

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

**Date and Time:** 09/01/2024, 14:00 – 16:00h

**Location:** Polak 1-22

**Present in the Meeting:** Ernst Hulst, Sebastiaan Kamp, Pedro van Gessel, Joseph Ayinla, Albert Wagelmans, Cagla Altin, Rami Elorabi, Aki Negate, Linqendo van der Klooster, Emre Ulusoy, Linda Dekker, Emese von Bone, Aleid Fokkema, Tom van Dijken, Achraf Taouil, Wesley Hennep, Katarzyna Lasak, Natascha Kraal, Max Wagenaar, Roxanne Austin (Clerk), Ellie Cercel (Minutes).

**Absent:** **Ivonne Cune-Noten (chair)**, Rosita Boedhai-Jansen, Anthony van der Linden, Timo Zandvliet, Yasin Demir, Nawin Ramcharan.

## **01 Opening**

### **01.01 Setting of the agenda**

The agenda item *Code of conduct for elections Erasmus University* is on the agenda for the current cycle following its postponement during the previous cycle at the request of the UC, in order to be discussed together with the KRUR (kiesreglement). However, the Election Office explained that more time is needed to adjust the KRUR, and it is unclear how long this will take. Therefore, the Presidium decided that, in order to make use of the right of advice, the code of conduct is tabled during this cycle.

### **01.02 Minutes and action points**

There were no remarks on the minutes of the previous meeting. There was, however, confusion regarding one action point for the letter of consent for *EUR Meerjarenplan 2024-2027*. Specifically, the action point indicated that the TF Finance would adjust the letter of consent, however, the discussion reflected in the minutes indicates that the UC Clerk will make the adjustments. Nonetheless, the letter had been sent to the policymakers with the correct adjustments and on time.

### **01.03 Announcements**

- A happy new year to the Council!
- The Chair is enjoying her family vacation until January 19. Councillor Aleid will take over the task of being chair for this meeting.
- This Thursday (January 11), the moving of the UC Office will take place. A New Year's drink and thus a "housewarming" of the new office will take place on January 23, following the Second Plenary meeting.

## **02 Agenda items plenary meeting UC**

### **02.01 Additional budget request Convergence**

An additional budget request for the Convergence is tabled for consent. The document has raised several concerns that cannot be answered solely from reading the document. Thus, the councillors shared the feeling that, although our official right of consent is respected, there is a lack of insight into the Convergence matters, an issue which has repeated itself in the past. Previously, the UC asked for more insight into how the money is being spent, the targets, results, and beneficiaries of the Convergence, as well as raised attention to the lack of representation, such as a participatory body,

throughout the convergence process. Despite our considerable requests, there has been little development.

It was decided that the topic would be handled by the Task Force Finance. Some concerns were shared in the meeting and will be further discussed by the TF members. Specifically, it was unclear to the UC why the budget reports an underspending as well as a request for a budget increase to 1.1M euros. Also, there were concerns over the exclusion or omission of some relevant costs (e.g., IT costs), as well as about the grants received by EMC. The members of the UC were asked to share other concerns with the TF members through email.

Finally, the UC decided to invite the CPC staff and the policy maker to the second plenary session. The Finance TF will prepare the discussion.

**Action points:** the TF Finance will prepare and share the questions for the policymakers with the UC Clerk by Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. The UC Clerk will invite the CPC staff and policymaker to the second plenary meeting.

## **02.02 Budgets HeQa Programmes**

In the previous cycle, the UC was critical of the Erasmus X budget with specific attention to the former Inclusion project proposal and ultimately did not consent to the Erasmus X budget. In order to meet the requirements of the UC, a new budget proposal was submitted, with the Inclusion project excluded and the money (161k euros) reallocated to *pipeline projects*, the funds that Erasmus X reserves for the development of new projects. This approach entails that the HeQa TF, and by extension, the UC, will be closely involved in the co-creation of a new project to be financed with the previous *Inclusion* funds. As a result, the HeQa TF advised the UC to consent to the budget proposal as well as kindly asked anyone interested in co-creating a new project to join upcoming sessions in January and February.

The UC agreed to give consent to the Erasmus X budget.

**Action points:** the HeQa TF will draft a letter of consent to *Erasmus X Budget 2024* reflecting the discussion in the first plenary meeting. The UC Clerk will format the letter of consent to *Erasmus X Budget 2024* and share it with the EB.

## **02.03 Order Regulations for EUR Buildings, Grounds and Facilities 2024**

The topic was postponed from the previous cycle as the Task Force assigned to this agenda point was unable to arrive at a common viewpoint and requested additional time to prepare their advice. In the meantime, a new letter was drafted by 2 members of the TF which aims to bridge the two viewpoints; however, in the absence of the full group, the two TF members decided to postpone presenting their proposal until the complete Task Force has shared input on it. The decision-making will continue at the Second Plenary meeting during which the UC will choose the final version of the letter.

**Action points:** the Task Force will prepare one or two versions of the concept letter of advice for *Order Regulations for EUR Buildings, Grounds, and Facilities 2024* in time for the Second Plenary Meeting. The UC Clerk will table the discussion on the agenda item *Order Regulations for EUR Buildings, Grounds, and Facilities 2024* at the Second Plenary meeting.

## **02.04 EUR campaign budget rules for the student elections of the University Council 2024**

The topic has been postponed from the previous cycle. A proposal was shared by a councillor in Teams and several questions and remarks were gathered in the Task Force and shared with the Central Election Office. The TF is currently awaiting answers; thus, the discussion will be postponed to the next plenary meeting. In the meeting, it became unclear whether there was contact between the UC and the policymakers, as the TF did not involve the UC Clerk in the process and the councillor believed to be involved was absent. As such, the UC decided to invite the policymakers to the second plenary

meeting for a better overview of the topic. The TF members were kindly asked to prepare for the discussion.

**Action point:** The UC Clerk will invite the Central Election Office policymakers to the second plenary meeting. The Task Force *EUR campaign budget rules for the student elections of the University Council 2024* will prepare and share their questions with the UC Clerk by January 18.

#### **02.05 Code of conduct for elections Erasmus**

The Central Election Office policymakers will be invited to the second plenary meeting.

**Action point:** The Task Force *Code of conduct for elections Erasmus* will prepare for the discussion. The Task Force Lead will organize a joint meeting with the members of the Task Force *EUR campaign budget rules for the student elections of the University Council 2024*.

#### **02.06 EUR Leadership Policy**

The agenda item will be taken up in the Wellbeing and Social Safety Task Force, as the UC decided to approach the topic from the angle of wellbeing and social safety. The UC members are invited to share their questions with the members of the Task Force. For the moment, the UC discussed that the policymakers will not be invited to the Second Plenary meeting, however, that may change depending on how well the answers to the questions of the UC will clarify our remarks.

**Action points:** the Wellbeing and Social Safety Task Force will prepare the point *EUR Leadership Policy* for the Second Plenary Meeting and send their questions before January 18<sup>th</sup> to the UC Clerk.

#### **02.07 Creating an environment where student associations flourish**

A member of the UC proposed an initiative focused on creating an environment where student associations flourish. This initiative was motivated by several difficulties faced by members of student associations which are easily adjustable for their better functioning. For instance, the mailing system has now reduced possibilities for student associations, making it difficult to recruit members and fill vacancies.

For this initiative, a Task Force was formed comprising councillors Achraf, Tom, Rami, Linquendo, Sebastiaan, and Ernst. The TF will act on the proposed suggestions.

**Action point:** the Task Force for *Creating an Environment Where Student Associations Flourish* initiative will tackle the proposal action points.

#### **02.08 Ethic Consideration University Collaborations**

A Task Force was established in the previous cycle to tackle the collaborations that Erasmus University has from an ethical consideration. The Task Force prepared and shared the current proposal. In it, the UC is seeking active policy from the Executive Board that ensures all equal situations are treated equally.

Also, councillor Albert will join the task force.

As the discussion progressed, it appeared that different viewpoints on cutting ties existed in the council. On the one hand, several councillors believe that, as a university, we should refrain from making political decisions, as well as work together with the parties not aligned with our values in order to influence positive change. On the other hand, it was shared that the decision would be not in the interest of politics but instead to ensure the safety and equality of students, based on all backgrounds and gender identities. In line with this viewpoint, EUR should not have exchange programs with universities that discriminate against EUR students with these characteristics. Nonetheless, the UC has requested this policy for almost 2 years and the Executive Board has yet to

deliver on it. As a result, it was agreed that submitting the proposal is important. Also, the members of the TF were asked to expand their proposal to include staff members as well.

### **03 Incoming documents**

#### **03.01 Response to 38678 Policy Framework for Events with external speakers**

Upon reviewing the response, the UC discussed that a few points are missing from the letter. Firstly, there is no mention of how the feedback of the UC will figure in the process. Secondly, there is no response to the advice on religion.

**Action points:** The Task Force Lead for *Policy Framework for Events with external speakers* will draft a response letter reflecting these concerns and share it with the UC Clerk. The UC Clerk will format the response letter and share it with the Executive Board.

#### **03.02 Response to 38690 Employee survey (Engagement Enablement Scan 2023)**

No remarks were shared in the meeting.

### **04 Any other business**

#### **04.01 Overview of attendance and TF**

The UC discussed any remarks regarding the attendance and composition of current Task Forces. The Chair brought attention to the fact that the task force participation distribution is uneven and requested more active participation from the UC.

Councillor Wesley will join the DEI Task Force.

#### **04.02 Any other business**

- Safety traffic around Woudestein. A councillor requested an update regarding this topic. Councillor Ernst, the topic lead, will give an update at the Second plenary meeting.  
**Action point:** the Clerk will table the *Safety Traffic* update as any other business at the Second Plenary meeting.
- Opening hours. Councillor Achraf has received the feedback from policymakers and will share it with the full UC.  
**Action point:** the Clerk will share the *Opening hours* update provided by councillor Achraf with the full UC.
- Use of UC office space. As the new office space will open, the UC discussed several concerns. Firstly, in order to make good use of the space, all UC members are encouraged to frequent the office, especially on non-UC days. Secondly, a new booking system for the three separate rooms will be available shortly. Thirdly, except for Tuesdays, which are reserved for task force meetings, the UC decided to allow parties and party members to use the space. Thus, the Presidium will discuss the house rules more in-depth, which will be tabled at the Second Plenary meeting.  
**Action point:** the Presidium will discuss the good functioning rules for the new office space.
- Update Ministry of Education. A recent letter from the Ministry of Education elaborates on participation for several subjects, such as reimbursement, crisis decision-making, free tuition possibilities for members of the UC. The UC would like to discuss these updates with the Executive Board.  
**Action point:** the UC Clerk will share the update from the Ministry of Education with the Executive Board and table a discussion at the Consultation Meeting as Any Other Business.