

Consultation Meeting
University Council - Executive Board
Erasmus University
April 13th, 2021

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

Absent in the Meeting: John Piarelal, Bianca Jadoenath.

Teams Meeting: 16:30.

05 Opening consultation meeting

05.01 Setting of the agenda

There was an additional point under any other business: a letter of request for more FTEs on student psychologists at the university.

05.02 Setting of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were set.

05.03 Announcements

UC Announcements

- Invitation: Supporting Bees in the Netherlands

Luca had a meeting with Mariecke van der Glas to talk about sustainability. Mariecke pointed out that there will be an event on campus organized by "The Pollinators" in two weeks (22nd of April). This event consists of planting flowers on campus to support the bees in the country. The Erasmus Sustainability Hub will manage this event, and UC members can join. The EB is welcome to join as well.

EB Announcements

- *Committee to review the use of the second camera at EUR*

The Rector met with one of the members of the council, Bram Heesen, to discuss the topic of the second camera use at EUR. The conclusion of this conversation is that, considering that the pilot of the second camera will be over soon, a committee will be established to formally advise the EB on how to proceed with this policy. The advice committee will bring out its advice within five weeks. UC students and staff members, alongside other relevant stakeholders such as educational directors, will be represented in this committee. No intermediary lawyers will be a part of the committee. The EB will send an update about this committee to the EUR community whenever it is established.

Action point: The EB will communicate with the EUR community on the formation of the advice committee on the second camera use at the university.

06 Agenda items consultation meeting

06.01 HeQa: Impact at the Core budget

The UC has some further questions to ask to the HoKa Coordinator and the Project Lead regarding the Impact at the Core budget. The UC would like to clarify these questions and asks the EB for the possibility of extending the deadline for consent by one or two weeks. This in no way signals that the UC is against giving consent to the budget. Instead, they would like more information about it. Hopefully, if the information is available by Friday, so the UC can take a vote for consent next week.

The EB agreed on this extension of time for the UC to vote on the consent of the Impact at the Core Budget.

06.02 February Report on 2020 spending HeQa

When discussing with the HoKa Coordinator, a question arose about integrating the role of participatory bodies in the HoKa 2020 Report. Hence, a member of the UC asked the EB about how this integration could be approached. The EB explained that it would be best to contact the HoKa Coordinator about the best strategy. In the meantime, participatory bodies can include a letter of reflection with the report.

The UC thanked the EB for handing this report to the council.

06.03 First report employee well-being monitor

The UC will send a letter to the EB regarding this point. The employees filling the survey were not always satisfied with its content, and some general questions will be asked about it.

The EB explained that the monitor has been discussed in different faculties. The HR Department is designing pilot programmes to relieve work pressure. Furthermore, the university is planning to continue to reach out to employees through activities, newsletters, etc. HR business partners have also discussed the outcome of the monitor with the faculty boards. It is important to consider this monitor not only in these stressful times, but also after the pandemic. Lastly, there will be an additional budget coming to the university, Nationaal Programma, which will serve to hire additional staff (both support staff and educational staff). The monitor is treated by the EB as a part of the different strategies to improve wellbeing. In response, the UC asked two questions:

- *When it comes to the continuity of the wellbeing monitor, how do you foresee the development of this survey in the future?*

The employee wellbeing monitor is very important for the community. There are post-meetings regarding this monitor to make all faculty boards aware of the results. It is important to have a strong methodology and some fundamental questions that are stable in future monitors. Nevertheless, the monitor needs to be flexible enough to have questions that adhere to future contexts.

- *How does this survey align with the student wellbeing survey and other measurements that revise the wellbeing of the community?*

The EB will investigate more details behind this alignment.

Action Point: The EB will investigate the alignment between the Student Wellbeing Survey, the Employee Wellbeing Monitor, and other measurements indicating the wellbeing of the EUR community.

06.04 Covid-19-related topics

- *Lack of eating spaces for students on campus*

The University Library is open. However, students are not fully accommodated in the library. Groups of students are sitting and eating on the floor or on the top of the shelves. Therefore, a member of the council asked the EB the following: Is it possible to open Theil building to provide these students with a place to have lunch?

The EB explained that this is not possible. Due to national restrictions, they are not allowed to provide these spaces. The Campus is officially closed and they are already taking some liberties to provide study spaces for the students that need it. The students attending the library and other buildings are allowed to eat and drink at their own tables. It would be best to wait for the governmental announcements to see if there is more flexibility in extending the capacities in Institutions of Higher Education.

- *Study spots left unused due to 16-hour advance reservation system*

In Polak, Sanders, and V-Building students can reserve a spot with a maximum of 16 hours in advance. This means that if a student decides to study in Polak, they must reserve 16 hours before the timeslot. This is unlike the reservation system of the University Library, which allows people to book a spot at any time before the time-slot available. Therefore, a member of the council asked the EB the following: Is it possible to change the reservation system of Polak, Sanders, and V-Building so that students can book a spot at any time before the time-slot available?

The EB responded by explaining that this is not possible. The reservation systems are different, and it is complicated to change even small points. If in September the EUR still needs a system to reserve spots, the EB will work on unifying the booking systems.

It was suggested during the meeting that the EB could provide extra information on the software of the registration systems to the UC. The EB agreed on providing such information to the UC as well as a person of contact to discuss this point.

Action Point: The EB will provide extra information about the study-spot reservation system at EUR, as well as a person of contact for these systems.

07 Incoming documents n/a

08 Any other business

- *Letter on EUR Internationalization policy 2021-2024*

The UC will take a decision on sending a letter to the EB about the internationalization policy at EUR next week. The task force from the UC met with the policy officer from the Internationalization Policy. The task force would like to see this as a working document and develop plans from here on about this policy. The UC would like to co-create with the policy officer on this point.

The EB explained that the EUR has worked on internationalization. But indeed, it is needed to make these policies more cohesive. Additionally, when it comes to internationalization, it is important to also work on culture. The EB aims to embed these values in the EUR. They recognize that this is a lot of challenging work, and that they would like to see the UC as a partner in this respect.

- *Letter on abandoned bikes on campus*

The EB will soon receive a letter from the UC asking for action to resolve the situation of abandoned bikes on campus. The EB is open to alternatives, and they think it is positive to keep the bikes within the community. It is a sustainable option.

- *Letter on increasing funds university library*

This letter is sent following a reflection from UC Member Yogi Hendlin about the availability of material at the University Library, published in Erasmus Magazine. Additionally, another article was published at EM by librarians discussing this issue.

The EB explains that the discussion of giving more funding to the library could take place when talking about the Erasmus Perspectives. That way, there could be a more realistic view on the balancing of the budget between the library and other areas that need funding at EUR.

- *Mention of CIO-IT merger in Erasmus Magazine*

The UC read an article at EM indicating a merger in full swing between the CIO and IT. The council asks the EB about when they can hear from the EB on this case. The EB explained that the preparations for this merger are taking place. A proposal will be handed to the UC in May with the appropriate documentation.

- *More capacity for student psychologists*

The UC is sending a letter to the EB requesting an increase of FTEs available for student psychologists. Over the past 10 years, the student population has grown, yet the FTEs assigned for psychologists have not. It is important to maintain a reasonable proportionality of FTEs in psychologists and the student population.

- *EB reply letter concerning EB expenses*

The UC sent the EB a letter inquiring about the large expenses declared by the EB in a previous academic year. The UC would like more transparency about these expenses, and they would also like to know what the input of the EB on these is. The response from the EB has a procedural explanation on how expenses are dealt with by the Supervisory Board (SB). Nevertheless, the UC would like to engage in an ethical conversation about these expenses.

The EB expressed that they are fully responsible for spending the money wisely. However, it is the SB that decides whether this is the case or not. Both the EB and the UC Chair will contact the SB to see if it is possible to make a quarterly report of the EB expenses available to the public. This is the approach the Utrecht University takes to ensure transparency of the expenses.

The EB also expressed that although transparency is greatly beneficial when it comes to expenses, sometimes there is a lack of context on these expenses. This means that most of the time, there will be scrutiny without knowing the alternatives for spending money. For instance, arranging taxis or owning cars are both expensive options in the context of transportation, so large bills tend to be present in this area. Although scrutiny can have a positive impact, it is important to be nuanced.

The UC expressed that this is not only an issue about money. It is important for the university to take actions that represent certain public values. For instance, is the university committed to education? Does the university have a different focus? These are points to take into consideration when discussing the expenses of the board.

Action point: Both the EB and the UC Chair will get in touch with the SB to see if it is possible to make a quarterly report of the EB expenses available to the public.

09. Action Points from the previous meeting

It was agreed that there could be a procedure set up to address the action points from the previous consultation meetings.

- Research into other universities and how they include students in their crisis management teams: The EB has investigated it, and more information will follow.
- Carbon footprint: the EB is working on making more information available, and it is work in progress.
- The Clerk of the UC spoke with the lead of the Rapid Testing Pilot at EUR. More information will be given to the UC next week.

10. Action Points from this meeting

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
13 April 2021	EB and UC chair	get in touch with the SB to see if it is possible to make a quarterly report of the EB expenses available to the public.
13 April 2021	Executive Board	provide extra information about the study-spot reservation system at EUR, as well as a person of contact for these systems
13 April 2021	Executive Board	look into the alignment between the Student Wellbeing Survey, the Employee Wellbeing Monitor, and other measurements indicating the wellbeing of the EUR community
13 April 2021	Executive Board	communicate with the EUR community on the formation of the advice committee on the second camera use at the university