

**University Council
First Plenary Meeting
Erasmus University Rotterdam**

Date and Time: 28/03/2023, 15:00 – 17:00

Location: Langeveld 2.12

Present in the Meeting: Nikita Schoenmaker (Chair), Sandra Constantinou Juhasz, Sebastiaan Kamp, Max Wagenaar, Natascha Kraal, Ernst Hulst, Albert Wagelmans, Irena Boskovic, Emese von Bóné, Tom van Dijken, Luuk van Tol, Nawin Ramcharan, Wesley Hennep, Wincey Randoe, Veerle Bakker, Georgiana Carp, Friso Roos, Cagla Altin, Ellie Cercel (Minutes).

Online: Patryk Jarmakowicz.

Absent: **Ivonne Cune-Noten (chair)**, Lobke van Steenbergen (Clerk), Jaap Cornelese, Aleid Fokkema, Simo Azzarhouni, Erin van Gestel.

01 Opening

01.01 Setting of the agenda

The agenda was set without adjustments.

01.02 Minutes first plenary meeting

An announcement was skipped in the previous meeting. With that remark, the minutes were set.

01.03 Announcements

- *Sick absence Chair*

The UC Chair was unable to join the meeting due to sickness. Instead, councillor Nikita will preside over the meeting until 16:00. Another councillor will preside over the meeting from then on, if necessary.

- *Lunch&Learn ABD, April 11th*

On April 11, a Lunch&Learn session will be organised for the service ABD in which the UC will present its activities. The councillors interested in joining the meeting alongside the Chair are asked to inform the Clerk on time.

02 Agenda items plenary meeting UC

02.01 Acquaintance Ombudsperson

The UC would like to discuss with the Ombudsman how he is adjusting to his new role.

The Ombudsperson has been working for three months and is currently in a very busy work period. His tasks are divided between meeting with students and staff for solving issues and participating in meetings to introduce himself. The councillors remarked that there is much work to be done at EUR on preserving and improving social safety; however, due to the short employment period, the Ombudsperson was not able to discuss this matter with the council yet. However, he shared with the council one issue he encountered frequently, which is that a large number of staff members are working on issues regarding social safety but the communication between them is not sufficient, sometimes even leading to overlap between their tasks. The Ombudsperson is currently taking inventory of these staff members and their exact tasks with the hopes of diminishing this issue. This will be achieved in the upcoming weeks.

The UC discussed the resources of the Ombudsperson. Following the discussion, we learned that he was not given more hours on his or his support's contracts. The UC will discuss this issue more with the EB.

Also, the UC believes that English should not be a barrier seeing how many international students and staff there are at EUR.

Also, the UC would like to invite the Ombudsperson again in a few months to discuss more in-depth how his tasks are going and where progress still needs to be.

Action point: a discussion on how to improve the working hours of the Ombudsperson will be tabled for the second Plenary meeting.

02.02 Starter Grants policy document (short-term)

The UC Clerk has informed the policymakers of the UC conditions for giving consent on the policy document. No adjustment to the policy document was shared with the UC yet. Councillor Nikita will send the policymakers a second reminder at the end of the week.

02.03 Code of conduct elections

The councillors received the updated code of conduct for elections at EUR. The councillors were asked to read the documents in full in preparation for the second Plenary meeting; no task force was formed for this agenda point. Also, if the councillors have any questions that need to be taken up with the policymakers, they can request the presence of the policymaker via the UC Clerk no later than Tuesday 4th of April.

Action point: Councillors can request the invitation of policymakers to the second Plenary by Tuesday 4th April.

02.04 Information Governance Risk & Compliance Reglement (GRC)

The UC received a document explaining the Regulations on GRC. No remarks were shared during the meeting. The councillors were asked to request the presence of the policymaker via the UC Clerk no later than Tuesday 4th of April, if necessary.

Action point: Councillors can request the invitation of policymakers to the second Plenary by Tuesday 4th April.

02.05 Mindlab – social safety

The UC received a document outlining the theatre performance *Mindlab* consisting of a series of performances that contribute to awareness of social safety and provides input for subsequent dialogue with colleagues. The formal decision will be taken by the EB in May and June for an investment of 350.000 euros. The council wishes to discuss this topic with the EB in order to show our support for the performance taking place.

Based on the EUR annual report and a large number of complaints on social safety at our university, a councillor suggested adjusting the screenplay to incorporate issues relevant to EUR. Also, the UC wishes to raise awareness of several other programs taking place at EUR already. The UC discussed the performance and would like to share several questions with the policymakers in the upcoming second Plenary meeting.

Action point: The UC Clerk will invite the policymaker of *Mindlab* to the second Plenary meeting.

03 Incoming documents

There were no incoming documents.

04 Any other business

04.01 SDG game

Councillor Georgiana took part in an SDG game; this refers to a card-based game that stimulates discussion on reversing the trajectory of the world by 2030. The councillor suggested organising the game with the UC and the EB as a team-building exercise during a mandatory Tuesday. The game requires special trainers to lead the game, which can be organised through RSM staff, and it takes a little over 2 hours.

Action point: councillor Georgiana will share this proposal with the UC Clerk.

04.02 EUR ties with the fossil fuel industry

Councillor Tom is preparing an agenda point on the ties between EUR and the fossil fuel industry which will be tabled for the upcoming cycle; however, several of the relevant documents will be shared with the UC on the upcoming Friday via Teams. Councillors are invited to join a working group to prepare this agenda point for the upcoming cycle. This project will be coordinated with the Sustainability TF Lead.

04.03 Elections

A councillor suggested that UC members share with their respective communities the news of the elections to encourage more candidates to increase the visibility of the UC. Also, it was suggested to increase the marketing of the elections on campus; based on the discussion in the Chairs meeting this month, the advertising campaigns are still being organised. The councillors would like to know if this is happening – ask Clerk and Chair.

Also, it was discussed what the working ethics will be for the rest of the year, knowing which councillors will step down from their functions after their current mandate. However, this matter will be discussed more in-depth once the election results are known.

Also, the council discussed why we don't have any PhD students, which could be because the compensation is not fully applicable to them. Several options were discussed, such as organising a meeting with a PhD organisation to discuss the remarks of PhD students, or the possibility of extending the PhD contract by one year or one day a week, to allow for council work.

Action point: the councillors will contact the UC Clerk to discuss the options for PhD candidates; the councillors will get in contact with the PhD association.

04.04 Restricted Campus opening times

Starting April 1st, the EUR campus will have changed opening hours for campus offices to reduce energy consumption. It will still be possible to work at one's own workplace outside of those hours with the condition of pre-registering this preference a day in advance. Education and room bookings outside opening times will be scheduled in the energy-efficient buildings (Langeveld, Theil, Polak).

Two issues were raised by the council in response to this announcement. Firstly, the UC is unhappy we were not involved in this decision. Secondly, the UC believes that this decision does not satisfy staff members that have different working hours and sometimes continue working later, such as in evening classes in the Philosophy department.

Although it was suggested to raise this point with Ellen van Schoten in an upcoming sustainability discussion, the council decided against this to have a more formal discussion with the board. As a result, the topic will be tabled on the agenda of the CM.

Action point: the topic *restricted campus opening times* will be tabled for the CM.

05 Closing