

**University Council
1st Plenary Meeting
Erasmus University Rotterdam**

Date and Time: 04/10/2022, 15:00 – 17:00

Location: Polak 3-14

Present in the Meeting: **Ivonne Cune-Noten (chair)**, Sandra Constantinou Juhasz, Sebastiaan Kamp, Max Wagenaar, Nikita Schoenmaker, Jaap Cornelese, Natascha Kraal, Patryk Jarmakowicz, Aleid Fokkema, Ernst Hulst, Simo Azzarhouni, Albert Wagelmans, Irena Boskovic, Emese von Bóné, Tom van Dijken, Erin van Gestel, Luuk van Tol, Nawin Ramcharan, Wesley Hennep, Wincey Randoe, Veerle Bakker, Friso Roos, Chaya Raghoenath, Ellie Cercel (Minutes).

Absent: Lobke van Steenbergen (Clerk).

Digital: Cagla Altin, Georgiana Carp.

01 Opening

01.01 Setting of the agenda

The agenda was set.

01.02 Setting of the previous minutes

The minutes of the previous third plenary meeting will be shared during the second plenary meeting.

01.03 Announcements

- Portfolios Presidium

Aleid: IT, Development & Participation, Finance

Erin: Wellbeing & Social Safety, Strategy, Sustainability

Simo: Diversity & Inclusion, Legal Affairs, Real Estate & Facilities

Nikita: Education & Student affairs, HR

This overview can be found in Teams: Workflow UC 2022-2023

- Good Conversation October 11

The Good Conversation will take place on October 11th. The members of the Presidium will be present, and all UC members are invited.

- Sickness UC-members vs the UC-meetings

The Chair explained the procedure regarding sick-related absences. UC members may not join the meetings if sick or ill. In case of physical complaints, UC members should administer self-tests and may only join the UC meetings with a negative test result. In case of quarantine due to COVID, a waiver can be requested.

- Christmas gift

The UC members will receive a Christmas gift and have the alternative to donate their gift to the Soup Kitchen.

02 Agenda items plenary meeting UC

02.01 Erasmus Perspectives 2023-2026 (Roadmap durability)

Last cycle, the UC dissented to the Erasmus Perspectives plans. The main issues supporting this decision were put forward during the last cycle in a meeting with policymakers, the CM, and during the Third Plenary Meeting of the previous cycle. The final decision is delayed to the current cycle so that the UC needs to find an alternative to put forward to the EB plans.

For that purpose, a temporary Task Force was created for the current cycle. The TF will gather and consider all input from the UC members regarding the Erasmus Perspective plans with the goal of reaching a balanced and informed decision. The TF will meet twice this cycle.

TF Lead: Jaap.

Members: Jaap, Tom, Georgiana, Sebastian, and Cagla.

Action point: The Minute taker will inform the Clerk on the new TF members and procedure.

02.02 Institutional plan corona EUR

The UNL asked institutions to provide input for the Corona sector plan published by the Ministry of Education. The plan is in place as of October 1st. The UC is invited to give advice.

For this purpose, a temporary Task Force was created for the current cycle. The UC members can provide input through this TF and the policymakers may be informed during the Second Plenary meeting.

A few points were mentioned during the meeting:

- What is the procedure for prevention from a medical standpoint?
- What is the solution to self-test storage issue?
- How is wellbeing impacted, and there can be a collaboration with the wellbeing TF (Erin)
- How does the plan deal with the effects of long-term COVID on student and staff wellbeing and productivity?

TF Lead: Luuk

TF members: Natascha, Jaap, Albert, Aleid, Chaya, Nawin, Sandra, Luuk, Wesley, and Simo

Action point: The new TF will gather the input from the UC. The Chair can invite the policymakers to the Second Plenary Meeting.

02.03 Compensation Participatory Bodies

In the previous year, the Finance TF worked on uniformizing the compensation of the decentral participatory bodies. There are the Service Councils, Program Committees, and Faculty Councils. All but one FC accepted. The TF is currently working on a letter to the EB with clarifications. The draft has been shared with the UC.

Following the discussion, the wording of the letter will be modified to showcase how much effort was put into the initiative. The UC agreed on sending the letter with this minor adjustment.

Action point: The TF Lead will get in touch with the FC that did not accept the proposal and The TF Lead, and the Clerk will add the adjustment into the letter and send it to the EB.

02.04 Adjustment TF Study Spaces

The Study Spaces TF wishes to change the title into “Real Estate & Facilities TF”. Furthermore, the TF wishes to receive and discuss updates from RE&F bi-yearly regarding new facilities on campus, existing facilities on campus, maintenance, student housing projects, and lessons learned from the pandemic.

A few more topics related to real-estate that present urgency were added under the TF: physical accessibility, staff workspaces, and standing desks. The UC members can send more input to the TF Lead.

Two UC members joined the TF: Jaap and Tom.

02.05 G&I Report “Evaluation Pilot Ombudsman and Pilot Confidential counsellor”

An external agency “Governance & Integrity” evaluated the pilots Confidential Counsellor and Ombudsman. The report is shared with the UC for advice. A few points were mentioned.

There is a big percentage of negative evaluation of the pilot due to staff and students not being aware of these two positions. Therefore, it was suggested that the marketing is improved.

It was mentioned that the EUR currently does not have an Ombudsman, but there is an application procedure for the position currently taking place. In the meantime, EUR can make use of the EMC Ombudsman. The recommendations of the pilot are being used in the new application procedure, e.g., the need of a better safety structure.

It was discussed that the Task Forces D&I and Wellbeing and Social Safety will decide internally how to share the task. The UC can send their remarks to the TF Leads.

Action point: The TF Leads for D&I and Wellbeing and Social Safety will decide how to share the task. The remarks discussed with the TF’s will be tabled for a discussion in the Second Plenary meeting.

02.06 International students

In the previous cycle, a document was created summarizing the main concerns of the UC. Some points were unsuccessfully shared with the EB during the previous CM due to time constraints that lead to a misunderstanding. During this meeting, the UC discussed how to better deliver their concerns to the EB.

The UC disagrees with the EB’s statement that the international student crisis is a growth problem. The discussion revealed that there are two major issues within this subject. Firstly, there is a problem with the influx of students, as EUR is not adequately prepared for the growth despite their marketing and recruiting international students. Secondly, there are issues with the international students currently living in the NL, who are facing discrimination in areas of living and working (e.g., limited internship possibilities due to language barriers). Furthermore, it was remarked that this topic is a political as well as financial issue and is currently impacting the entire country. The UC requests a response from the EB on these points.

In conclusion, two UC student members will collaborate on an internal letter summarizing these issues as well as what the UC requests from the EB. This information will be communicated with the board with the UC requesting a statement from the board. The statement will provide the UC with a benchmark for future discussions on the matter.

Action point: Sandra and Erin will prepare a letter and share it on Teams. A discussion on the content and process regarding the communication with the EB is tabled for the Second Plenary meeting.

02.07 State of affairs semi-permanent TF’s

The TF Leads gave updates regarding the state of affairs of their respective TF’s. Also, the UC members could join or withdraw from the TF’s.

HeQa: the budget of the HeQa was approved meaning that all projects can proceed until the end of 2024; a meeting with the policymaker is scheduled for the end of the month.

M&C: currently working on the website; the coffee hours initiative is being implemented.

Sustainability: no updates yet.

Strategy EUR: Georgiana should be added to the TF as TF Lead; more updates are expected around the midterm evaluation.

Wellbeing and Social Safety: two members of the TF will join the steering group for the Social Safety Contact Point; Natascha will join the TF.

D&I: updates are tabled for next Plenary meeting; Nawin and Wesley will join the TF.

Finance: currently working on two assignments for the end of the year, are in contact with policymakers, and will organize a learning class at the end of October.

Educational Vision: no updates yet.

03 Any other business

03.01 Arts Institute delegation EUR

There will be structural consultation meetings with the combined delegation of participation from Hogeschool Rotterdam, Codarts and EUR. During the meetings, information regarding the forming of the Arts Institution will be shared. This will take place digitally every 3 to 5 weeks on Thursday mornings. The meetings are in Dutch. The Chair and Clerk and two UC members (one student and one staff) are asked to join.

Staff: Emese and Natascha

Student: Tom

Action point: The Chair and Clerk will check if two staff members can join.

03.02 AOB

- there is a positive evaluation of the UC office initiative
- two students (Nawin and Simo) will join the Christmas Drinks organised by ISO
- last year, UNL approved that Ukrainian students can get compensation for their tuition fees
- the UC yearly report is finished
- there was a meeting on Erasmus Values in the Classroom that was attended by Aleid and Simo; Simo was on the panel discussion
- there was a dialogue on Impact Education with the Rotterdam Municipality and EUR, which was taped and will be made available to the UC as well
- the UC members can join a training similar to that of the Living Room staff, regarding mental health and wellbeing; this is organised with the Coordinator of the Student Wellbeing Project;
- The Mindfulness Project is approved in the minutes. However, Cagla heard from the spokesman that it was rejected;

Action point: The Clerk will check this information.

- Emese would like to contact the policymakers in regard to Erasmus Professors.

Action point: the Clerk will contact Emese.