

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

Date and Time: 10/01/2023, 15:00 – 17:00

Location: Langeveld 1.16

Present in the Meeting: Simo Azzarhouni (**chair**), Sebastiaan Kamp, Max Wagenaar, Jaap Cornelese, Natascha Kraal, Aleid Fokkema, Ernst Hulst, Albert Wagelmans, Irena Boskovic, Emese von Bóné, Tom van Dijken, Erin van Gestel, Nawin Ramcharan, Wesley Hennep, Wincey Randoe, Veerle Bakker, Friso Roos, Cagla Altin, Feliks Majchrzyk (intern), Lobke van Steenberg (Clerk), Ellie Cercel (Minutes).

Online: Georgiana Carp.

Absent: Ivonne Cune-Noten, Sandra Constantinou Juhasz, Nikita Schoemaker, Patryk Jarmakowicz, Luuk van Tol.

01 Opening

01.01 Setting of the agenda

The agenda points *02.06 International students* and *04.01 Waiver policy* are postponed to the second Plenary meeting. With these changes the agenda was set.

01.02 Setting of the minutes of the previous meeting

The *01.03 Announcement “Focus group Revision Performance & Development”* minutes were adjusted with the addition of councillor Jaap Cornelese as a participant to the focus group.

The *02.03 Project Plan “Towards an Erasmian positioning of the EUR Program Committees”* was adjusted with the addition of the action point: **A councillor will participate in the last interview rounds for appointing a project coordinator.**

With these adjustments, the minutes were set.

01.03 Announcements

- *Intern UC*

The UC welcomed Feliks Majchrzyk as a new intern during the period January 9th to March 17th, 2023. The Presidium is currently outlining the specific tasks he will be assigned to; additionally, Feliks will be present in the UC Plenary and Presidium meetings for this period and will be working on the development of the list system.

02 Agenda items plenary meeting UC

02.01 Budgets HeQa funded programmes (education)

The UC received the budgets of the HeQa funded programmes: Community for Learning and Innovation, Impact at the Core, Erasmus X, and Wellbeing. The HeQa TF will work on this agenda point.

A meeting with the HeQa TF will be organised next Tuesday during which the TF members will review the budgets received from the funded programmes. The UC members are requested to send their input to the TF via Teams before this meeting. Based on the outcome of the meeting, it will be decided how to proceed with the action point in the upcoming second Plenary meeting. The TF members will inform the Clerk whether to invite the policymakers to the second Plenary meeting.

Action point: The councillors are requested to share their input before Monday, January 16 with the HeQa TF. The TF members will review the budgets in a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 17.

The Clerk will inform the policy members of (possibly) being invited to the second Plenary meeting. The discussion on the *HeQa budgets* is tabled for the second Plenary meeting.

02.02 KRUR (article 19 adjustments)

The central election office adjusted some articles; an overview of the changes, especially for article 19, was shared with the UC.

Several councillors requested a clearer document with the adjustments; the Clerk will share the edited version of the document via Teams. The UC is required to read the documents in preparation for a discussion tabled for the second Plenary meeting. The UC will not initiate a TF for this agenda point.

Action point: The Clerk will share the edited document with the UC via Teams. The councillors are required to review the documents before the second Plenary meeting. The discussion on the *KRUR (article 19 adjustments)* is tabled for the second Plenary meeting.

02.03 Plan of action accessibility

EUR wants to focus on the accessibility of education regarding different student groups. A plan of action was shared with the UC; it is proposed to form a EUR-wide working group with relevant stakeholders. The UC members are requested to decide on the procedure of their involvement in this plan.

The project is expected to continue for a long period of time. Thus, it was decided that the topic will be assigned to a pre-existing semi-permanent task force with the possibility that interested members of the UC can collaborate with the TF only on this particular topic. Thus, the D&I TF will be leading the agenda point and UC members Friso, Natascha, and Irena will join the workgroup.

Some advice was discussed: renaming the document with a more appropriate title; including a distinction between visible and invisible disabilities. Further, councillor Natascha will share via Teams a policy document for the Ministry of Public Health that related to accessibility.

Action point: the council members of the D&I TF with the addition of councillors Friso, Natascha, and Irena, will form a workgroup for this agenda point. Natascha will share the document of the Ministry of Public Health in Teams; the UC is asked to read the document. The UC is required to share their input regarding the content and process of this point to the TF. The discussion on the *Plan of action accessibility* is tabled for the second Plenary meeting.

02.04 Safe@EUR

In 2020, the EB agreed to a new approach within the EUR for undesirable and worrying behaviour; one recommendation was developing a central contact point. The UC was asked to support the proposal and organisation of this contact point and provide advice. The topic will be led by the Wellbeing and Social Safety TF.

Two TF members, Aleid and Erin, had joined the sounding board where several pitfalls had been recognized and are currently summarised in the document. The UC was requested to provide input regarding the document to the TF before next week. A meeting with the TF is scheduled for the upcoming week where the document and the input from the UC will be discussed. The outcome of the discussion will be shared with the sounding board and with the UC in the second Plenary meeting.

A discussion followed concerning the rights of the UC, specifically relating to social safety topics; a councillor believed that the role of the UC should have a bigger weight. However, the TF members believe that in the interactions with the policy advisors, the input from the UC is very well considered. Furthermore, the information rights for the plan are specifically regarding the contact point; the UC can expect more rights relating to social safety in the University as a general topic. The Clerk was requested to ask for better clarification regarding what is expected of the council.

Action point: The Wellbeing and Social Safety TF will take lead on this topic. The UC is requested to read the document and share any input with the TF. A meeting within the TF is scheduled for the upcoming week where the feedback of the UC will be addressed. The discussion on the topic *Safe@EUR* is tabled for the second Plenary meeting.

02.05 Proposal University Council

This initiative has the goal of increasing the representation of the UC at EUR and the inherent culture that influences the participation; the issues being addressed are the low voting rate, low visibility, promoting the electoral system and voter lists, and its culture.

The M&C TF and the intern are currently working with the central election office on parts of this proposal. Thus, Nawin will join the workgroup concerning this point.

The UC is requested to share their input on this topic with the workgroup. Several points of improvement were already discussed: increasing the financial sponsorship of the candidates and the social media presence of the council. A meeting with a representative of Tilburg university is scheduled for the upcoming day with the purpose of researching different methods of increasing the voting turnout. Additionally, the intern will research the methods of other different universities.

Action point: Nawin, Feliks, and the M&C TF members will collaborate with the Central Election Office on this topic. Feliks will begin researching the representation methods of other universities. The discussion on the topic of the *Representation of the UC* is tabled for the second Plenary meeting.

02.06 International students

The topic *02.06 International students* is tabled for the second Plenary meeting.

02.07 Advisory report LDE-centres

The Gielen committee was set up to evaluate the LDE centres; the evaluation committee had investigated how the centres fulfilled their mandates. The advisory report of the committee was shared with the UC.

A councillor requested more information regarding the spending of the yearly budget of 1M.

The document regarding the budget overview can be found in the Teams environment.

The councillors are requested to send their remarks to the Clerk before Friday the 20th of January. Based on the information received, the Clerk and the Presidium will decide how to table the discussion on this point during this cycle.

Action point: The councillors are requested to read the document and send any questions or remarks to the Clerk before Friday, January 20. The Presidium will decide, based on the input of the councillors, how the topic *Advisory report LDE-centres* will be tabled for the second Plenary meeting.

02.08 Financial semi-annual report investment programme CiO

The semi-annual report (January through June 2022) on the state of affairs of the Campus in Development phase 3 (CiO III) was sent to the UC. The report is confidential in connection with the financial figures.

The REF TF is requested to read and assess this topic internally. The UC is requested to share their input regarding this topic with the TF.

Action points: the REF TF will assess the topic *Financial semi-annual report investment programme CiO*. The TF will inform the Clerk as soon as possible whether to invite the policymaker to the second Plenary meeting. The TF will share the outcome of the internal discussion on the topic with the Clerk before Friday, January 20 in preparation for the second Plenary meeting.

02.09 Smarter Academic Year

The EB has informed the UC of the exploration conducted and the preliminary results regarding the Smarter Academic Year. The policymakers are also willing to consider the insights of the UC in the follow-up process.

The topic will be handled by the EV TF. Due to the absence of the TF Lead, it was agreed that councillor Georgiana will take over the Lead duties temporarily. Councillors Irena and Friso will join the TF temporarily for this specific topic. The UC is requested to share their input on this topic with this TF in consideration of a TF meeting organised next week.

The UC is being involved early in the process of this project. Consequently, the input of the UC is expected on a short-term basis, by the 25th of January. The councillors agreed on sending a broad overview of the priorities in order to participate early in this project. Consequently, more detailed advice will be given at later stages of the project.

There was a discussion on the level of involvement of the UC in relation to the FCs. The councillors agree that the solutions the UC can offer are dependent on the faculty. Thus, the first level of structuring should be handled at the FC level.

Action point: the EV TF including councillor Irena and Friso will handle the topic. Councillor Georgiana will share the invite for a meeting next week. A meeting with the workgroup will be organised in the upcoming week. The input of the UC will be shared with the EB by the 25th of January. The topic *Smarter Academic Year* is tabled for the second Plenary meeting.

02.10 BSA

The EB informed the UC of the national discussion of the BSA between UNL, VH, student unions, and OCW. The topic will be handled by the EV TF, with councillor Georgiana as temporary Lead and councillors Friso, Erin, and Cagla joining the workgroup for the topic.

The rights of the UC were discussed. A councillor expressed concern about the limited role of the UC considering the right of information. It was discussed that the right of information extends for the proposal stage of the topic; the UC rights could change at later stages.

The councillors are requested to share their input with the workgroup. The outcomes of this internal evaluation will be discussed in the second Plenary meeting, and it will be decided how our input will be shared with the EB, either via the CM or through a written document.

Several remarks were addressed. The EUR is the only Dutch university with a 60ECTS passing threshold. The UC is critical of this for a few reasons; the UC believes that EUR should be in accordance with the other Dutch universities. The councillors discussed the implications of the higher threshold on the students' mental health, and how high study pressure might impact it negatively. Furthermore, the UC pointed out the differences in passing criteria between the EUR faculties, such as compensations and the number of resits allowed, which have an impact on students' ability to reach the BSA threshold.

Action points: The EV TF including councillors Friso, Erin, and Cagla, and Georgiana will share an invitation for a meeting next week. A discussion on the topic *BSA* is tabled for the second Plenary meeting.

02.11 State of affairs semi-permanent TF's

- **HeQa** – there is currently a discussion on the implications of the Erasmus X projects, and whether they align with the HeQa vision of programs improving the situations of students in the present and less so in the future; this topic will be discussed further internally in the TF
- **M&C** – currently working on 1) social media outlets, to be used to increase outreach; 2) UC mandatory Tuesdays; 3) the election period, whereby the TF is discussing with the Central Elections Office regarding the possibilities of the UC.
- **Sustainability** – there will be monthly meetings with the Sustainability Manager of EUR; the TF is searching for a person to join the jury of the Sustainability Prize; the TF is in the process of discussing the options of vegan catering with the caterers on campus; the TF Lead

is currently discussing sustainability options with the contact person between the EUR and student organisations

- **Wellbeing and Social Safety** – currently working on securing a campus medic; also, there is a newly appointed ombudsperson, and the UC wishes to invite him to a plenary meeting this cycle for an introduction, and to a later plenary meeting for an evaluation

Action point: the Clerk will invite the ombudsperson to introduce himself during the third Plenary meeting of this cycle.

- **D&I** – there was a meeting with the D&I office
- **Finance** – found a link for the national policy for the Bestuursakkoord, where a budget of 50M is coming from the government to be spent on certain target groups for students and staff, and meant to reduce work pressure, enhance social safety, enhance independent research; the TF is working on maintaining the rights of the UC with regards to this project; thus it is yet unclear when the UC will give valuable input into the policy.

02.12 UC-members x TF

The councillors are requested to check the Teams document outlining the division of UC members per TFs and make changes where necessary.

03 Incoming documents

38546 - Erasmus Perspectives 2023-2026 Roadmap Durability

38547 - Erasmus Perspectives right of consent and advice

The Finance TF is requested to research both documents and inform the UC if a follow-up is needed. The TF is waiting for a response to a follow-up letter for the Budget Plan. Thus, a response from the TF on the incoming documents will be provided once the final response letter arrives.

The Finance TF will look id a response letter is needed once the follow-up letter for the Budget Plan is received.

04 Any other business

04.01 Waiver policy

The topic *Waiver policy* is tabled for the upcoming Presidium meeting. A discussion with the full UC is tabled for the second Plenary meeting.

04.02 Visit ISS/Erasmus MC

The ISS Dean has invited the UC to visit the location in the Hague. The Presidium would like to accept the invitation by conducting a Plenary meeting at the ISS location during the 6th or the 7th cycle; the Presidium would like to extend the visit to Erasmus MC as well.

The UC agreed to both proposals. The councillors believe that the visiting meetings will increase the visibility and reach of the UC in both institutions.

Action point: The Presidium will discuss the program and the procedure of the two visiting Plenary meetings at ISS and Erasmus MC.

04.03 EUR security and OccupyEUR

There was increased security on campus before Christmas; this is related to the OccupyEUR situation. Also, a councillor asked how to proceed with the OccupyEUR discussion with the EB.

Action point: The Presidium will discuss if the OccupyEUR topic has to be tabled during the 2nd Plenary meeting, the UC will discuss how to present this topic in the CM.

05 Closing