

University Council
First Plenary Meeting
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Date and Time: 23/04/2024, 14:00 – 16:00

Location: Polak 3-09

Present in the Meeting: Ivonne Cune-Noten (chair), Ernst Hulst, Sebastiaan Kamp, Pedro van Gessel, Joseph Ayinla, Albert Wagelmans, Cagla Altin, Yasin Demir, Nawin Ramcharan, Aki Negate, Linquendo 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, Roxanne Austin (Clerk), Ellie Cercel (Minutes).

Absent: Natascha Kraal, Max Wagenaar, Timo Zandvliet.

01 Opening

01.01 Setting of the agenda

The agenda was adjusted with the addition of item **02.01 External Speakers**.

01.02 Minutes and action points second plenary meeting

The minutes of the second plenary meeting were set.

Two action points received updates. The UC Clerk checked whether the UC can obtain the contracts with Vitam; unfortunately, this action is not possible, however, the EB is willing to answer any questions the UC poses regarding the contract. Also, the answers regarding the quality assurance are expected by next week.

01.03 Announcements

- Procedure new election member

From May 22nd to May 30th, staff council members can candidate for the Presidium. An email will be sent regarding this. If more than one member candidates, there will be a vote on June 4th.

- Updates External Meetings

There was a recent meeting with an ISO representative in which it was discussed UC's participation and relationship with the EB. Another meeting took place with an advisor of the Municipality with regard to the traffic situation around campus; there will be future follow-ups regarding the discontinuation of tramline 7. The contact details of the Municipality Advisor will be shared with the members of the next council.

02 Agenda items plenary meeting UC

02.01 External Speakers

A EUR university student, who is involved at the Faculty Council level, appeared in front of the UC to discuss a few concerns regarding the strained financial situation at the decentral level. Specifically, there are some concerns regarding the spending of the incentive grants, as some faculties were allegedly instructed to spend 3-years' worth of funds in one year. The details will be shared in an email to the UC Clerk.

Also, some faculty members view the division of funds between central and decentral levels as somewhat disproportionate against the decentral needs, which can allegedly threaten the quality of

education that faculties can supply. The external speaker would like to hear how the UC staff experiences the concerns. Two UC members offered to discuss this matter in more detail with the guest.

Action points: the UC Clerk will receive the information regarding the faculty spending on starter and incentive grants. Councillors Anthony and Sebastiaan will meet with the guest regarding central and decentral fund allocation.

02.02 Compensation participatory bodies (faculty staff) | 02.03 Compensation participatory bodies (program committees)

The concept letter of advice for both topics *Compensation participatory bodies (faculty staff)* and *Compensation participatory bodies (program committees)* was shared with the UC. No remarks were made in the meeting. The UC agreed to send the letter.

Action point: the UC Clerk will format the letter of advice for *Compensation participatory bodies (faculty staff)* and *Compensation participatory bodies (program committees)* and share it with the EB.

02.04 Order regulations for EUR Buildings, Grounds, and Facilities

The concept follow-up letter of advice on the *Order regulations for EUR Buildings, Grounds, and Facilities* was shared with the UC. No remarks were made in the meeting. The UC agreed to send the letter.

Action point: the UC Clerk will format the letter of advice for *Order regulations for EUR Buildings, Grounds, and Facilities (follow-up)* and share it with the EB.

02.05 Sleeping pods on campus Woudestein

As the information from RE&F is still pending, no letter of initiative was tabled. The information is crucial because it will shed light on legal concerns and other practicalities that can be used to persuade the EB to support the initiative. The UC discussed their dissatisfaction with the long waiting time for a response from RE&F, urging the UC Administration to help mediate the contact.

Action point: The UC Chair will contact the RE&F director requesting an update about the Sleeping Pods initiative.

03 Incoming documents

03.01 NPO Funding

A document with an overview of the NPO funding was shared on Teams. Some aspects regarding this were still unclear to a few UC members. Firstly, it was unclear how the EUR was involved in the Bestuursakkord, considering that both NPO and HeQa funding is ending. It was clarified that the overview is being handled by the HeQa TF and that the involvement of the UC will be similar in the future. Secondly, it was unclear what the effectiveness of the NPO measures is. A few UC members

requested more supporting evidence to clarify the claims shared in the evaluation of the NPO funding. The UC members debated the usefulness of the request, as it may create an unnecessary workload for the policymakers providing this information. Finally, the UC agreed to ask for the supporting documentation if it does not create an increase in workload.

Action point: the UC Chair will contact the NPO funding policymaker asking for more documentation, if possible.

04 Any other business

04.01 Evaluation Consultation Meeting

The members of the UC evaluated the events at the Consultation Meeting and the discussions with the EB. The members were overall satisfied with the discussion, reflecting on their respectful approach towards sensitive topics. However, it was noted that the discussion was at times too restricted by the agreement made during the preparation at the Second Plenary meeting. Also, the members would like to ensure that an action point is fixed regarding receiving an update about EB's meeting with UNL. Finally, a UC member was not content with the Executive Board's approach regarding smoking and medical aid issues. The UC postponed the discussion until the updates requested in the CM regarding these two pointers are shared with the UC.

Action point: the UC Clerk will update the CM action with the update about EB's meeting with UNL, the evaluation of the smoking pilot, and an update about receiving medical aid on campus.

04.02 Any other business

- Asking the EB to contact UNL for peace missions.

A few members of the UC proposed encouraging the Executive Board to contact UNL to advocate for more diplomatic approaches to peace missions or inquire them if such an action is already taking place, seeing as the UC's proposal to cut ties with the University of Israel was unsuccessful. Several UC members were opposed to the proposal, as the EB expressed their opposition to getting involved in lobbying, wishing to stay focused on education and research instead.

- Sanitation for Restrooms in Polak building

Despite the previous UC's concerns regarding the poor sanitation of the restrooms in the Polak building, there are no improvements. As a result, two councilors will draft a letter to address the Executive Board with the issue.

Action points: Councillors Esra and Sebastiaan will draft a letter concerning the poor sanitation in the Polak restrooms. The UC Clerk will table the action point at the First Plenary meeting.

- Food prices Vitam contracts

With the support of the UC, a member will draft a letter to the EB asking for more low-cost meals and better management of the overcrowding issue.

Action points: Councillor Esra will draft a letter about the Vitam concerns.

- Input UC Space and Facilities
- Locking system Library

A councillor observed that the staff-designated working spaces within the Library lock automatically at 9:30 although they should be accessible until 11:00. The UC Clerk will communicate a request to resolve the issue.

Action point: the UC Clerk will contact the Library staff asking to resolve the automatic locking issue.

- New coffee supplier on campus

A tasting session for new coffee will take place on Thursday in several campus buildings. The coffee supplier will be chosen and it will be introduced in August.

- Article EM reimbursement RSM students

An EM article describes that a group of RSM alumni is seeking the reimbursement of tuition fees. However, as it is unclear whether the matter concerns RSM BV, the UC is unable to get involved. The UC decided to await the ruling.

- Debate proposal IDEA Center

A UC member shared a proposal regarding the types of holidays IDEA Center promotes on their social media platforms. Many councillors disagreed with the approach as stated in Teams, which sparked a disagreement regarding how minority holidays are displayed at EUR. As there was little support for the proposal, the UC urged for a more sensitive phrasing of the issue and better-substantiated research.