

University Council
Consultation meeting UC/EB
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Date and Time: 17-09-2024, 14:00-16:00

Location: Sanders 0-12

Present in the meeting: Ellen van Schoten (EB, Vice-Chair), Ann O'Brien (Secretary to the Board), (Ivonne Cune-Noten (UC chair), Hugo Speelman, Sara Ouljour, Sebastiaan Kamp, Linda Dekker, Emese von Bone, Jaron Buitelaar, Achraf Touil, Reinier van Woerden, Esra Kahramanoglu, Bachar Farousi, Jaap Cornelese, Albert Wagelmans, Luna Becirspahic, Rosita Boedhai-Jansen, Ernst Hulst, Nawin Ramcharan, Wesley Hennep, Aleid Fokkema, Timo Zandvliet, Deniz Alican, Daan de Boer, Katarzyna Lasak, Rosan Pittens (EB, secretary), Roxanne Austin (Clerk), Floortje Dekker (Minutes).

Absent: Annelien Bredenoord (EB Chair), Jasper Klasen

01. Opening consultation meeting

01.01 Setting of the agenda

Agenda item 04.01 will be taken off the agenda. The question was raised by a Council member but handled by e-mail. Therefore, the council member informed the UC that it can be taken off the agenda.

01.02 Setting of the minutes of the previous meeting/action points

The minutes of the second plenary meeting were set.

The EB will inform the UC about the meeting with the Vice Deans of Education, as it relates to the topic of recorded lectures. The EB responded that this topic will be on the agenda in December.

01.03 Announcements

Unfortunately, and with apologies, the EB Chair is not able to join the meeting online today. Since she has another important meeting in Brussels, she had to attend.

02 Agenda items consultation meeting

02.01 Response to 38761 Proposal outdoor outlets and wall outlets lecture rooms

The EB mentioned that electric connections powered by solar energy are a good initiative. However, since the connections are dependent on solar energy, the connection is necessarily stable. So, a trial will be set up on the plaza and the EB will then inform the UC on the outcomes of the trial.

Action points:

- The EB will update the UC on the outcomes of the solar-powered connections trial on the plaza.

02.02 Response to 38723 Protect and promote academic freedom

In the response it was mentioned that conducting separate research was not the right approach. A UC member brought up that when only integrating questions into employee surveys, a student perspective is missing. The UC would like to know why conducting separate research is not needed. This question should be answered by the EB Chair but since she is not here. A follow-up is needed in a letter.

Action point:

- The EB will send a follow-up letter to the UC, providing answers to the questions of the UC regarding the response to 38723 on protecting and promoting academic freedom.

03 Incoming documents**04 Any other business****04.02 Reflection on outcomes Prinsjesdag**

The University will stick to their plan of making a budget that is independent from the outcomes of Prinsjesdag. They will not come up with additional budget cuts. By the end of the year, the EB will have scenarios ready for the future which will not only include dealing with the budget cuts but also things like diversifying income streams. The university is also considering legal action against the government. Not to stop the budget cuts per se but to send a signal to the government that the new measures are not good for education and innovation.

The EB mentioned a loss of 24 million was expected before in the budget but in reality, it will probably be within 6 to 9 million. So, this is better than expected. Furthermore, the EB talked about the renovation of Tinbergen and that this will increase the exploitation costs in the budget. Some calculations have been made on how these costs can be absorbed within the total real estate portfolio. This will be in the budget 2025 onwards. Scenarios and measures will be created to follow up on these calculations.

A UC member wanted to know more about the legal actions that the university will maybe take against the government. The legal actions will be taken together with other universities. There will be further discussion with UNL on this topic. This meeting will take place on the 4th of October.

Another UC member asked if the university would consider working together with private companies because of the new financial constraints. The EB responded that they will investigate that and that this will be a part of the scenarios that they are developing. Following this, a question was asked whether the solidarity between universities is getting

worse. To which the EB replied that it will be tested but there is a lot that unites the universities now as well.

The UC Chair asked how the UC will be involved in the scenarios that the board will make. The board will start in October to work on the scenarios. The board takes note that the UC should be involved somehow but it's unclear on how this will look like. The board is working on the process at the moment and a timeline will be issued soon.

A UC member asked how the board looks at the langstudeerboete or 'long study fine' that was discussed during Prinsjesdag. The Chair mentioned that this is a new topic so a written question should be sent to the EB. The EB did give a brief response that they do not agree with the 'long study fine' but do not want a scenario where the university has to compensate for the langstudeerboete because of the strained financial situation.

Action point:

- The EB will inform the University Council about the process and timeline for their involvement in the scenario development.

04.03 Hygiene of restrooms on campus

UC member mentioned that the Hygiene is not up to standard and if there are any updates on that. The board mentioned there are cleaning schedules in place which should be sufficient to keep everything clean. The EB is looking into how to urge people to get rid of their own waste and clean after themselves. So, they will look into why this is the case. The EB does not want to spend more than necessary on cleaning services considering the financial constraints. However, the EB will have talks with the cleaning services and give a follow-up.

Action point:

- The Executive Board will update the University Council on the **hygiene of restrooms on campus**

04 Closing