin: first we go back to the question of Matthijs regarding the minutes of previous GMA, we are going to present the minutes from the September GMA on our website and we can approve it next GMA.

Audience: I was wondering if you have thought about having a confidential person within ABC.

Lin: as the beginning of the year we have discussed this within the Board. Kelly was appointed as the confidentially person but she resigned so for now if there is something. People can go to either Quynh, Chilok or me regarding everything that happens at ABC. Good that you mention it cause we do recognize that this information is not widely spread.

Audience: what is the status regarding recognition from HvA?

Lin: we are sort of recognized by VU and UvA, they recognize us as an association. Regarding HvA we are in a trial year with them, to see what kind of association we are, so they will decide next year if they recognize us as an association.

Audience: there were some requirements (HvA), did you consider the requirements?

Lin: yes so they want to have an trial period to see what kind of association we are. They did have us some recommendations. For example we can organize debate nights but we focus on organizing events where students can get together. They want to see a lot of HvA students join out association.

Yaslin: one of the requirements or suggestions were more educational events, we are also in talks and working on that.

Kaylee: it is important to not that we are a student association and not a study association.

Tommy Liu: how are you going to make sure that the amount you make from contributions is gonna stay the same? Since it's a major income source.

Lin: membership from ABC starting this year is a subscription, people have to cancel to end their subscription.

Matthijs: last year there were not a whole lot of people joining ABC, how are you dealing with that?

Lin: most important part is to try to keep current members and attract new members by keeping the membership costs low and increasing our partners.

Matthijs: one of the requirements from HVA is that membership needs to be at least 25 euros a year. Are you going to increase the membership price or what are you going to do?

Lin: this is a problem that we discussed with board. We are gonna take a risk and still keep the membership cost low.

Quynh: we are going to say that membership is 25 euros but discounting it to 15 euros

## 11. Questioning

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## 12. Closure of the GMA: