

**University Council
Second Plenary Meeting
Erasmus University Rotterdam**

Date and Time: 05/12/2023, 14:00 – 17:00

Location: AB-49

Present in the Meeting: **Ivonne Cune-Noten (chair)**, Sebastiaan Kamp, Pedro van Gessel, Joseph Ayinla, Albert Wagelmans, Cagla Altin, Yasin Demir, Nawin Ramcharan, Rami Elorabi, Aki Negate, Linqendo van der Klooster, Emre Ulusoy, Linda Dekker, Emese von Bone, Aleid Fokkema, Tom van Dijken, Achraf Taouil, Anthony van der Linden, Wesley Hennep, Katarzyna Lasak, Rosita Boedhai-Jansen, Natascha Kraal, Max Wagenaar, Ellie Cercel (Minutes).

Absent: Roxanne Austin (Clerk), Ernst Hulst, Timo Zandvliet.

Guests: Bienenke Verheijke (AZ), Jeroen Jansz (CLI), Marieke Veenstra (CLI), Pablo Ortiz de Zaldumbide (AZ), Vanessa Abel (AZ).

01 Opening

01.01 Setting of the agenda

An update regarding the Convergence was tabled as AOB. With this addition, the agenda of the second plenary meeting was set.

01.02 Minutes first plenary meeting

The minutes and the action points of the first plenary meeting were set.

1.03 Announcements

- *professional behaviour UC*

Several council members showed undesirable behaviour during the previous meeting. As such, the Chair and Presidium members called for a stop to such behaviour and reminded the council members of the rules and expected professional behaviour during meetings.

02 Agenda items plenary meeting UC

02.01 Budgets HeQa Programmes

The TF HeQa shared several questions with the HeQa policymakers and project leads of Erasmus X and CLI in preparation for this meeting. Several areas required further elaboration and more questions from the UC were asked to the guests during the meeting.

CLI. Firstly, the discussion was centred on the fellowship program offered by CLI. Specifically, the UC was critical about the fellowship KPIs, with the concern that the initial setting of 20 fellows each year leading to 100 fellowships by the end of the program is unattainable and contributes to the budget overspending. In their answer, the CLI project leads clarified that the maximum capacity each year is ca. 20 fellowships, as some are extended to a period of ca. 2 years, which amounts to an average of 10 new fellowships each year. Thus, the CLI is meeting the goals initially set for this project. Furthermore, the CLI budget leads understood the previously communicated concern of the UC regarding the budget overspend caused by this project and rectified their annual budget accordingly. Finally, the members of the UC kindly requested a cohesive written report that highlights in detail the impact of the fellowship program on the educational quality of EUR students, with attention to KPIs and outcome measures; this request was positively received by the CLI project leads and will be further discussed in upcoming HeQa TF meetings.

Similarly, the UC members were critical of the budget increase from 2022 to 2023 in the Teacher Development Progress and requested additional information on this development. The CLI project leads clarified that the funding was initially from two sources, hence a lower HeQa investment was required, however, when the other source was terminated, the program was financed solely from the HeQa budget, leading to the budget increase observed by the UC members. The UC members kindly requested a written overview of other CLI projects that underwent changes in the source of financial funding.

Finally, we discussed the prospects of CLI considering the Meerjarenplan and the Bestuursakkoord. The policymakers are aware of the potential difficulties that are expected with these changes and are closely collaborating at the faculty level to sensitize potential links and identify priorities according to the Educational Vision. The process will continue and be finalized in the first quarter of 2024, leading to the spring bilateral discussions with the faculties and programs, the outcomes of which will be shared with the UC. The HeQa policymaker will provide the UC members with more information, in writing.

Action point: the CLI program leads will provide written answers to the remarks of the UC in preparation for the CM. The HeQa TF will discuss the fellowship (CLI) with the program leads. The HeQa policymaker will provide a written overview of the HeQa termination process.

Erasmus X. Firstly, the discussion centred on the Minecraft project which necessitates additional budget despite having been terminated and thus lacking KPIs. The Erasmus X project leads clarified that the funding is required in order to finance the license to the program which is being used as a tool to develop a future project, Immersive Technologies.

Secondly, we delved deeper into questions on the Inclusion project.

- *How is the Inclusion project innovative?*

With the Inclusion project, Erasmus X sets out to create adaptive educational models by looking at an inclusive cross-disciplinary approach, such as providing teachers and students with new skills.

- *What does Erasmus X add to the table beside, for instance, the IDEA centre?*

The approach is collaborative, with the objective of Erasmus X to create adaptive educational models, while IDEA is focused on inclusion policies and RISBO on teacher development.

- *What is the reasoning behind the street data, and how much time and money goes into gathering it?*

This answer will be provided in writing.

- *Why does the Inclusion project consist mainly of student assistants, and in a much larger number compared to other projects?*

Erasmus X saw the benefit of employing students from different target groups, such as POC, functional impairments, and LGBTQA+, to work on developing inclusive policies. Also, they work closely and co-create directly with students on this, which also falls under the “street data” approach.

- *Why is the goal of Erasmus X to proactively influence policy changes? To what extent does this tie into innovation?*

The Innovation project is a collaboration effort to create a program that will trickle down in the EUR community, thus providing a central node for policy development to be implemented in all schools.

- *What is the reasoning behind the prioritization of programs that overlap with others, for instance from CLI?*

Erasmus X was designed as an add-on for CLI when it comes to technology and online learning and for Impact at the core regarding impact education. Erasmus X provides the perspective and tools that other programs cannot or were not designed to do.

Action points: the Clerk will share the questions of the UC with the Erasmus X policymakers via email in preparation for the CM to be answered before Friday at 16:00. The Clerk will table the agenda point *Budgets HeQa Programmes* at the CM.

02.02 EUR Meerjarenplan 2024-2027

The TF Finance was involved in meetings with CPC to tackle the issue that, according to the prognosis of the Ministry, all Dutch Universities will be receiving less money due to decreasing student numbers, implying a shortage of 11M Euros for EUR. Even with planned reduced costs, the shortage is expected at 6M Euros in 2024. To allocate for this shortage, the budget will be deducted from the Direct Purpose Funds, normally reserved for faculties. Although the measure is acceptable for 2024, from 2025 onwards a workgroup formed by the EB will discuss better measures in order to avoid a similar course of action. Based on requests to CPC, the UC will be informed of developments and share input on measures from January 2024. As it stands, TF Finance advised the UC to consent to the current plans, but a list of advice points will be included in the letter.

The TF Finance requested tabling the topic at the upcoming CM to discuss the future looking at the Bestuursakkoorden, as well as choices we will make about, for instance, the current HeQa funding.

Action point: the Clerk will table the agenda point *EUR Meerjarenplan 2024-2025* at the CM. The TF Finance will prepare for the discussion and share the pointers with the Clerk.

02.03 Order Regulations for EUR Buildings, Grounds and Facilities 2024

The UC received the regulations that were needed for the topic; it was criticized that some of the writing is incorrect or complicated and differs between the documents. Also, the regulation was received shortly before the meeting, causing the TF assigned to this agenda point to lack enough time to prepare for the discussion.

Content-wise, the UC discussed the requirement of visibly wearing an employee pass. There was confusion regarding the reasoning behind this regulation, seeing as physical student passes have been recently eliminated and EURflex employees do not receive employee passes.

The discussion on other aspects of the document was postponed to the third plenary meeting.

Action points: the Clerk will table the agenda point *Order Regulations for EUR Buildings, Grounds, and Facilities 2024* at the CM and at the third plenary meeting.

02.04 NVAO-application for accreditation

No remarks were shared in the meeting. The UC agreed to send a standard letter of advice.

Action point: the Clerk will share a standard letter of advice regarding *NVAO-application for accreditation*.

02.05 Compensation student members participation

The TF assigned to this agenda point shared their questions with the policymakers; some of the answers received require further clarification, which will be done by email.

At the CM, the UC would like to discuss the differences in the points raised by the UC regarding compensation of participatory bodies and this proposal; it appears that no central compensation for program committees will be established, and there appears to be no central overall agreement regarding the faculty councils, instead, it will be regulated within every faculty separately. This brings us back to the starting point of our conversation about the compensation of the participatory bodies.

Action point: the Clerk will table the agenda point *Compensation student members participation* at the CM.

02.06 Erasmus MC Bachelor of Medicine Selection Regulations 2024-2025

The TF assigned to this agenda point shared their questions with the policymakers. According to the answers, the TF will prepare a letter of advice for the third plenary meeting. Thus, a discussion with the EB at the CM is not required.

As part of the advice, the TF will critically point at the plans to upscale the number of students for internships, which can prove problematic since already a large number of students is experiencing delays due to limited internship placements. Also, the UC will remark on having received the policy documentation late.

Action point: the TF assigned to *Erasmus MC Bachelor of Medicine Selection Regulations 2024-2025* will draft a letter of advice in preparation for the third plenary meeting.

02.07 Code of conduct for elections Erasmus

The TF assigned to the agenda point *Code of conduct for elections Erasmus* advised the UC to postpone the discussion on this until it can be tabled simultaneously with the Kiesreglement. Some UC members were not in favour of this request, suggesting that the Kiesreglement requires the consent of the UC, which can already be steered depending on the advice we would provide on the *Code of Conduct* policy document. However, after a long scrutiny of the documentation, the TF members believe the topics are interdependent and are unable to provide advice in the absence of the Kiesreglement.

Action point: The Clerk will check with the Central Election Office to table the policy documentation *Code of conduct for elections Erasmus* simultaneously with the KRUR documentation.

02.08 EUR campaign budget

The TF assigned to this agenda point has not met yet; a concept version of advice was drafted by the TF Lead and shared in teams, but no discussion took place. Also, the policy document is

interconnected with the KRUR documentation. The TF will organize a meeting to discuss how to proceed with the agenda point.

Action point: the TF assigned to the *EUR campaign budget* will organize a TF meeting in preparation for the third plenary meeting. The UC Clerk will table *the EUR campaign budget* at the third plenary meeting.

02.09 Financial semi-annual report Investment program (CiO) - Confidential

The UC members experienced technical difficulties when accessing the documents tabled under this agenda point in *my meeting*. The Clerk will share the documents in Teams. The discussion is postponed until the third plenary meeting.

Action point: the Clerk will share the documents on *the Financial semi-annual report Investment program (CiO)* in Teams and table the discussion at the third plenary meeting.

02.10 Highlights reports – August 2023

The UC was sufficiently informed on the topic.

02.11 Preparation Consultation Meeting

- *State of Affairs Cultural Campus, Convergence, and the Arts Institute.*

The UC would like to request an update from the EB. Specifically, regarding the Arts Institute, we are interested in the financial side, as it was mentioned in an earlier stage that EUR might be required to invest more than previously planned, yet no mention of this was made in the budget plans. We are also interested in information about the 1.6M investment required for the Convergence plans, which the UC was unaware of before having been informed separately by CPC prior to the second plenary session.

Also, the UC would like to inquire whether there is willingness from the EB to support the formation of a joint Convergence office.

- *Campus safety regarding the Palestine-Israel conflict*

The UC would like to know the standpoint of the EB on a few points reflecting on the current developments in relation to safety on campus. The UC agreed that the discussion would follow a very neutral tone and would not be elaborated beyond what was agreed in the second plenary meeting. The questions were formulated in Teams.

- *How does the EB look at programs that discriminate against students who are or are not admitted because of their background/ethnicity?*
- *How does the EB look at students returning to campus after being involved in military actions abroad?*
- *Can the EB reflect on the recent teach-ins?*

03 Incoming documents

03.08 Agenda Supervisory Board Meeting

The Presidium will discuss the outcomes of the Supervisory Board Meeting and the relevant aspects will be announced to the UC at the upcoming plenary.

Action points: based on the outcomes of the Presidium, the Clerk will table an announcement on the Supervisory Board meeting at the third plenary meeting.

04 Any Other Business

- Risk Incentivization and Evaluation on working conditions. The meeting will focus on complaints and focus points among EUR employees regarding safety and it is scheduled a day following the second plenary meeting. The councillors attending the meeting asked for input from the UC regarding the topic, which can be shared in Teams.
- Lustrum Event for other EUR locations. The organizers of the Lustrum event could arrange similar events independently at other EUR locations in the future, for instance, EUC.
- Chairs meeting. The HeQa TF members are not required to attend the meetings however it is helpful in case HeQa finances are discussed.
- Uncertainty of employment for HeQa project members. Following the HeQa TF visit to Erasmus X, several employees communicated that the staff is experiencing unrest regarding the future of their employment, seeing as the HeQa funding will be terminated after 2024 and the future of Erasmus X is not guaranteed. This has caused some to actively seek other employment, which might affect the continuity of the program. The UC will address the issue at the CM.

Action point: the Clerk will table the agenda point *Ending of HeQa in relation to continuity* as AOB at the CM.

- Convergence. The members of the TF Strategy have been invited to a meeting with members from EMC and TU Delft to discuss current proceedings in an informal way. The TF members emphasized the occasion is for improving the communication between the participatory bodies informally and there is no mandate to make decisions and any formal activities will continue to be tackled within the UC. This is separate from the Chair's suggestion of forming an informal council that would act as a sounding board for the Convergence Board. The UC agreed to continue efforts on both suggestions.