

Consultation Meeting
University Council – Executive Board
Erasmus University
March 9th, 2021

Present in the Meeting: Ana Uribe Sandoval, Ben Bode, Ferry Blom, John Piarelal, John van Wel, Natascha Kraal, Sebastiaan Kamp, Albert Wagelmans, Yogi Hendlin, Afrodita Dobрева, Armand Gozé, Bram Heesen, Jasper Klasen, Joep Schoenmakers, Luca Kriese, Philip van Moll, Wouter van Dam, Younes Assou, Hans van den Berg, Helen Gubby, Bianca Jadoenath, Marjan Gorgievski, Machteld Harmsen, Ed Brinksma, Frank van der Duijn Schouten, Ellen van Schoten, Ann O'Brien, Lobke van Steenberg.

Absent in the Meeting: Olaf Hornes, Diederik Mosch, Dian van Toor.

Teams Meeting: 16:30

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01 Opening

01.01 Setting of the Agenda

A point was added under AOB: the involvement of participatory bodies in the Rapid Covid Testing at EUR.

01.02 Announcements

UC Announcements

- Chair's Reappointment

The UC finished the P&D process for the Chair. The Evaluation was positive. Some points for improvement have been given to the Chair. There was a vote to reappoint the Chair for a one-year term. With a large majority of votes in favour, the Chair has been reappointed for the year 2021-2022.

EB Announcements

- New Masters in Pedagogical Sciences

A new Master program in Pedagogical Sciences is being developed. The program will last for two years and it is targeted to the field of education in elementary schools. The program is financially supported by external institutions. A first check of the program took place, and it was approved. The next step is to submit the master for an accreditation from the NVAO.

A member of the UC asked about difficult discussions between universities and universities of applied sciences (UAS) in the developments of more practically driven programs at a national level. The EB explained that the relationship between the EUR and the Hogeschool Rotterdam is very good. The Hogeschool Rotterdam fully agrees that EUR should go on this track. A second question from the UC was if the university had investigated developing minors in education so that students who partake in these programs could have an accreditation in education. The EB expressed that both ESHCC and ESE have minors in education in collaboration with Leiden University/ICLON.

- RASL Program Award

The EB is proud to have received an award for its program RASL, which takes place in collaboration with Codarts and the Hogeschool Rotterdam. The award is the first national education prize for the bachelor. The award comes with half a million euros for the further development of the program.

- Employee wellbeing monitor

The Employee Wellbeing Monitor was discussed with the EB. On the positive side, the dimensions related to physical wellbeing showed good results in the survey. However, there are issues to follow up on. Action is needed in some areas. This monitor will be revised by the faculties and the UC.

- Reports sent to the Parliament

There are three reports sent to Parliament by the Ministry of Education in close cooperation with the VSNU. The most important report was made by PWC. According to the report, there is over 1 billion euros in structural funds needed to accomplish the ambitions of higher education. It is good news that the report is being published. Hopefully, this point continues to be on the agenda of Parliament.

- *Extra study spots on campus*

As of next Monday (15/03/21), there will be extra spots on campus. In total, 1,000 extra study places will be made available. Five-hundred spots will be made available immediately and the other 500 spots will be opened with the quick corona testing pilot.

02 Agenda Items Consultation Meeting

02.01 EUR-EMC-TUD convergence framework

There has been ample discussion about the convergence framework within the UC. The council is grateful for all the information provided on this topic. The UC has written a letter to the EB to discuss the convergence framework. This letter touches upon three main topics. Firstly, a suggestion is made to make it explicit that the most intrusive right of one participatory body should be the same for all participatory bodies involved. Secondly, although not all decisions require advice from participatory bodies, the board should make sure that participatory bodies are kept informed. Thirdly, there is a point on formalizing meetings with the stakeholders involved at least once a year. Additionally, there is a suggestion from the UC to draft an addendum on how to involve participatory bodies in the project.

The EB appreciates the ownership that the UC shows on this matter. However, this is not yet reflected by the participatory bodies of the other universities. The EB will advocate the ideas of the UC on the meeting with the boards of the other universities involved.

Finally, the UC explained the importance of communicating with the council on the developments within the convergence framework and other major actions that EUR partakes in. For instance, the EUR is involved in the pandemic centre, yet the UC was not notified. The EB takes this point of communication into consideration, yet they express that sometimes some initiatives are not fully certain for the future and it is difficult to discuss them in preliminary stages. The EB will therefore try to incorporate tentative announcements to the UC in the future.

02.02 Annual Report confidential counsellors 2019

A letter of unsolicited advice will come to the EB with some recommendations relating to the report. In this letter, the UC emphasizes the importance of spending more resources on confidential counsellors. Furthermore, the UC is also looking forward to seeing the latest report. The EB explained that the 2020 report is preparation, it will be published soon.

02.03 Communications Approach for Diversity and Inclusion at EUR

A letter of unsolicited advice is coming to the EB in regard to this topic. Although there is proactivity on this topic, it is not clear what resources are needed. It is important that when it comes to D&I, the university drafts concrete plans on how to proceed instead of broad strategies.

The EB explained that in both cases, D&I and EUR Counsellors, there is a central and decentralized facility for their execution. D&I and Counsellors should be close to the faculties, as they need to be involved in the topics locally.

02.04 Professorial policy

The UC will have a meeting this week about this policy and send the EB a letter of advice next week. The UC is aware that EUROPA sent their advice already. The UC asked the EB to extend the deadline for this advice with one week. The EB agreed to this extension.

02.05 Integral security policy

The UC met with the policy maker in charge of this policy. The questions from the UC were answered. The UC sees this integral security policy as a positive development. There are two main points of feedback. Firstly, the framework explains that policies will be developed in the future, and the UC wants to be involved in these. Secondly, the maturity levels of this framework are not clear.

On the first point of feedback, the EB explained that there are elements within the security policy where the UC will always have rights. These rights will continue to be upheld. However, the EB cannot guarantee that the UC will have rights on all dimensions of the document. Nevertheless, the EB always welcomes unsolicited advice from the council. On the second point of feedback, the EB explained that the maturity levels are there to show progress in the right direction.

Under the umbrella of Security Policy, the UC asked if it would be wise to incorporate a student in the Crisis Management Team (CMT) to give the perspective of students in times of crisis. The EB explained that this may not be a wise idea as CMTs are very operational bodies that are ready to meet almost immediately if any crisis arises. It has been unusual that a CMT has dealt with such a long-term topic as COVID-19. Considering the input of the UC on this topic, the EB will check how other universities deal with this topic. Nevertheless, they still emphasize the operational nature of the CMT and do not want to create expectations about adding a student to the CMT.

Action point: The EB will check how other universities deal with the integration of students to their CMTs.

02.06 EUR Regulations of the Advisory Committee Complaints and Objections 2021

The UC has been in contact with the policy officers about these regulations. The UC has two points of feedback: firstly, the language requirement for the procedure is Dutch and it would be positive to broaden this to accommodate non-Dutch speaking members of the community. Secondly, the council believes that this and other legal procedures should have a more intuitive presentation as legal jargon is difficult to understand. Complaints procedures should be facilitated as much as possible to the community. For instance, the Legal Department could continue with the development of a “bot” to direct people towards the correct channels in case of a complaint.

On the first point, the EB expressed that the legal procedures in the Netherlands are in Dutch. Nevertheless, they help non-Dutch speakers and guide them through internal complaints procedures at the university – there is a dedicated person for this. The university cannot solve the language issue in legal procedures, but they can assist people on them. Secondly, the EB explained that there is indeed a general call to have regulations that are easier to read. However, it is a costly process to make them simpler for the public.

With all these considerations taken into account, the EB will explore alternatives for facilitating complaints procedures to the EUR community.

Action Point: The EB will explore alternatives for facilitating complaints procedures to the EUR community.

02.07 Decision on BSA by EB (soft cut)

A letter co-signed by participatory bodies of different universities will be sent to the EB. The letter expresses a positive view towards the extension of the soft cut measure. The EB has been in conversations with the VSNU about the soft cuts, and will inform students about the decisions regarding this measure by May 15th.

A member of the council asked whether the EB had any knowledge of the impact of this measure on students. The EB did not have data to present on this in the meeting

02.08 EUR carbon neutrality by 2024

The UC will soon send a letter to the EB in relation to EUR's promise to become Carbon Neutral by 2024. Firstly, the letter criticizes the current work of the university in reaching carbon neutrality. Secondly, the letter proposes concrete suggestions on how to act to reach the Carbon Neutrality goal by 2024.

Questions and Answers from the UC to the EB on this topic:

- *Can the UC have the results of the carbon emissions of the university from the years 2019 and 2020, and can this report be published on the EUR website?*

The footprint of the university that is available has been shared. However, the methodology of determining the footprint has changed in different years. The university is taking some actions, such as constructing a carbon neutral building. Additionally, the policy officer is working on the footprint report. The EB has also asked the policy officer to make an assessment for what additional actions could be needed for reaching the goal.

- *It is difficult for the UC to understand how the EUR has an ambitious Carbon Neutrality Goal, yet only has 1FTE of personnel assigned for this at a central level. Are you considering hiring more personnel, either at the faculty or central level, for dealing with this goal?*

The EB will first look at the reports from the sustainability officer and then take these considerations into account. The EB believes that the whole community should be engaged in sustainability, and that is why there is only one sustainability officer as of now.

- *Reports show that in comparison to other institutions, EUR has a lot of catching up to do to reach its sustainable goals. For instance, there are very few efforts in best sustainable practices from EUR. Why is this the case?*

The EB explained that it is possible that the university does not publish all its actions towards sustainability and therefore scores low in comparison to other universities. However, a member of the council expressed that on the contrary, EUR makes a lot of advertisement on sustainable goals that it is not achieving.

- *The EB continues mentioning that they will first look at the report to see which actions to take in the future. Which assessment is the EB referring to?*

The EB is waiting for a report and communication from the sustainability officer.

Action Point: The EB will look into making the carbon footprint reports available and sharing them on the EUR website.

02.09 LifeVersity

The UC will send a letter supporting the lifeline of LifeVersity. The UC considers LifeVersity to provide an added value to the EUR community. LifeVersity is funded by CLI until June 2021. Therefore, the UC is working on looking for a way to help embed LifeVersity into the EUR organisation.

The EB considers soft skills to be important in the development of EUR students. They believe that soft skills should be integrated individually into the curriculum of its students.

However, EB is interested in how LifeVersity plays a role in integrating soft skills elements of educational programs. In summary, the EB is in favour of developing soft skills. However, programs need to meet international scientific standards. The EB can also ask how faculties are dealing with soft skills in their programs.

In the long-term, LifeVersity will eventually cease due to the nature of HoKa investments, which are temporary funds. The UC asked the EB whether they are evaluating how to structurally embed HoKa projects in the university. The EB explained that it is unclear whether HoKa funds will continue to be present after 2024. However, it would be beneficial to have a budget available for these projects in the future.

02.10 Caring Universities

The UC sent a letter to the EB regarding the possible alliance that EUR could make with Caring Universities. The EB is in contact with this organization, and they are discussing the possibilities of joining. Caring Universities is also interested in collaborating for the development of an app.

02.11 Study spots at campus

The UC is happy to see that the university is opening more spots on campus. Some council members have some suggestions on how to unify the reservation systems of spots at EUR, as well as tips and tricks inspired by how other universities are dealing with the opening of their campuses. These recommendations will be sent to the EB in writing.

The UC explained how the econometrics study association, FAECTOR, could help develop a unified reservation system. The EB explained that it would be great if they can have the help of students on improving the reservation system, but that it is convenient for them to have a company responsible for the software to be maintained. However, they are open to any suggestions from students or FAECTOR.

03 Incoming documents

No incoming documents were discussed.

04 Any other business

04.01 Consequences for participation in participatory bodies

The EB is discontented about instances where individuals have been treated unfairly for being a member of participation bodies at EUR. The EB will collaborate with the UC on looking into how other universities are dealing with this situation. The Chair of the EB discussed this point with the Deans of the different faculties. The EB explained that the work of the councils in the university is important, and there should be a good atmosphere for them, without repercussions.

04.02 Participatory bodies involved in the pilot.

The UC was happy to see the press release announcing the pilot of COVID-19 rapid testing. The UC wanted to know how participatory bodies will be involved in it. The EB explained that they will ask the Project Lead about how they are incorporating the participatory bodies. The EB explained that the pilot is great news and that the process is moving fast.

Action Point: The EB will ask the Project Lead of the rapid-testing pilot about the inclusion of participatory bodies' perspectives on the project.

05 Closing

06 Action Points

Date	Owner	Topic
8 March 2021	Executive Board	check how other universities deal with the integration of students to their CMTs.
8 March 2021	Executive Board	explore alternatives for facilitating complaints procedures to the EUR community.
8 March 2021	Executive Board	look into making the carbon footprint reports available and sharing them on the EUR website
8 March 2021	Executive Board	ask the Project Lead of the rapid-testing pilot about the inclusion of participatory bodies' perspectives on the project