University Council
First Plenary Meeting
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Date and Time: 06-05-2025, 14:00-16:00
Location: Polak 2.18
Present in the meeting: Jasper Klasen (Substitute Chair), Hugo Speelman, Sara Ouljour, Sebastiaan Kamp, Achraf Taouil, Jaap Cornelese, Albert Wagelmans, Luna Becirspahic, Aleid Fokkema, Esra Kahramanoglu, Deniz Alican, , Roxanne Austin (Clerk), Floortje Dekker (Minutes), Linda Dekker, Rosita Boedhai, Katarzyna Lasak, Jaron Buitelaar, Nawin Ramcharan, Reinier van Woerden

Absent: Timo Zandvliet, Max Wagenaar, Daan de Boer, Bachar Farousi, Luca Hellings (Chair)

Waiver: Clara Egger, Federica Violi

01 Opening

01.01 Setting of the agenda
There were no remarks, therefore the agenda was set.

01.02 Setting of the minutes
There were no remarks, therefore the minutes were set.

01.03 Announcements

Handover document
The Chair announced that the handover working document will be posted on Teams tomorrow. The TF leads of the permanent and semi permanent Taskforces are asked to include their handover in the document. Instructions will follow via Teams. The deadline to include the handover is June 3rd (Third Plenary meeting). As the council will get a lot of new members next year, the handover will be extra important

High number of topics on the agenda
There are sixteen topics on the agenda for this cycle. The Presidium made this decision to ensure that all members have the opportunity to discuss their initiatives. The Chair urged the UC to be concise and to the point.

Information session Advice Committee Fossil Industry
An information session is scheduled for next Tuesday, May 13, with the Advice Committee on the Fossil Industry. On this date, the committee's final advice will be presented and shared with the deans. During the session, the committee will explain how the assessment was conducted. UC members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Waiver UC members
Clara and Federica have waivers and will be attending the meeting online today.

02 Agenda items plenary meeting UC

02.01 Additional budget participatory bodies

This topic is up for consent. A UC member remarked that it could be good to use these funds for broader topics and that a taskforce should look into this topic.

- Taskforce Additional budget participatory bodies
  Achraf (lead) Esra, Nawin, Linda, Aleid

02.02 Student Charter 2025-2026
This topic is up for consent. The Chair urged the members to hand in the technical questions on time. The deadline for technical questions is Wednesday 14th of May. A UC member remarked that they would like to form a taskforce on this topic:

- Taskforce Student Charter 2025-2026
  Timo (lead), Hugo, Jaap

02.03 Revision Financial Support Fund Regulations
A taskforce will be formed on this topic.

- Taskforce Revision Financial Support Fund Regulations
  Jaron (lead), Achraf, Linda

02.04 Revision of the recognition regulations for Student Organizations
A UC member proposed to form a taskforce, expressing concern over changes they found unusual. They felt that some of the changes made were not beneficial for student associations and would like further clarification on the reasoning behind these decisions. They expressed interest in discussing these matters directly with the policy makers. Additionally, another UC member noted that a letter addressing a related issue had been sent but has not received a response yet.

- Taskforce Revision of the recognition regulations for Student Organizations
  Achraf (lead), Luna, Hugo, Esra, Reinier, Nawin, Sebastiaan, Bachar, Timo, Deniz

02.05 Roadmap Planetary Health Diet
A UC member remarked that the policy makers took the UC's advice seriously and incorporated several of the points previously raised. They also noted that it's not possible to satisfy everyone. Another UC member stated they would like to discuss three specific points mentioned in the cover note. The Chair responded that these points should be addressed within the taskforce. A taskforce will be formed on this topic.

- Taskforce Roadmap Planetary Health Diet
  Achraf (lead), Nawin (lead), Esra, Jaap, Rosita

02.06 Annual Report Confidential Counsellors' Network for Staff and Students 2024
This topic is up for information. The Chair asked if any members were interested in reviewing the document. The UC members agreed that the HR taskforce will take this up. A UC member remarked it is important to look at page 10, which discusses recommendations. They specifically pointed out a recommendation for compulsory training for students. The UC member asked the taskforce to examine this further. The lead of the HR taskforce confirmed that they will look into it.

02.07 EUR Doctoral Regulations
The previous taskforce from the last cycle will work on this topic.

02.08 Brede Rotterdamse Studentenraad – Closed meeting

The Chair provided some context for this topic. Within the municipality, it was agreed to establish a broad student council, composed of students from various institutions. Some regulations have been developed by this student council, and the UC has been asked whether they want to join. This topic is a closed point as the associated documents are confidential because they have not been officially published yet. To work on this topic a taskforce was formed.

- Taskforce Brede Rotterdamse Studentenraad
  Achraf (lead), Sara, Nawin, Jaron, Jaap,

02.09 Functioning of the EUR website
This topic was also on the agenda in the previous cycle and continues into this cycle, as the technical questions have not yet been answered. Policy makers have indicated that they are open to meeting with the taskforce if desired. The taskforce lead stated they will first review the responses and inform the Clerk if a follow-up meeting is needed.

02.10 Lof der Zotheid as Master graduation gift
A UC member who initiated this proposal briefly introduced it. Another UC member commented that this appeared to be a matter for individual faculties to decide. However, they acknowledged that the UC member could still advise faculties to consider the *Lof der Zotheid*. Another UC member raised concerns about the idea of giving gifts, especially in light of recent budget cuts. It was also mentioned that the chairs meeting will take place soon, and this topic could be brought up there, as it seems to be more of a faculty-level issue. A taskforce will be formed on this topic.

- Taskforce Lof der Zotheid as Master graduation gift
  Luna, Aleid, Esra, Deniz, Jaron, Reinier (lead)

Action point:
- The Presidium will discuss including the topic *"Lof der Zotheid" as a Master's graduation gift* on the agenda of the upcoming Chairs meeting.

02.11 More direct participation by My Eur Polls
The UC member who created the initiative explained that it aims to encourage more participation from students who are otherwise less involved. They suggested that lowering the threshold for participation could help engage more students. Another UC member added that it is often the same group of students who make their voices heard. To address this, they proposed adding polls to MyEUR as a way to gather broader student input. A taskforce will be formed on this topic.

- Taskforce More direct participation by My Eur Polls
  Luna (lead), Nawin, Jasper

02.12 Online library resources: access after retirement
The UC member who created this initiative commented that they had raised the topic with the EB a few cycles ago. Since then, they have been in discussions with some employees at the library, which led them to discover that there are alternative options for externals to access the online library. As there are two workstations available at the library for externals to use. While they do not believe there is a high chance for the initiative to succeed, the UC member commented they would like to try nonetheless. A taskforce will be formed on this topic.

- Taskforce Online library resources: access after retirement
  Aleid (lead) Sebastiaan, Jaron, Sara

02.13 Dutch Language Expansion for International Students
The UC member who created the initiative pointed out that there are limited opportunities for students to learn Dutch. Another UC member agreed, emphasizing that this is an important issue that has been raised multiple times by international students. It was also noted by another member that the taskforce could take into account the free Dutch courses offered by the municipality. Several UC members expressed support for the initiative, stating they felt it was a positive proposal.

- Taskforce Dutch Language Expansion for International Students
  Jaap, Linda, Sara, Esra, Rosita, Jaron, Deniz (lead), Clara

02.14 Impact of national policy changes on accessibility of sports and campus facilities at EUR
A UC member commented this topic was dicusssed briefly before in AOB. Technical questions were already shared in the intiative proposal. A taskforce will be formed on this topic.

- Taskforce Impact of national policy changes on accessibility of sports and campus facilities at EUR
  Rosita, Nawin(lead), Achraf, Esra, Federica

02.15 Strengthening Faculty Council Democracy through the Introduction of a Party-Based Electoral System
This topic will be addressed over two cycles. In the current cycle, technical questions will be sent out, and the topic will conclude after being discussed in the chairs meeting. In the second cycle, a letter will be drafted and sent. A UC member noted that a name was incorrectly listed on the cover note, Achraf should be replaced with Jasper. They also suggested talking to the Central Electoral Office to learn more about how they handle the electoral system. A taskforce has been formed to work on this topic.

- Taskforce Strengthening Faculty Council Democracy through the Introduction of a Party-Based Electoral System
  Achraf, Nawin (lead), Jasper

02.16 Microwaves on campus
The UC member who created the initiative explained that they did so because of ongoing feedback about the lack of sufficient microwaves on campus. They expressed interest in exploring possibilities to expand options for students to heat up their food. A taskforce was formed on this topic.

- Taskforce Microwaves on campus
  Rosita, Achraf (lead), Linda, Deniz, Esra

03 Incoming documents

03.01 Response to 38835 Eurekaweek duration
There were no remarks.

03.02 Response to 38838 Gowns for all
A UC member remarked that this topic will be discussed within the taskforce, and a response letter will be drafted. Additionally, the taskforce has been invited to discuss this topic alongside two other PhD-related topics.

03.03 Response to 38837 EUR Flag protocol

A UC member remarked that it was good to receive a concrete timeline. Another UC member questioned the reference to a “current protocol” in the response, noting that no such protocol exists. The Clerk will send a clarifying question to the policy makers regarding this point. Additionally, a UC member from the taskforce mentioned that a meeting with the policy makers will be scheduled, where this question can also be addressed. In the end it was decided that the UC members will ask the question during the meeting with the policy makers.

03.04 Response to 38840 Security cost Due to demonstrations
There were no remarks.

03.05 Response to 38831 - Action Plan Labour Authority
The HR taskforce met with the policy makers and is still working on this topic.

03.06 Response to 38833 - EUR wide PhD Council
A UC member mentioned that a meeting with policy makers is scheduled to discuss three items related to PhD issues: the PhD council, PhD regulations, and Ius promovendi. Additionally, there is a separate meeting for the PhD seat in the UC.

03.07 Lack of enforcement of the campus-wide smoking ban
A UC member raised a question about what policy makers expect from the UC in terms of asking questions. There was also a request for the UC to bring this up to the EB. One UC member questioned the usefulness of doing so, given that the issue had already been discussed with the EB in the past. Another member noted that while the UC had raised this before, little progress had been made. A third member supported bringing it up again, pointing out that it was also discussed during the meeting with EMC, where the EB was advised to contact the nudging experts at ESSB. The UC member expressed interest in formally addressing the matter with the EB. The Chair proposed adding the topic to the AOB for the upcoming consultation meeting.

Action point:
- The Clerk will add the ‘*Lack of enforcement of the campus-wide smoking ban’* to the AOB in the consultation meeting

04 Outgoing documents

04.01 Brief van de UR Voorzitter aan Decanen van de EUR
The letter to the deans discusses the importance of being aware of the rights of participatory bodies. However, the UC staff members from professional services are not represented by deans, but by directors. A UC member suggested that it would be beneficial to also consider including the directors of professional services in this letter. The UC Chair will look into this.

Action point:
- The UC Chair will look into the possibility of including the director of professional services in the letter

05 Any other business

05.01 Overview of attendance and taskforces
There were no remarks.

5.02 Any other AOB

Removal of ATMs

The ATM has been removed from campus. A UC member expressed interest in inquiring whether these facilities could be reinstated, as many students rely on them. The Chair suggested that the R&F taskforce could raise this issue with the policy makers. Another UC member emphasized the importance of asking the policy makers how students and staff can manage without the ATM and how this change was communicated to both groups.

Strategy session UC
A UC member remarked that a strategy session was held, but not many UC members attended. They expressed disappointment, noting that this is problematic as UC members may not be well-informed on future topics related to strategy. The Chair remarked that the attendance of these meetings will also be added to the overview.

Diversity travel
A UC member from the taskforce remarked that the technical questions have been answered. However, the taskforce found them unclear and has several follow-up questions. They would like to submit additional questions to the policy makers and continue working on the topic in the meantime. Furthermore, they intend to raise some questions with the EB. The Chair noted that a meeting will be scheduled with the policy makers, and if that proves insufficient, the topic can also be addressed during the consultation meeting.