University Council
First Plenary Meeting
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Date and Time: 25-03-2025, 14:00-16:00
Location: Polak 2-09
Present in the meeting: Luca Hellings (chair), Hugo Speelman, Sebastiaan Kamp, Achraf Taouil, Bachar Farousi, Jaap Cornelese, Albert Wagelmans, Luna Becirspahic, Aleid Fokkema, Esra Kahramanoglu, Deniz Alican, Federica Violi, Max Wagenaar, Roxanne Austin (Clerk), Floortje Dekker (Minutes), Linda Dekker, Rosita Boedhai-Jansen, Reinier van Woerden, Jasper Klasen, Katarzyna Lasak, Clara Egger, Sara Ouljour

Absent: Daan de Boer, Jaron Buitelaar,

01 Opening

01.01 Setting of the agenda

There were no remarks, therefore the agenda was set.

1.02 Setting of the previous minutes

A UC member remarked that in the previous minutes under agenda point 2.14, a formulation was incorrect and needed to be adjusted. The original wording stated: *"A response letter was drafted, and there were no remarks. Therefore, the letter will be sent. A UC member inquired whether this would be discussed in the Good Conversation. The Chair confirmed that it would be."* The UC member commented that this wording suggests the specific letter would be discussed in the Good Conversation, which is not the case, as this was about the responses to the letters in general.

Action point:

- The Clerk will adjust the previous minutes accordingly

01.02 Announcements

End candidacy period
The Chair announced that the candidacy period ends the 30th of March. Furthermore, the Chair encouraged the UC members to be respectful to each other during this election period. A UC member remarked that the date the candidacy period starts differs in both the KRUR and the code of conduct. The Chair responded that the KRUR is leading.

HOKA reflection
The HOKA reflection will be tabled in the third plenary.

Continuation initiative
If a taskforce wants to continue an initiative, it must submit the request before the deadline for submitting initiatives for the next cycle. A UC member asked how the process would work if a letter failes to reach consensus and therefore requires continuation after the deadline has passed. The Chair clarified that in such cases, the council would vote on whether the initiative could be carried into the next cycle

02 Agenda items plenary meeting UC

02.01 All Gender Toilettes

The Chair asked if there were any remarks. A UC member suggested that a taskforce should look into this topic. They also noted that not all of last year's UC advice had been implemented and proposed inviting a policymaker to the next meeting for discussion. Additionally, the UC member expressed disappointment over the delays in addressing this issue. A taskforce will be formed on this topic:

- Taskforce All Gender Toilettes
  Sara, Jaap, Linda, Jasper, Reinier, Nawin (lead), Achraf

02.02 EUR Profile
The Chair asked if there were any remarks. A UC member noted that a taskforce meeting on this topic would take place after the current meeting and encouraged interested members to join. Another UC member questioned why the UC was being asked to reflect on a public summary rather than the actual content. The Chair clarified that the framework was being discussed now, while the content would be addressed later in the strategy. They also noted that the policy advisors could be consulted regarding the order of events. A UC member expressed concern about having to give consent on financial matters in May while reviewing the content in June. The Chair responded that Erasmus Perspectives and the overall strategy would be discussed within the same cycle. Another UC member pointed out that the UC is being asked to provide input on only one part of the strategy *'the EUR profile'* and that some members find it challenging to advise without seeing the full strategy. The Chair responded it was possible to issue an advice on this now and emphasized that the discussion was being initiated early to engage the UC in the process. The strategy taskforce will look further into this topic.

02.03 Application for accreditation for the International Master's in Advanced Research in Criminology (ESL)
This point is for informational purposes only. The UC felt they had been sufficiently informed.

02.04 EUR doctoral regulations
This topic is for informational purposes. A UC member found the roles of the first and second promoter unclear and had additional questions about the Cum Laude criteria. Another UC member asked why this topic was up for information rather than advice. In response, a UC member explained that the UC has no formal rights on this matter. However, they suggested sending a letter requesting that the UC be given an advisory role. A new taskforce will be formed to look into this topic.

- Taskforce EUR doctoral regulations
  Linda, Jasper, Federica (lead), Albert, Timo, Hugo

02.05 Diversity Travel
This topic is a continuation from the last cycle. The Chair asked about the taskforce's plan for this cycle. A UC member in the taskforce explained that they would gather information from the faculties and then draft a letter. Clara will also join the taskforce. The taskforce currently consists of:

- Taskforce Diversity Travel
  Clara, Linda, Federica, Albert, Timo, Sebastiaan (lead)

02.06 Functioning of the EUR website
A UC member introduced this initiative after encountering issues with the website. They would like to assess the extent of the problem and believe it would be valuable to investigate further. A taskforce was formed to look into this.

- Taskforce Function of the EUR website

Nawin, Reinier (lead), Rosita, Esra

03 Incoming documents

03.01 Request for review of collaborations with US universities

The Chair remarked that the formal way of working is that the UC needs to send a letter to the EB. In which the UC requests that the EB asks the committee to look into the collaborations with the USA. The Chair proposed to table this as a topic in the second plenary and a taskforce was formed on this topic.

- Taskforce Request for review of collaborations with US universities
  Jaap (lead), Linda, Federica, Sara, Nawin, Clara, Esra, Bachar

A UC member inquired about when the committee would issue an advice regarding the collaborations with Israel. The Chair responded that the UC previously sent an email requesting an update but has not yet received a response.

Action points:

- The Clerk will add '*Request for review of collaborations with US universities'* to the agenda of the next plenary meeting

04 Any other business

04.01 Overview of attendance and taskforces

A UC member informed the UC that they are part of two task forces not included in the official overview: *the Development Programme Committee* and *the Fossil Fuel Advice Group*. Both of which hold regular meetings. The Chair acknowledged this and appreciated the UC member for sharing their involvement in these initiatives.

04.02 Any other AOB

Relay Strike April 8th
A relay strike is scheduled for April 8th. A UC member encouraged other UC members to participate. Another UC member noted that a plenary meeting is also scheduled for that day. The Chair remarked that rescheduling the meeting on such short notice would likely be difficult, but they would look into it.

Camera Regulations
Following a meeting this morning on camera regulations, a UC member suggested formulating questions on the camera policy. The Chair responded that policy advisors are currently working on new regulations and will involve the UC in the process. The Chair added that the taskforce can examine the issue, but it will also return to the UC once the new regulations are ready. Another UC member noted that the new regulations are expected in 2026 and expressed the desire for an earlier follow-up. The Chair clarified that the taskforce can keep tabs on this matter. A UC member also remarked they're bothered that the policy makers ignored all the policy steps up until now.

- Taskforce Camera Regulations

Timo, Sara, Aleid, Sebastiaan, Luna, Jaap, Linda, Hugo, Federica, Deniz, Achraf

New Report Promovendi Nederland
A UC member brought up a new report by Promovendi Nederland. Which contained a number of how many students finish their PhD in time. The report included data on the number of students completing their PhD on time, in which EUR did not perform well. A UC member expressed interest in addressing this issue. The Chair suggested raising it during AOB in the consultation meeting. However, the UC member clarified that they wished to raise the questions as a council. The Chair responded that they should submit an initiative in that case.

Promotion plaza
A UC member wanted to use the plaza screen to promote the elections but was informed that it cannot be used to promote individual parties. The UC member expressed frustration and inquired about the possibility of changing this rule. The Chair clarified that this is likely the existing policy and recommended submitting an initiative to propose a change. Another UC member added that they do not see a need for individual promotions on the screen.

Examination board
A UC member remarked that decisions made by the examination boards sometimes seem unclear and can take a long time. They expressed interest in exploring whether any action could be taken to address this issue. The Chair encouraged the UC member to submit an initiative on this matter. The UC member expressed that they are open to suggestions from the UC. Another UC member clarified that the UC has limited influence over the examination board and emphasized the importance of addressing the issue carefully.

05 Closing