

**University Council – Executive Board  
Consultation Meeting  
Erasmus University Rotterdam**

**Date and Time:** 02/12/2021, 18:00-20:00

**Location:** Teams (online meeting)

**UC Members Present in the Meeting:** Hans van den Berg (Chair), Simo Azzarhouni, Georgiana Carp, Zohra Hayat, Pi Cheng Hu, Ernst Hulst, Patryk Jarmakowicz, Sandra Constantinou Juhasz, Sebastiaan Kamp, Bram Heesen, Cagla Altin, Robbert Rog, Friso Roos, Nikita Schoenmaker, Albert Wagelmans, Irena Boskovic, Timo Zandvliet, John van Wel, Max Wagenaar, Daemon Kregting, Natascha Kraal, Emese von Bóné, Aleid Fokkema, Lobke van Steenberghe (Clerk UC), Oriana Morales Hernández (minutes).

**EB Members Present in the Meeting:** Ed Brinksma, Ellen van Schoten, Annelien Bredenoord.

**Absent in the Meeting:** Jasper Klasen, Bianca Jadoenath.

## **01 Opening consultation meeting**

### **01.01 Setting of the agenda**

The agenda has been set.

### **01.02 Setting of the minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes have been set.

### **01.03 Action Points from the previous meeting**

- *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*  
This point is ongoing.
- *The chair of the UC will have a sit down with the EB regarding the involvement of the UC within the Education Portfolio Evaluation.*  
The UC is waiting for a response from the EB on the matter.
- *The UC will compare the arrangement of the main elements of the budget within the EUR with the arrangements at the other universities to look at the pros and cons.*  
This point is ongoing. The UC asked this question in the LOVUM meeting, and soon the Council will receive more information on the matter.
- *The EB will look into the implications of the code of Conduct within the EUR Holding.*  
The EB shared information with the UC on this point on November 8th. There is no judicial validity of the code within the university, nor the EUR Holding because of the nature of civil law. However, the EB will work with the new director of the EUR Holding to align their strategy with the code of conduct, even though there is no formal legal tie between the two. Info shared with the UC on 8th of November. There is no judicial validity of the code.
- *The EB will ask the faculties the state of affairs regarding hybrid education.*

The EB provided the UC with information on hybrid education on November 29th. The UC shared with the EB a list of courses that were having problems with providing hybrid education to all students. The EB discussed with the different vice-deans of education the issues that were present in these courses. They concluded that all programs have guaranteed access to online education, but the way in which this is provided differs per program. The Rector explained that she had very interesting discussions with the vice-deans on the matter.

A council member explained that by default, all courses will be online in the ESHCC faculty, with some offline exceptions. If the classes are taken offline, hybrid education would be guaranteed. This topic was further discussed under point 04 “Any Other Business”.

- *The UC will share an overview of programmes where there is no hybrid education in place for students*  
This overview was shared with the EB.
- *The UC will receive an invitation for a meeting with the CLI/AZ Hybrid Education working group.*  
The UC has not yet received this invitation.
- *The EB will investigate what investments are made within the private companies affiliated with the EUR.*  
This information was shared with the UC on November 8th. A member of the Council thanked the EB for their quick and adequate response on the matter.
- *The EB will provide an update on the smoking ban.*  
This information was shared with the UC on November 8th.
- *The UC will restock the menstrual products for 1500€ with the agreement of the EB.*  
The UC is restocking the menstrual products.
- *The UC and EB will have a sit together with the stakeholders involved to look for a long-term solution for the menstrual products.*  
A meeting has been planned for January 25 to further discuss the sustainability of the menstrual products.
- *The EB will plan an open meeting for the UC to attend on the state of affairs regarding the Governance and content of the Culture Campus.*  
A meeting has been planned for February 8 to discuss the governance and content of the culture campus.

### **01.03 Announcements**

- ***Endorsement letter Faculty Council ESPhil on student housing in Rotterdam***

Different FCs have decided to endorse a letter asking the EB to raise their voice on the issue of student housing in Rotterdam. The EB explains that they are very concerned with the lack of housing. Yet, it is not something that they can directly fix within the university. They will continue putting pressure on the municipality to create more student housing. Additionally, the EUR will meet with representatives from the Hogeschool Rotterdam to discuss this issue.

- ***Involvement student within CMT***

Last academic year, there was an agreement to include a student from the UC on the Crisis Management Team (CMT) of the University. However, this point was lost over time. From now onwards, Bram Heesen will take part in the CMT. The EB will add him to the mailing list of the CMT.

**Action Point: The EB will include Bram Heesen in the mailing list of the CMT.**

- ***Convergence plans***

The EB agreed to keep the Council up to date on the Convergence plans. The EB proposes to make this topic a permanent point in the EB/UC Consultation meetings. The Board explained that the Convergence is developing extremely well. The program is being spontaneously extended by some scientists involved, and the network between the universities is proving to be fruitful. New projects have come from this exchange, such as the Pandemic Centre and the Healthy Start Programme. The Healthy Start Programme consists of the investment in people during their early years of development (including pre-birth), as these years appear key in the overall health and state of adulthood.

The Convergence has a lot of presence in The Hague. Both Hugo de Jonge and the Minister of Education have met with representatives of the Convergence. The Convergence also wants to strengthen ties with Brussels. Hopefully, the Convergence can get funding from external parties in the upcoming years. The plans are so positive that the EB has proposed increasing its budget, which is a recent development. Many of the goals of the plans have been achieved. Thus, more goals will be drafted soon.

A member of the Council explained that it is good to hear this news. However, they are concerned that with so many initiatives, there could be increased fragmentation of the Convergence and the plans lose focus. For instance, there could be competition among the different pillars of the Convergence to receive funding. Thus, it was asked: *How can the Board keep control of the initiatives of the Convergence to avoid overlap and competition?*

The EB explained that they are aware of some issues of overlap and competition, but this is actually a good development. This means that the Convergence is growing, and that many bottom-up initiatives are flourishing, which should be at the heart of this network. More information about this topic will be introduced on point 02.02 "EUR Budget".

**Action point: The Clerk of the UC will make the Convergence a permanent point on the agenda of the UC/EB Consultation meetings.**

- ***Tinbergen Building***

The Tinbergen building was closed on November 12th due to safety reasons. It will be closed until renovations are finished. The EB has talked to the vice-deans of education to discuss the situation, and the board is looking for alternative spaces to deal with the situation.

- ***New Sports Building***

The construction of the new Sports building is well on track. It will be finished by the start of the next academic year. Additionally, the building is very sustainable.

- ***New Educational Building***

The construction of the new educational building is also on track. It is very sustainable and efficient. It has open spaces, but also serves the needs of the community. More information about the building will be provided in the future.

## **02 Agenda items consultation meeting**

### **02.01 Erasmus University Rotterdam Administration & Management Regulations 2022 (BBR-EUR 2022)**

The BBR has minor changes in relations to its last edition. The Council does not have any serious issues regarding the documentation. A draft consent letter will be discussed next week in the UC plenary meeting. The only remarks regarding the BBR concern irregularities in the terminology. Thus, the Council proposes to have a more consistent terminology in the document.

### **02.02 EUR Budget 2022-2025**

The task force working on the EUR Budget is very satisfied with their communication with Pieter Jellema, director of the CPC department and in charge of the budget. Various meetings have taken place for an in-depth understanding of the budget, and they have been very productive.

The following paragraphs contain a Q&A from the UC to the EB on the EUR Budget. The main concerns of the Council in this topic are related to the Convergence investments. Overall, the UC is positive towards the presented budget.

- *The UC is very supportive of the Convergence plans. Yet, the Council would like to be more up to date to understand the context of the extra investments in the Convergence. Could you elaborate on this?*

As the Convergence is a new initiative, it does not yet have a set rhythm where relevant updates can be shared on a steady basis. However, the EB is looking forward to progressively getting to a point where the context of the plan is steadier. Most of the information on the convergence was given under the announcements. Nevertheless, when it comes to the Convergence and its relation to the budget, the EB is working on making a budget and monitoring cycle for the initiative. Once this cycle is in place, keeping track of the information will become easier.

- *The government is looking to establish a National Pandemic Centre. Would the Pandemic Centre of the Convergence be considered for this task?*

It is likely that the government will decide on involving different stakeholders for the Pandemic Centre. However, the EMC (Convergence) would probably be one of its main players, as it is already working very hard and providing a lot of medical expertise during the current pandemic.

- *The Convergence seems like a very fertile ground to develop educational programs. What is your view on this?*

The Convergence is strongly linked with talent development, which is related to education. The hallmark of the Convergence is to deal with multidisciplinary research, which usually precedes educational programs. The EB would look forward to the emergence of educational programs. However, the process of the development of these programs needs to be organic and would be the result of extensive interdisciplinary research.

- *Concerning the increased budget and investment and their relation to support services, what is the Convergence expecting from the support services of the university?*

The board is aware that there have not been a lot of discussions on the role of support services on the Convergence. However, the EB is looking to make the Convergence more operational, which would include the contributions of support staff. A lot of work still needs to be done on this area, but as the Convergence is a dynamic plan, the role of the support services is not yet fixed. Perhaps in the upcoming six months, there will be more clarity on this topic.

- *There is a worrying trend regarding the increasing number of students and decreasing number of staff members. The UC has flagged this issue several times in the past. How can the university work to make this more balanced? Are there alternatives besides numerus fixus or hiring more people? Is there something that could be done in the short term?*

This issue is very clear for the EB. There is a high influx of students, and this is a trend that is seen in most Dutch universities. At the same time, work pressure is a relevant problem. There is financial aid, such as the NPO, that could help in the mitigation of the problem. Yet, this is a complex situation, and there is no perfect solution to it.

The EB has been considering some alternative solutions. They have started studying the length of the academic year in the EUR and realized that it is longer than most other universities in the Netherlands. Making a shorter academic year could give some space for both staff and students to decrease pressure. Another solution could be to have less assessments. This would remove unnecessary forms of evaluation that stress students and staff.

This conversation will continue in the upcoming years. The issue has many layers and is also a topic of conversation in the UNL (former VSNU). Nationally, there has been competition between universities, and less competition could help in solving the current student-staff ratio issue.

**Action point: the UC will adjust the letter of consent for the budget in line with the previous discussion.**

### **02.03 Sustainability Goals**

The sustainability goals of the university are on the agenda due to a recent interview of an EUR employee in Erasmus Magazine that stated that the goals and timing of the university for carbon neutrality differ to those on the Rotterdam Climate Agreement. The following is a Q&A from the discussion.

- *The UC was quite surprised by the fact that the university wants to be carbon neutral by 2030 instead of 2024. Is this statement correct?*

The EB explained that this seems to be a mistake. The ambitions of the university have not changed. The issue is mainly related to the way in which carbon neutrality is measured. Therefore, the misconceptions of the interview could be related to the way in which the carbon neutrality goals are measured.

- *Even though the measurements could differ, there were clear criteria set when the university signed the climate agreement. Why do you point out inconsistencies between the measurements?*

Ideally, the measurements would be as simple as possible. The EUR will measure its footprint in the way it did before and commit to this goal. The EB is grateful that the UC checks this to keep them on track.

- *If we use the definitions of all emissions from the original measures, then the EUR is only going to decrease 30% of its carbon emissions by 2024. What is your opinion about this?*

The EB is doing what they can. They are attempting to accelerate their tempo to reach the goal. Recently, more money has been devoted to the area of sustainability. Soon, a project of energy transition will come to the university as well.

- *It is clear that only 30% of the emissions will be compensated by 2024 by following the plans of the university. With the current policy plans, 70% of the emissions will continue to be polluting the environment without compensation. What concrete measures will you take for this?*

The energy transition plan should help. Other points are related to travelling and having more sustainable buildings.

- *Is the university looking at options for carbon mitigation?*

The Board is willing to evaluate this alongside the UC.

- *The shifts on sustainability will need a lot of money. However, a large budget for sustainability is not taken into consideration. How do you reflect on this?*

The ambition for making the university more sustainable is real. There is a lot of money in the hands of the university, especially on real estate. The university is looking at how to use its buildings post-COVID. Perhaps more money could be needed, but the university could also apply for external funding.

- *On the broader picture, shouldn't the EUR take more drastic measures in becoming carbon neutral?*

The EUR is doing what it can. Nobody knows if this will be enough, but hopefully, the university can re-evaluate after the energy transition.

- *A worldwide ranking of universities in terms of sustainability puts Wageningen, Leiden, and Groningen in the top 10 of the most sustainable universities, whilst EUR is not even on the list. What can we learn from other Dutch universities to become more sustainable?*

Within the UNL, many ideas are shared. The EB will examine why the EUR is not included in the list.

It was concluded that in the future, there is a need for more in-depth conversations on sustainability through the sustainability steering group. The EUR is still committed to the 2024 goal of reaching carbon neutrality, and the EB is open to more ideas on how to continue with this.

**Action point: The EB will examine why the EUR is not included in the list of the most sustainable universities.**

#### **02.04 HeQa – budget Erasmus X**

The HoKa Workgroup has met in repeated occasions with the policymakers of ErasmusX to discuss the budget. Overall, both the Workgroup and the UC seem very positive about their plans and are looking forward to voting on giving consent in the upcoming plenary meeting.

#### **02.05 HeQa – Report October**

The HoKa Workgroup of the UC has been in communication with the HoKa Coordinator to get familiar with the October Report. Overall, the Workgroup is very positive about this point of information. There is still one point of information that the Council is not clear about. This refers to the underspending of HoKa funds in the Faculties of EUR, as opposed to underspending at a central level. In particular, there is underspending in ESE, and the UC does not know the way in which the faculty will deal with this underspending. The EB was not aware of all the details behind the underspending on ESE, but they will reflect on it with the stakeholders involved.

The HoKa workgroup of the UC will organize a HoKa Symposium in January, where there will be a lot of communication with the participatory bodies of the university in order to understand their HoKa experiences. A report of this event will follow, and the EB will receive a copy of it.

#### **02.06 Application for additional requirement for the Bachelor International Business Administration**

The UC is overall positive about the application for additional requirements in the IBA program. The Council agrees with the argumentation behind it. The main concern is that there is not an explicit correspondence between the criteria to make a more diverse classroom, and the criteria for selecting new students. Hopefully, the final criteria will not strongly favour students with a higher socioeconomic background.

The EB explained that after processing this positive advice, the additional requirements will be sent to the ministry. The choice of the exact selection criteria will be scrutiny after that. Therefore, the intentions of making a diverse classroom will be very present.

#### **02.07 Code of integrity, Regulation Personal Relationships and Regulations on gifts**

These documents have been discussed in depth with the policymakers and EUROPA. The discussion has not been very straightforward, as there are many actors involved and the process has not been linear. The UC had some disagreements with EUROPA on the clause on friendly relationships within the personal relationships document. The UC wanted a statement about friendly relationships and how to deal with them, whilst EUROPA did not want this statement as they believed it could limit the possibilities for employees to relate to one another. Both bodies had a similar goal behind their reasoning, but their approach differed.

Last Thursday, the policymaker decided to upload the document that EUROPA consented to the EB. In spirit of cooperation, the UC will accept this. However, it is important for the UC that the EB is aware of the different proposals by the UC when they review the final document.

#### **03 Incoming documents**

*There are no incoming documents*

#### **04 Any other business**

- **Christmas Hampers**

There used to be an option for employees to donate their Christmas hampers to the food bank or other charities. However, this year this is not a possibility because the food has an expiration date. The UC believes that this is an important point in terms of sustainability. Therefore, the Council asks whether a platform for donation could be arranged for the next academic year.

The EB explained that this is also an important point for them. Yet, it came to their attention too late, and it was no longer possible to re-purpose the hampers. They are open to having a conversation about it next academic year. They explained that the Clerk of the UC can find the people involved in the organization of the hampers.

**Action point: The Clerk of the UC will contact the organizers of the Christmas hampers to establish a donation possibility for the upcoming academic year.**

**- Appointment of the ESL Dean**

A member of the council asked if the appointment of the new Dean of ESL is still on schedule. The EB responded affirmatively.

**- COVID-related themes**

*Questions and answers:*

**- What happened with the vaccination spot on Campus?**

The EB believes that the GGD took the vaccination spot outside of Campus, as only very few students were using it. It is important to notice that the GGD is overburdened during this last wave of the pandemic. However, there are vaccination and testing sites in the Kralingse Zoom, in the near vicinity of the university.

**- Why has ESHCC decided to set the default of their education as online education?**

This is the first time that the EB has heard about this decision. They will be informed by tomorrow. If there are any questions on the topic, the UC can send them via email.

**- New Dean ESHPM**

A member of the council asked about the status of the appointment of a new dean for ESHPM. The EB explained that the process is going very well.

**Closing**