

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

**Date and Time:** 25/05/2022, 16:00 – 18:00h

**Location:** Polak 1-23

**Present in the Meeting:** Ed Brinksma, Ellen van Schoten, Annelien Bredenoord, Ann O'Brien (secretary of the EB), Hans van den Berg (UC Chair), Zohra Hayat, Sandra Constantinou Juhasz, Sebastiaan Kamp, Yusuf Balci, Friso Roos, Albert Wagelmans, John van Wel, Emese von Bóné, Aleid Fokkema, Max Wagenaar, Patryk Jarmakowicz, Georgiana Carp, Robbert Rog, Bianca Jadoenath, Pi Cheng Hu, Natascha Kraal, Jasper Klasen, Timo Zandvliet, Ernst Hulst, Irena Boskovic, Daemon Kregting, Cagla Altin, Lobke van Steenbergen (clerk) Oriana Morales Hernández (minutes).

**Absent:** Nikita Schoenmaker

## 01 Opening consultation meeting

### 01.01 Setting of the agenda

*The agenda has been set*

### 1.2 Setting of the minutes of the previous meeting / action points

*The minutes have been set*

Following the action points:

- In the upcoming fall, the EB will give an update to the UC on lifelong education in relation to the elimination of HOVO.

*This is a long-term point in the agenda.*

- The Rector will talk to the team that provided the data on the student achievements during COVID to find explanations on the different changes among the study community during COVID.

*This action point is the second item in the agenda.*

- The EB will give another update on the developments to create more study spaces in the next Consultation Meeting.

*The EB is working on opening new study spaces. Informal study spaces in restaurants are already in place. The EB is still in conversations with RSM and RE&F to open spots in Mandeville. When some ventilation issues are resolved, spaces in G Building will also be liberated. The PC rooms in Tinbergen/Theil Building will be accommodated for more students, whilst the PCs will be transferred to the new educational building in the future. Yet, the largest increase in study spots will come from the opening of the new educational building.*

- The University Council will reach out to someone from the legal department, as well as RE&F, to review the specifics of the contract and advertising on campus

*The UC reached out and is awaiting a response from these parties.*

- The University Council will specify which topics within the theme of student wellbeing need to be discussed in the next Consultation Meeting

*These topics are on the agenda.*

- The Executive Board will inform the UC on the additional provisions taken for students and employees affected by the war in Ukraine.

*This point will be postponed to next meeting.*

## **01.03 Announcements**

### *- Convergence*

As of May 2022, Floris Italianer started as the new director of the Convergence Office. He has an interesting background working with science, fundraising, and complex organizations. The idea is that he will work on creating a more structured foundation of the Convergence and the financial framework of the initiative. Ideally, he will be able to organize a participation day for the Convergence.

### *- Culture&Campus / Arts institute*

The three Supervisory Boards of the three institutions involved (EUR, Codarts, Hogeschool Rotterdam) in both Rotterdams Kunstinstituut and Culture & Campus have had a joint meeting. The expectations of the EB are that during the fall period, the stakeholders (a.o. EB, SB and Participatory bodies) can decide on the structure of the institute. The participatory bodies will be informed in due time of these developments.

**Action point: The EB will inform the UC on the planning of the merger in the next consultation meeting.**

The Chair of the EB explained that in regard to the Culture & Campus we do not have to wait until the opening of the final location, which will be somewhere around 2028, in order to begin with some programs and activities. The institutions send in a joint Horizon call ‘New European Bauhaus’ to bridge the time between and to start and develop joint initiatives. This call was granted and therefore the institutions receive a 5-million-euros subsidy. The call even received the highest score off all the applications. The President of the European Commission is in support of the program, as it aligns with EU values.

### *- State of affairs new chair UC*

Ivonne Cune-Noten has been chosen by the UC as their new chair from September 2022 until August 2024. At this moment, she will attend as many meetings as possible. She is working with the current Chair on the handover together with the secretariat. The EB is content and excited to work with this new Chair.

### *- Personal involvement with agenda points*

The Presidium will continue with the current rules on the involvement of UC members in agenda points where they have directly participated in functions that are not related to the UC. If members are personally involved in a topic, they should announce it beforehand, and it is up to them to decide whether they choose to withdraw themselves from voting. This is not an official requirement, but it is strong advice.

## **02 Agenda items consultation meeting**

### **02.01 Progress Report CLI 2022**

The UC had the opportunity to meet with the director of the CLI yesterday. During the meeting, all UC's questions were answered, although this does not mean that they were satisfactory. The Council will continue to discuss the report internally in order to reach a decision on the consent of the budget. The UC has a question about the educational vision of the CLI, as they explained that the university must invest in hybrid education. At the same time, there is a large concern over the low student involvement in the university, which may not improve with hybrid education. Thus, the Council asks whether this vision of hybrid education is supported by any evidence or empirical research.

The Rector explained that the university has started to discuss the educational vision as a result of the HEQA midterm evaluation, and the second part is related to the years before COVID and reflecting what has been learned from the COVID times. Ideally, the UC could be involved in both processes, and help in the considerations of the university.

At the same time, the Council asks about the input of the EB considering that HEQA money should go to improving the quality of education for Dutch students. Yet, the CLI explained that one of the important

target audiences of hybrid education is international students. Thus, should the HEQA money be directed to benefiting international students?

The Rector explained that all students benefit from these developments, and that it is wrong to assume that only international students receive benefits. At the same time, part of the budget of the CLI comes from the central budget of the university and not from HEQA. Finally, it is important to reflect on whether having a discussion based on whether students are, or not, Dutch nationals is productive.

## **02.02 Evaluation of the internal allocation model**

During the second plenary meeting, Pieter Jellema and Elisabeth Zwaan gave a presentation about the evaluation of the allocation model. It became clear that the allocation model is complex. The Council is looking forward to continuing to cooperate with the policymakers within the steering committee to see whether a revision of the model is needed.

## **02.03 Numerus Fixus 2023-2024**

The UC discussed the topic of the Numerus Fixus at the EUR. During the second plenary meeting, representatives from the Erasmus MC joint the meet to answer the questions of the Council. The advice from the UC is independent of that of the FC of Erasmus MC, yet the UC takes the input of the FC's into consideration in drafting its own advice. Currently, the task force working on the topic is drafting a letter which will be internally discussed in the Council, and then sent to the EB.

A member of the Council raised the point that the advice for the numerus fixus at ESL was asked within a timeline of four days. The EB is unaware of this procedure at the moment. The Chair of the Council explained that the reason for this shortened time may be that the UC requested to have the advice on numerus fixus in the second-to-last cycle of the Council. It is possible that faculties did not fully adapt to this shortened timeframe in this academic year. The task force will include this point in their letter of advice.

The Board was asked for their input within the Erasmus MC situation, considering that the FC of the Erasmus MC advised to lower the student places available in the hospital. The EB explained that as opposed to the advice of the FC, it is likely that the Erasmus MC needs more students, and that the university has a public responsibility to train new doctors. The waiting times for students to do their masters are problematic and present, but the Erasmus MC is working on curriculum changes that may improve the situation in the long term.

## **02.04 Effects COVID on study success**

The rector previously gave a presentation to the Council about the progress of students in terms of grade results and credits obtained from students during COVID times. Today, the rector aims to demarcate the following question: *to what extent have EUR students made use of a lower BSA and soft cut measures in COVID times?* She explained that there are three further focus groups to observe in relation to their study performance during the pandemic. These groups are i) students enrolled in a bachelor program without partaking in the end-of-high-school central exam, ii) students enrolled in second-year courses without obtaining a positive BSA, and iii) students using the soft-cut measures to enrol in a master's degree without having completed their bachelor's.

More students used these flexible measures in the 2019-2020 academic year in relation to the 2020-2021 academic year. A lot of information is needed in order to draw conclusions and respond to the research question. To begin with, there should be an improved definition of the focus groups, which also needs to be validated from students. An overview of data should be available for the public to see. Additionally, it would be interesting to see similar data collections from other universities in the Netherlands. However, Council members pointed out that this research question does not respond to concerns over the wellbeing of students. Ideally, more qualitative research should take place to understand the experience of students during these times.

## **02.05 Student wellbeing**

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Following two articles in EM. The Council would like to discuss with the EB how the university is dealing with the topics ‘sexually transgressive behaviour’ and ‘racism during internships’ and what we can do to prevent this from happening in the future.

- *Sexually transgressive behaviour*

<https://www.erasmusmagazine.nl/2022/04/21/meldingen-seksueel-verschrijdend-gedrag-topje-van-de-ijsberg/>. This article from EM shows worrying information about sexual behaviour at EUR. Thus, the Council asks the EB what the stance in the matter is, and what they are doing to prevent issues of sexual misconduct within the University. The EB explained that they recently signed a manifesto against sexual violence. It is always difficult to deal with sexual harassment, as students also spend a lot of time outside the university campus, where the EB has no control. The university has a strong network of confidentiality and assistance for minimizing issues of violence as much as possible. The EUR is working on building trust with students, so they feel supported in case an incident is notified. However, it is important to ensure that a due process of investigation takes place to understand the events. Thus, there are dilemmas in how to react to these cases. Above all, the EB would like to prevent these situations as much as possible.

**Action point: The EB will update the UC in the upcoming Consultation Meeting about the accessibility of information for students to reach for help in cases of sexual violence.**

- *Discrimination and internships at Erasmus MC*

<https://www.erasmusmagazine.nl/2022/05/12/die-arts-die-kutmarokkanen-riep-is-gewoon-een-goede-kritische-arts/>. The discussion on this article point will be rescheduled to another time. The Erasmus MC is working on reviewing these problems, and more discussions will take place between the Erasmus MC and the Rector to talk about the topic.

## **04 Any other business**

### **04.01 The China Scholarship Council**

*The following questions will be answered by the EB through email:*

The UC was contacted by EUR employees who are concerned about the university’s collaboration with the Chinese Scholarship Council. They ask the EB the following questions:

*Do you agree that collaboration with the CSC does not align with our Erasmian Values?*

*Are you willing to review and reconsider the agreement that EUR has with the CSC?*

*In more general terms, what are the guidelines for collaboration with organisations or individuals that clearly act in conflict with Erasmian Values?*

**Action point: The EB will react via e-mail on the questions raised by the UC on the China Scholarship Council.**

## **05 Closing**

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