

University Council
First Plenary Meeting
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Date and Time: 14-10-2025, 14:00-16:00

Location: Sanders 0-12

Present in the meeting: Luca Hellings (Chair), Roxanne Austin (Clerk), Floortje Dekker (Minutes), Dogukan Demirboken, Albert Wagelmans, John Hays, Borja Ranzinger, Rik Alleleijn, Linda Dekker, Clara Eggers, Bilal El Allouchi, Federica Violi, Max Wagenaar, Sebastiaan Kamp, Mohamed Khalil, Iwona Gusc, Caressa Bol, Lourdes Wansink Mangiano, Bodi Winkler, Simon Maas, Deniz Alican, Hans van Oosterhout, Joseph Ayinla, Jaap Cornelese, Max Wagenaar, Manuela Bartolovic,

Waiver: Clara Egger

Absent: Rosita Boedhai, Linda Dekker, Adina Popovici,

01 opening

01.01 Setting of the agenda

The Chair remarked that an agenda point had been added yesterday, which is 02.05. This topic is up for information. The Chair also explained that the Presidium decides which initiatives are added to the agenda. Three initiatives were not added, including the initiative on policies regarding undesirable behavior, breaches of academic integrity, and the code of conduct, submitted by the D&I Taskforce.

The Presidium found the proposal well-prepared, as it builds on earlier questions raised during the consultation Meeting. However, it was observed that the initiative's current aim is primarily to gather information rather than pursue a concrete outcome. For this reason, plenary discussion is not required yet. The D&I Taskforce is encouraged to continue its dialogue directly with the policymakers.

01.02 Setting of the previous minutes

There were no remarks on the previous minutes, therefore the minutes were set.

01.03 Announcements

New UC office

The Chair remarked that the office has officially been moved to the A-building. The UC can visit the office starting next week.

UC representation ITK

A UC member announced that they had a meeting with ITK and noted that ITK requires 6 to 8 people to represent the UC. The Chair clarified that there is already a UC representation to ITK, which consists of three people. However, this larger representation of 6 to 8 people is intended to focus more on the UC's role in relation to NVO and ITK.

02 Agenda items plenary meeting UC

02.01 Payment Regulations UC

The Chair elaborated on the changes made to the document and asked whether there were any remarks. A UC member inquired why these points had been altered. The Chair explained that students in the BRS will receive compensation for this, whereas students previously received compensation for HoKa/HeQa, which is no longer the case.

A UC member also noted that they had been asked by the BRS whether the university wants the EMC to join as a separate body. The Chair stated that this could be discussed during the any other business. No UC members were interested in forming a taskforce and the regulations will be further discussed during the third plenary meeting.

02.02 BBR EUR 2026

A UC member remarked that the document requires careful reading and emphasized that members should ensure they have read it thoroughly. Another UC member remarked that while the changes made are not drastic, there are certain points on which they would like to ask technical questions. A taskforce was formed to look into this topic.

- Taskforce BBR EUR 2026
Sebastiaan, Caressa, Mohamed, Hans (lead)

02.03 LDE – joint regulation

A UC member remarked that they felt there were English words used in the document where suitable Dutch translations exist. Another UC member noted that the document lacks agreements on financial matters, such as financial control or budgeting. A taskforce was formed to look further into this topic.

- Taskforce LDE- joint regulation
Bodi (lead), Jaap, Joseph, Lourdes

02.04 Termination of the Research Master in Public Administration

This point is up for advice. There were no remarks on this agenda item. The Chair asked whether anyone wished to establish a taskforce. A UC member inquired about the purpose of such a taskforce. The Chair explained that, in this case, a program is being terminated and the UC holds the right of advice on the matter. A taskforce could therefore examine the topic in more detail and provide advice. The UC members decided to form a taskforce to further examine this topic.

- Taskforce Termination of the Research Master in Public Administration
Clara, Simon, John, Bilal (lead)

02.05 Central budget allocation for the Participation Act 2025 to 2026

This point is up for information. The Chair noted that not everyone may have had time to read it yet, as it was added late. The Chair asked whether there were any remarks. A UC member suggested forwarding the topic to the HR taskforce, as it concerns participation and could relate to other HR matters. The UC members decided that the topic will be assigned to the HR taskforce. Joseph and Mohamed expressed interest in joining the discussion on this topic. Another member remarked that the D&I taskforce could also be involved. The Chair stated that anyone interested is welcome to join when the HR taskforce discusses this topic and that those interested can reach out to Federica.

02.06 Development of a voting guide (stemwijzer)

A UC member who created the initiative commented that many students are not aware of the UC Council and that voter turnout is relatively low. Therefore, they created this proposal to create an overview on the website where students can see all the parties and read about their plans. A UC member asked whether this initiative was known to have been positively received by students in Utrecht as this was named as an example where they implemented this. A UC member responded they did not know. Another member remarked that the website is currently only available in Dutch, which makes it difficult for international students to access, and added that the website is not very user-friendly. The Chair noted that the UC member could submit another initiative to address this.

One UC member asked what key issues would be discussed by the parties in the voting guide. A UC member responded that this would be determined by the parties themselves and would not be centralized. Another member mentioned that within their faculty not many employees are aware of the UC. A member also remarked that there are reasons why governments typically do not provide voting guides themselves, as it could be challenging for parties or individuals who join late to be included on the website. A UC member added that the voting guide could cover not only the parties but also individual candidates, and that they could explore ways to ensure fairness. The guide would serve simply as an overview of each party's positions. Another UC member remarked that they would like to create a taskforce in the future to improve the voting system as a whole. The UC members decided to form a taskforce:

- *Taskforce Development of a voting guide (stemwijzer)*
Lourdes, Joseph (lead), Rik, Mohamed, Sebastiaan, Borja

02.07 Mechanisms/Options for students and staff from Gaza to work/study at EUR

A UC member elaborated on this initiative, explaining that it aims to help students and staff from Gaza continue their studies and research in a safe environment. They mentioned hearing from colleagues in Italy who already have a similar initiative in place. The UC member expressed interest in exploring what the university could do in this regard and proposed forming a taskforce to examine what might be possible.

- *Taskforce Mechanisms/Options for students and staff from Gaza to work/study at EUR*
Mohamed, Bilal, Deniz, Dogukan, Joseph, Simon, Clara, Federica

02.08 Governance structure Impact & Engagement

A UC member provided more context for this initiative. They noted that this topic had already been briefly discussed in the previous cycle. Impact and Engagement has been introduced as a new strategic pillar, but they feel that its implementation has only been partially realized. They proposed exploring with a taskforce whether it would be useful to provide advice to the EB on this matter and expressed they would like to discuss it within the strategy taskforce.

Another member remarked that the document did not have an ideal layout and asked what the exact purpose of the initiative was. The UC member responded that while Impact and Engagement is the third strategic pillar, its objectives and mandate remain unclear, and

financial resources are currently limited. Therefore, they would like to investigate this topic in more depth and explore the possibilities. The UC member also remarked they remain open to different outcomes. Another member remarked that although engagement is identified as a core activity in the strategy, there is a lack of organizational support and structural embedding for it. The UC members decided that this topic will be assigned to the strategy taskforce.

02.09 Policies on undesirable behavior, breaches of academic integrity and code of conduct

A UC member remarked that there are ongoing developments regarding the code of conduct and the renewal of the social media policy. Therefore, they would like to gather input on existing policies and noted that they have already shared technical questions on Teams. The aim is to provide advice on what the UC would like to see included in a code of conduct or integrity code. Another UC member asked what the purpose of this initiative was. The first UC member explained that they had asked the EB about their stance on social media conduct, to which the EB responded that they are developing a code of conduct. Accordingly, the UC member wants to start gathering information and provide advice early on in the development process. They intend to examine existing policies, potential changes, and whether differentiation is needed for management positions.

One member remarked that a structure for this process is already in place, but another UC member noted that it is unclear to many employees. A UC member added that this is a very sensitive procedure, as accusations of breaches of academic integrity could cause significant harm. Another UC member noted that it is better to get involved early rather than wait for a finished policy draft.

A UC member clarified that even if the UC is involved in co-creating the policy, it can still give a final opinion on it, even if that opinion is negative. The Chair clarified that this initiative focuses on the procedure rather than the content of the policy. One UC member expressed support for investigating this topic. It was decided that the D&I Taskforce will look into this, and UC members are welcome to join the taskforce specifically for this topic. Another UC member mentioned that they received an email from a colleague requesting feedback on a code of conduct from the KNAW. There were no objections to assigning this initiative to the D&I Taskforce. The Chair reminded UC members to ensure they share their technical questions on time, noting that the deadline has been posted on Teams. The following members will join the D&I taskforce for this topic: *Hans, Bodi, Borja, Joseph, Iwona*.

03 Incoming documents

03.01 Mail regarding “Sloopfeestje”

The Chair provided some background on this letter, which concerns organizing a party before the buildings are demolished. However, they noted that there is a lack of funding and also a lack of organizational capacity. There were no remarks from the UC members.

03.02 Response to 38891 Right of Initiative - Microwaves on Campus

There were no remarks.

04 Any other business

04.01 Attendance and taskforces

A UC member remarked that they did not expect to be notified about attendance. Another UC member noted that it has always been expected for UC members to attend meetings related to the UC, as outlined in the code of conduct. A UC member added that they feel some meetings are more important than others. The Chair responded that in principle it is expected that members attend all meetings. A UC member commented that this is difficult for them due to work obligations. Another UC member added that all UC members do their best to attend, but work commitments sometimes prevent them from doing so. The Chair emphasized that the overview is not intended to shame anyone. Another member remarked that a mechanism should be in place for cases in which a member does not attend meetings for months.

Another member remarked that compensation varies across faculties. Some faculties for example are not able to access funds. A UC member asked whether the Chair can address this. The Chair replied that staff struggling with this should reach out so the matter can be looked into.

4.02 Any other AOB

EMC Representation in the BRS

A UC member remarked that they had been in contact with the Municipality of Rotterdam, during which they asked whether EMC could join the BRS as a separate body. Another UC member noted that the students from Erasmus in the BRS represent all faculties including EMC. A UC member remarked that they thought EMC had a separate status. The Chair clarified that EMC falls under the umbrella of Erasmus University, which the students will represent. Several members commented that they do not see the need for EMC to have its own representation, as the current members already represent them. Another UC member noted that several UC members are from EMC and could be asked for input.

A UC member remarked that the university has only three seats in the BRS, which is limited compared to all the Schools of Applied Sciences. Therefore, having extra seats with EMC would give the university more influence. The Chair acknowledged this perspective but reiterated that EMC falls under the same university. A UC member added that extra members would always be beneficial, so the opportunity should be taken. Another member clarified that no additional school is being represented, as EMC is not a separate school. Another member suggested that LDE students could be considered to provide extra seats. The Chair noted that the BRS is still under development and that changes may still occur.

Presentation lifelong learning

A member remarked that the presentation had not been circulated. A UC member noted that they had shared the presentation with the Clerk, who will send it to everyone.

Action point:

- The Clerk will share the presentation lifelong learning