

University Council
First Plenary Meeting
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Date and Time: 26/03/2024, 14:00 – 16:00

Location: Polak 2-22

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

Absent: Linda Dekker, Natascha Kraal.

01 Opening

01.01 Setting of the agenda

The agenda was set without any adjustments.

01.02 Setting of the minutes

The minutes were set without any adjustments. As an action point the *Any other business* discussion, the Clerk will email the RE&F department with the complaint regarding the sanitary situation in the Polak toilets.

01.03. Announcement

- HeQa symposium

Last week the HeQa symposium took place. The HeQa annual report was shared and discussed. It was a fruitful discussion with members of faculty councils and program committees.

02 Agenda items plenary meeting UC

02.01 Compensation participatory bodies (staff)

The task force Compensation, including councillors Katarzyna and Rosita, will tackle agenda point 02.02 and 02.03. Notably, the UC's advice towards the compensation of service councils is addressed by neither proposal.

Action point: the Clerk will table the agenda items *Compensation participatory bodies (staff)* at the second plenary meeting.

02.02 Compensation participatory bodies (program committees)

The task force Compensation, including councillors Katarzyna and Rosita, will tackle agenda point 02.02 and 02.03. Notably, the UC's advice towards the compensation of service councils is addressed by neither proposal.

Action point: the Clerk will table the agenda items *Compensation participatory bodies (program committees)* at the second plenary meeting.

02.03 Crisis Protocol/ EUR Emergency Fund 2024

The UC was sufficiently informed on the topic.

02.04 Sleeping pods on campus Woudestein

It is not clear from RE&F if there is enough room on campus for the sleeping pods. However, the UC supported the continuation of the initiative until more information is available. A councillor brought up the issue of preventing indecent behaviour in the pods; similar projects from other universities as well as a student project will serve as inspiration in avoiding this issue.

Action point: the Clerk will table the agenda items *Sleeping pods on campus Woudestein* at the second plenary meeting.

02.05 Redistribution of All-Gender Toilets

The task force incorporated the feedback provided in a previous meeting and presented an updated version of the proposal to the council.

A discussion ensued and various viewpoints were expressed. A few councillors disagreed with the reduction of the All-Gender toilets resulting from the proposed redistribution. However, it was highlighted that the reduction may not be avoided due to logistical constraints, for instance in the Polak building. An alternative suggestion proposed placing all-gender toilets on alternative floors rather than eliminating them.

Concerns were also raised regarding the wording of the proposal, with some fearing it might inadvertently undermine the inclusivity agenda. While the initial emphasis on inclusivity was noted, there was debate about whether the proposed reduction adequately addressed the diverse needs of all individuals, including those requiring these facilities. However, it was clarified by task force members that their intention was not to diminish inclusivity.

Additionally, the Chair suggested simplifying the proposal to focus solely on advocating a more equitable distribution of toilets, thus excluding the specific redistribution measures currently advised through the letter. However, consensus could not be reached, leading to a vote. Ultimately, 13 votes were cast in favor of sending the letter without adjustments, 7 votes against sending it, and 1 abstention. Consequently, the letter will be forwarded to the Executive Board.

Action point: the Clerk will format the letter of initiative *Redistribution of All-Gender Toilets* and share it with the EB.

03 Incoming documents

03.01 Convergence Participation Council

The UC decided that councillors Yasin, Max, and Achraf will join the discussion group.

03.02 Uitnodiging het De Jonge Akademie diner

Two members of the UC were invited to attend the dinner. Councillor Emese expressed her interest. The Clerk will share more information with the councillor personally.

03.03 Vacature studentlid DB LOVUM

Lovum is looking for a student member for their daily board per 1 September. The precondition is that they should be a Council member. Anyone interested can e-mail to university.council@eur.nl. For questions about the position, they can reach out to e.l.r.picavet@umail.leidenuniv.nl.

03.04 Response to 38705 Code of Conduct for Elections Erasmus University Rotterdam

The council was sufficiently informed; no response will be made to the letter.

03.05 Response to 38691 Starting and Incentive Grants

The council was sufficiently informed; no response will be made to the letter.

03.06 Response to 38704 Additional budget request Convergence

The council was sufficiently informed; no response will be made to the letter.

03.07 Response to 38703 EUR Leadership Policy

The UC was satisfied with the answer and there is optimism in the future student engagement with leadership roles. However, the letter does not clarify how the evaluation of the ESSB implementation of the R&R policy will take place and how it will interact with the development of policies by other Faculty Councils. The UC requested a meeting with the R&R team to clarify our concerns.

Action point: the Clerk will organize a separate council meeting with R&R.

03.08 Response to 38702 EUR Campaign Budget Rules student elections UC

The UC requested a timeline, to ensure that the KRUR and the budget rules are finalized in time for the next election.

Action point: the Clerk will request a timeline from the Election Office.

03.09 Response to 38701 EUR Order Regulations Buildings and Grounds

The letter does not provide clear answers to certain aspects of the UC's advice. Councillor Nawin will draft a response letter seeking further clarification.

Action point: Councillor Nawin will draft a response letter to *38701 EUR Order Regulations Buildings and Grounds* and share it before Tuesday 2nd of April.

03.10 Response to Letter 38700 Policy Framework for Events with external speakers

The Council was sufficiently informed; no response will be made to the letter.

04 Any other business

04.01 Overview of attendance and taskforces

Councillor Cagla was incorrectly marked as absent during the Sustainability meeting on March 26th.

Action point: the Clerk will modify the incorrect absence of Councillor Cagla in the overview.

04.02 Evaluation list system

There seems to have been a misconception regarding the list system's evaluation timeframe. Contrary to previous understanding, only in the minutes of a previous meeting is it indicated that the previous council advised evaluating the list system at some point after its implementation. This revelation alleviates the pressure for an immediate evaluation, and instead, a formal assessment will be scheduled for the upcoming academic year, following another election conducted under the list system.

The task force has discussed several issues that have changed as a result of the party system. One previous concern was ensuring representation from every faculty, a goal that the list system was intended to facilitate, especially for smaller faculties often overlooked or underrepresented. An additional concern has been diversity biases; currently, there seems to be a diverse representation when it comes to social and ethnic backgrounds, but the issue of gender diversity remains, with a notable underrepresentation of female students. An issue seemingly resulting from the party system is a tendency to politicize topics, for example by making a point and profiling oneself from a party commitment, which can at times undercut the need to collaborate and come to a consensus. However, to address this, the task force proposed offering training sessions on effective communication and collaboration skills for incoming council members.

Despite some drawbacks, the party system offers advantages, such as fostering a more professional atmosphere, increased engagement, and overall commitment, with fewer students coming into the council for a single issue and not participating in other topics.

Furthermore, a councillor inquired about the possibility of extending students' tenure within the council to two years, similar to that of staff members. This possibility will be researched further in the university regulations.

Action point: the UC Chair will research the tenure boundaries for student participation.

04.03 Any other business

- **Outcomes Sustainability meeting.** Following the sustainability dialogue, it is unclear to the sustainability task force what the role of the UC is expected to be.

Action point: will look into the role of the UC regarding the sustainability dialogues and inform the TF.

- **Campus renovations.** Due to the overlap between the renovation of the Tinbergen building and the demolition of the G building, a concern was raised that the availability of classrooms, offices, and study spaces on campus will be impaired. This concern will be raised at the consultation meeting.

Action point: the UC Clerk will table the topic of *Campus renovations* as *Any other business* at the upcoming consultation meeting.

- **Erasmus Magazine article on Israel Ties.** An article in Erasmus Magazine recently detailed the UC's recommendation to the Executive Board regarding the reconsideration of ties with an Israeli institution. While some UC members of the UC disagreed with the way the article describes the standpoint of the UC, other councillors agreed with the representation. In response to the article, there was a suggestion to contact the Chief Editor to address the council's disagreement with certain aspects. However, some councillors expressed caution about how to navigate these differences while also respecting the principles of journalistic freedom. The Chair will proceed with an email to the Chief editor summarising the concerns raised by the UC.

Action point: The Chair will draft a concept email addressing the Chief Redactor with the concerns of the UC regarding the Erasmus Magazine article.

- **Strategy Office Meeting.** A councillor remarked that, during the Strategy Office meeting, only half of the council members attended; this is concerning especially since in an upcoming cycle we will be requested to provide advice on phase 1 of the new Strategy. Active participation is crucial for meaningful discussions and progress in providing advice.
- **News membership.** Members of the UC can access news articles for free through the EUR library.
- **UC office.** The temperature in the UC office is very low, making it uncomfortable to sit for long hours.

Action point: the UC Clerk will look into the matter.

- **Study Spaces.** Councillors Linquendo, Linda, and Anthony have offered their help with the proposal for Study Spaces.
- **Vandalism incident.** A member of the UC expressed their dissatisfaction with not being able to raise individual questions with the Executive Board unless there is consensus in the UC.