

Consultation Meeting
University Council - Executive Board
Erasmus University
June 29th, 2021

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

Absent in the Meeting: Younes Assou, John Piarelal, Yogi Hendlin.

Teams Meeting: 16:30.

05.01 Setting of the agenda

The agenda was set.

05.02 Setting of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were set.

05.03 Action points from the previous consultation meeting

- The Chair of the EB and the Chair of the UC will meet with the Supervisory Board to discuss the transparency concerning the expenses of the EB: *This meeting will be scheduled for the next academic year.*
- The EB will update the UC on the Carbon Footprint reports from 2019 and 2020: *the reports until 2020 are now available on the EUR website.*
- The EB will update the UC on Culture Campus developments: *This update will be a part of the announcements.*
- The EB will provide the UC with more clarity regarding the funds used for the development of the wellbeing app. *This point is resolved for now. This is now part of the NPO funds. This point will be further discussed in the conversations about NPO with the UC in the next academic year.*
- The EB will explain the difference between D&I Office and D&I unit to the UC: *this has been clarified in a previous email.*
- The EB will respond to the UC's proposal to issue centralized guidelines on D&I communication: *this has been clarified in a previous email.*
- The EB will discuss with policymakers setting up a protocol for quick student involvement in crisis situations: *the EB explained that they would like to have a student from the UC as a contact in case it is required in times of crisis, but not to fully incorporate them in all crises as it would not be needed for most of them.*

Action point: The UC (Wouter and Bram) will discuss during the summer vacation which student can be appointed to be available in times of crisis to collaborate with the EB.

- The EB would follow-up on the validation of exams at ESL: *an extensive email was sent to the UC to respond to this point.*
- The EB would follow-up on Joep's question on hybrid teaching: The EB will give updates on the developments of hybrid teaching to the UC three or four times in the upcoming academic year.

Action point: The Clerk will include individual action points in the upcoming consultation meeting agendas.

05.03 Announcements

- *EB: Update Culture Campus*

The EUR has been involved in discussions with the Hogeschool Rotterdam and the Codarts Academy to create an campusy related to arts and sciences in Rotterdam Zuid. The discussion has proceeded, and the different institutions are positive about the idea. For now, there are no decisions for consent, nor a formal agreement to create this campus. However, the EB has signed a letter of intent to continue being involved in this conversation. The idea is to have the campus fully operational and occupied by 2027, but already start with some activities before that. For now, the only financial involvement for the EUR would be renting rooms on the future campus. On a content level, this presents an opportunity for the university to expand on programmes related to arts and sciences, and increase cooperation with other educational institutions in Rotterdam.

- *Appointment Rector Magnificus*

There is no official news yet, but some final steps are being taken to appoint a new Rector Magnificus at EUR.

- *New Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health sciences.*

The EB is content to announce that there is a new Dean appointed for the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. They were involved in the appointment procedure, and look forward to the term of this Dean.

- *New Collective Labour Agreement*

A new collective labour agreement will be implemented tomorrow. This is due to negotiations at the national level. The idea behind this agreement is to have more permanent contracts, and facilitate hybrid working. This needs to be formalized at EUR, and this formalization will occur at the latest end of august.

06 Agenda items consultation meeting

06.01 Student Charter – right of consent

The UC took a vote during the Plenary meeting to consent on the Charter. There were 17 votes in favour, and 1 vote against. The advice for the Charter suggests implementing strategies for more visibility of the document. Furthermore, there was a discussion on the integration of Covid-related policies in the document. A member of the council, who voted against the consent of the policy, would have liked to see the Covid-related regulations as a part of the Charter. The rest of the UC agreed on the argumentation from the policy makers to exclude these regulations from the Charter.

06.02 HoKa student wellbeing: E-platform helpline

Consent has been given for the sub-project of the E-platform helpline, from the central HoKa Student Wellbeing plan. The UC is content with the application of their feedback into this project.

06.03 Erasmus Perspectives – right of consent on budget headlines

The council has had fruitful discussions with Pieter Jellema and Daniel Feenstra regarding the Erasmus Perspectives. There are a few remaining questions that the Council has before taking a vote for consent on the Perspectives.

- *Would the consent of the UC on the perspectives include various dimensions of the NPO budget? Or only the first dimension (13.4 million euros)?*

The consent on the perspectives would only include the 13.4 million euros. The rest of the money would be consented in a different way. More information will follow in the next academic year.

- *The council sees that the policy discretion of the budget increased from one million euros to two million euros. Why is this the case?*

This is just for protection. It does not reduce the amount of money in other parts of the budget. The policy discretion was one million euros for at least 10 years. The EB expects that the discretion can continue being two million euros in the upcoming years.

- *The university has a rising number of students, and many parts of the budget are indexed accordingly in comparison with the previous years. However, there are no changes in the budget for student support and sport grants. Why is this the case? Could this be changed in the future?*

The EB explained that the reason why it is not indexed is because the government does not adjust accordingly. The EB said that if more money is needed, they would increase the budget. A short-term solution is that a possible shortage of money could be covered by the post unforeseen up to a maximum of 100k. The EB and CPC will monitor the exhaustion of the budget. The monitoring results will be used to decide whether the total amount should be increased. This will be explained in the 2022 budget.

Action Point: The EB will monitor if it is necessary to increase the budget for student support and student grants. The result will be explained in the total EUR budget for 2022.

After short recess and deliberation from the Council, a vote for consenting to the Perspectives took place. With a unanimous decision, the UC consented to the Erasmus Perspectives.

Action point: The UC will send a letter of consent on the Erasmus Perspectives to the EB.

06.04 TNO Research Master Genomics in Society

06.05 TNO Master Sustainability Transitions

The Council would like to give positive advice regarding both TNO files. However, there is a remark on the procedure for advising on these. The UC realized that both Masters are in very different stages of development. The Genomics TNO had a positive advice from the Commissie Doelmatigheid Hoger Onderwijs (CDHO), whilst the Sustainability one did not. It would be easier for the council to always receive TNO files at a certain level of development, and agree on a list of documents that would need to be submitted for such a procedure to take place.

The EB explained that there is a procedure in place, and there are occasional exceptions to this procedure. In the case of Sustainability, they allowed the Masters to be presented to the Council because otherwise, they would have to wait another academic year

for its presentation. The EB will keep the UC informed on the developments of this TNO/Masters. The EB does understand the point of standardizing the procedure regarding the submission of documents from the UC.

06.06 Numerus fixus 2022-2023

The UC is sending a letter to the EB with positive advice regarding the numerus fixus in different programmes at EUR. The main remarks are related to the numerus fixus at EMC.

06.07 Institutional tuition fees 2022-2023

The UC is giving positive advice on the institutional tuition fees for 2022-2023. The letter of positive advice has already been sent to the EB.

06.08 Second report wellbeing monitor

There has been a lot of fruitful exchange on this topic for the last academic year. Roos Schelvis has been working closely with the UC to discuss possible solutions to decrease work pressure.

The EB explains that the work pressure within the university is evidently high. The different faculties have been discussing what can be done in this regard, and what is necessary for each team. These are mainly quick solutions. The underlying problems of staff work pressure take a lot of time. The EB had planned to execute a third wellbeing monitor in June, but realized that most of the faculties are working hard on the previous two monitors. They have decided that the next one will take place in December.

The Board would like to change the dynamics of the wellbeing monitor in the future, to make it shorter and have more frequent insights at how the employees are feeling. The UC reacted by saying that the monitor, as it is, lacks information regarding the responsibility of the university on staff wellbeing. It is unbalanced towards individual responsibility, as opposed to managerial and institutional issues. The Board understands this point. They also explained that the NPO funds will likely alleviate employee work pressure.

The EB highlighted that they are also very concerned about the results of the student wellbeing monitor. They explained that the figures are very disappointing. They are based on the responses from 10% of students, which makes it difficult for them to see the full picture of wellbeing at EUR. For now, the EB has decided to hire more student psychologists and student deans with the NPO funds.

06.09 Legal protection annual report 2020

A letter has been sent with advice regarding the legal protection annual report 2020. In the letter, the UC asks the EB to evaluate the limitation of one year for people to report undesirable behaviour. The UC considers this to be an extremely short period, from both an institutional and psychological perspective. The EB explained that in principle, they understand this point, but that extending the period would involve a lot of legal issues. They would like to see the letter to then react to this idea.

06.10 Outcome OP advisory committee

An EM article explained the outcome of the advisory committee. Overall, both the EB and UC members are content with these outcomes. The UC asked the EB for the possibility to send a short paragraph to the community in the newsletter highlighting these outcomes.

Action point: The EB will look into the possibility to send a short paragraph to the community in the newsletter highlighting the outcomes of the OP advisory committee.

07 Incoming documents

There are no incoming documents.

08 Any other business

08.01 Amnesty study on rape among students in the Netherlands

Armand explained that the Amnesty group published a report showing that 1 out of every 9 students is raped in The Netherlands during their university time. This number is worrisome and very high. He is wondering how we can deal with this situation at our university, and if there are any strategies implemented to monitor cases of harassment at EUR.

The EB explained that the university has invested in various offices that allow members of the community to raise complaints and signal any form of harassment. However, not everyone uses these services. The EB is concerned about the numbers, and invites the UC to brainstorm in ways to prevent this. Furthermore, the EB does not agree on labelling different issues of harassment as rape. Hence, they would not like to sign the manifesto written by Amnesty.

A UC member reacted by saying that the EB could link this point with the previous discussion on extending the period for report complaints at the university. The EB agrees with the principles of the discussion, but expresses that there may be legal issues to extend this period.

08.02 UC Consent on CLI Update

The consent on the CLI update was sent to the EB.

08.03 Proposal for Reorganisation CIO-IT-DIM

After the restate of the new council, this point will be followed up

08.04 Outgoing letters:

- *Compensation for UC members.*

The UC will send a letter to the EB to establish a dialogue on what would be fair to both student and staff members in terms of their compensation.

- *Free menstrual products on campus*

The UC provided four different lockers at the university with menstrual products that are free for all the menstruating members of the EUR community. There is an article on this subject at Erasmus Magazine. Overall, the idea is to have a safe space for everyone. Oftentimes, there is a lack of sanitary products on campus. The UC asks the EB to structurally help with the supplience of these products for the community in the different buildings on campus. The idea would be to provide them as hygiene products. The EB would like to see the letter from the UC, and also wants to see in more detail the results from the pilot provision of menstrual products.

- *Abandoned bikes*

Now that there has been more clarification on the policy for removing bikes on the campus, the UC asks the EB to make this policy more visible. An idea would be to place signs in the different parking areas on campus explaining that bikes would be removed if they are left unattended for more than two weeks. The EB explained that they would evaluate this and follow-up in the future.

Action point: The EB will look at the possibility of making the bike-removal policies on campus more visible for the next consultation meeting.

08.05 Last consultation meeting of current UC and clerk

Today is the last consultation meeting of the Clerk of the UC (Machteld Harmsen). The Council is very grateful for her work. At the same time, they welcome the new Clerk (Lobke van Steenbergen).

09 Closing

There was a short moment to reflect on the academic year. Representatives from the UC explained that it has been a difficult year, but that they are overall content with the fact that they have been able to discuss with the EB several issues, and that they have given closure to difficult discussions. On the other hand, it was mentioned that it is imperative for the EB to work on improving the wellbeing of students in the upcoming academic years. Students need breaks and recovery periods.

The EB stated that it has been a tough but special year. There are a lot of things to improve within the university, but the Covid period has shown resourcefulness and other opportunities that should be kept after the crisis. It is surprising how much deliberation and actions have been taken this year, and the involvement of the UC in all the topics.

The Chair of the UC explained that although it was a difficult year, he would like to complement the council on their development. Many plans were initiated by council members, and their engagement was outstanding. Specifically, the Chair of the UC would like to recognize the 20-year commitment of Bed Bode with the University Council. He will be missed in the upcoming academic years.

10 Action Points from the Last Meeting

Responsible party	Timeline	Action point
The UC (Wouter and Bram)	Before the next academic year	Will discuss during the summer vacation which student can be appointed to be available in times of crisis to collaborate with the EB.
The Clerk of the UC	For all the upcoming consultation meetings	Will include individual action points in the upcoming Consultation Meeting agendas.
The EB	Before next Consultation Meeting September 29, 2021	Will look into the possibility to send a short paragraph to the community in the newsletter highlighting the outcomes of the OP advisory committee.

The EB	When reporting in the upcoming Erasmus Perspectives	The EB will monitor if it is necessary to increase the budget for student support and student grants. The result will be explained in the total EUR budget for 2022.
The UC	As soon as possible	Will send a letter of consent on the Erasmus Perspectives to the EB.
The EB	Before next Consultation Meeting September 29, 2021	Will look at the possibility of making the bike-removal policies on campus more visible for the next consultation meeting.