University Council
First Plenary Meeting
Erasmus University Rotterdam

Date and Time: 18-02-2025, 14:00-16:00
Location: Polak 2-18
Present in the meeting: Luca Hellings (chair), Hugo Speelman, Sara Ouljour, Sebastiaan Kamp, Achraf Taouil, Bachar Farousi, Jaap Cornelese, Albert Wagelmans, Luna Becirspahic, Ernst Hulst, Nawin Ramcharan, Aleid Fokkema, Esra Kahramanoglu, Timo Zandvliet, Deniz Alican, Federika Violi, Max Wagenaar, Roxanne Austin (Clerk), Floortje Dekker (Minutes).
Absent: Linda Dekker, Katarzyna Lasak, Rosita Boedhai-Jansen, Reinier van Woerden, Daan de boer

01 Opening

01.01 Setting of the agenda

Amount of initiatives
The Chair remarked that there are more initiatives on the agenda than usual. Initiatives from the UC are encouraged, but due to the volume, the time allocated for each initiative will be kept short. A UC member inquired if there is less time overall or just for the initiatives. The Chair clarified that the reduction in time is mostly for the initiatives. Another UC member asked about the attendance of UC members for the task forces, as it may be challenging to attend all of them due to the number of initiatives. The Chair responded that this will be looked into further if it becomes an issue.

Delayed initiatives
The initiatives on "All Gender Toilets" and "Roadmap Planetary Health Diet" are not yet on the agenda for this UC cycle, as the decision-making process for these topics by the EB has been delayed.

01.02 Setting of the previous minutes

An adjustment needs to be made to 2.03.

Action point:

- The Clerk will adjust the minutes of the last plenary meeting

01.03 Announcements

Dialogue Training Session
A dialogue training session is scheduled for next week.

Postponed Initiatives Resubmission
The postponed initiatives need to be resubmitted, with one exception: the flag protocol. The letter for this initiative will be voted on during the third plenary.

Attendance plenary meetings
The Clerk will do a round of name calling to check the attendance from now on.

02 Agenda items plenary meeting UC

02.01 Action plan report labor authority
A UC member inquired about the expectations for the UC's role. The Chair explained that the UC can provide positive advice, dive deeper into the topic while offering positive advice with additional considerations, or issue negative advice if necessary. The HR Taskforce will look into this topic.

02.02 NVAO-application for accreditation (Toets Nieuwe Opleiding) for Master Development Studies (ISS)
A UC member asked what is expected from the UC and what topics require its advice. The Chair clarified that the UC's advice is solely regarding the NVAO accreditation application and not on further content. A UC member suggested that it would be beneficial to explore this further with a taskforce.

- Taskforce NVAO-application for accreditation (Toets Nieuwe Opleiding) for Master Development Studies (ISS)
  Achraf (lead), Federica

02.03 Research strategy
A UC member wished to ask questions about the order of the strategies presented to the UC. Another UC member questioned why this matter falls only under the right of information, given its importance. The Chair clarified that the UC can always inquire about the process with the EB and still exercise its right of advice if necessary. The strategy taskforce will discuss this topic further. A UC member suggested that a smaller task force within the strategy task force could examine the issue in more detail. Another UC member noted that the research strategy lacks substantial content and that there is little alignment with both the Convergence and EMC research strategies.

02.04 Employer vision EUR
The Chair inquired if there were any remarks. The UC members decided that the HR taskforce will look into this matter.

02.05 LDE Strategy
There is no English version available, and the policymakers were unable to provide one on such short notice. As a result, only the Dutch version can be used. A UC member expressed concern, as some members do not speak Dutch. They emphasized the need for an unofficial English version. Another UC member suggested that policymakers should provide an English version within this cycle, or the topic should be delayed. The Chair responded that they would return to the policymakers to discuss the possibility of providing an English version. In the meantime, a taskforce will be formed to look into the topic.

- Taskforce LDE Strategy
  Jaap (lead), Nawin, Jasper, Achraf

Action point:
- The Clerk will contact the policy makers about an English version.

02.06 EUR campaign budget rules

Last year, a letter of advice was sent to the EB regarding this topic. The EB responded that they would follow up with the UC, but this has not occurred yet. A UC member mentioned that they had already drafted a letter but still wished to form a taskforce. The Chair noted that a follow-up on this issue is expected soon, and the taskforce could take this into account when discussing the topic. Another UC member emphasized the urgency of the matter, expressing a desire to implement changes before the next elections. The Chair acknowledged the urgency but stated they were unsure of the exact timing of the letter's arrival. A taskforce will look into this topic:

- Taskforce EUR campaign budget rules
  Timo (lead), Luna, Nawin, Hugo, Sara, Ernst, Achraf

02.07 PhD Council
The UC member that introduced this initiative, noted that Erasmus University is the only university without a PhD council. While some individuals are working to establish a PhD council, additional support is needed. Another UC member expressed concern, feeling that the initiative could create a conflict, as the EB might choose between the UC and the PhD council. The initiating UC member responded that it would not undermine the UC's rights, as there is no official decision-making power involved. The Chair emphasized that the discussion should not go into too much depth, and that the taskforce should look into it. A taskforce was formed to look into this topic.

- Taskforce PhD council
  Jasper (lead), Nawin, Albert, Frederika, Ernst

02.08 PhD survey
The UC member who initiated the proposal mentioned that there are surveys for both employees and students, but PhD students are in a unique position. Some graduate schools do send out surveys to their PhD students. The UC member suggested that it would be beneficial to align these surveys. A taskforce was formed to explore this further.

- Taskforce PhD survey
  Jasper (lead), Timo, Sebastiaan

02.09 Eurekaweek duration
A UC member noted that the Eurekaweek is being shortened from 5 days to 3 days. The UC member emphasized the importance of Eurekaweek in building the EUR community and expressed concern that this decision was not favorable. Another UC member asked whether the UC has any input, as Eurekaweek is considered a separate entity. The UC member confirmed that this is the case. Another UC member pointed out that this decision appears to be a budget-cutting measure, which should be taken into account. A taskforce will look into this topic.

- Taskforce Eurekaweek duration
  Timo (lead), Jasper, Deniz, Jaron, Esra

02.10 Reconsider relations with US Universities
A UC member introduced the initiative because of the recent developments in the USA, and expressed the view that the EB should reconsider its relations with US universities. Another UC member disagreed, stating that the US government changes every four years, so the circumstances will fluctuate. However, a UC member argued that the EB should still consider this matter, as the relationship between the USA and Europe has shifted. Another UC member stated that considering the issue could be good. A different UC member suggested that this should be passed on to the committee for sensitive collaborations. Other UC members agreed with this. However, one UC member argued that this isn't the usual way of

working. The Chair responded that they would check if it's possible to forward the issue to the committee. If not, the matter will be returned to the UC; otherwise, the letter will be sent directly to the committee. Some UC members expressed a desire to discuss the letter further in a taskforce. The Chair noted that while a taskforce could be formed, it might not be very useful, as the committee would not consider the UC's input. The Chair proposed that the UC send a message to the committee about looking into relations with US universities without sending the letter itself. The UC agreed to this approach.

Action point

- The clerk will contact the committee sensitive collaboration and request to investigate the ties with US universities

02.11 Diversity Travel

The Chair noted that this is a very new system and there might be some issues due to its novelty. The UC member who initiated the discussion expressed that the system has become much more bureaucratic and expensive, highlighting multiple problems. Another UC member agreed, noting the many issues and emphasizing the importance of addressing them as the travel season is approaching. A different UC member pointed out that a one-year pilot had been conducted at RSM and that they would like to see an evaluation of this pilot. A taskforce will look into this topic.

- Taskforce diversity travel

  Albert, Ernst (lead), Sebastiaan, Frederika, Luna, Linda

02.12 Security Compensation

In the last consultation meeting, the EB stated that additional costs should be covered by the organization hosting the events, as there is always a base level of security available. A UC member recalled previous discussions where the EB presented two options: either limit events or hold more events with students covering the extra costs. Another UC member inquired whether there is a framework in place for deciding which events will need additional security. A UC member responded that no such framework currently exists. A taskforce will be formed to explore this topic further

- Taskforce Security Compensation

  Sara, Hugo(lead), frederika, Nawin, Achraf

02.13 Promote and support student parties

This topic has been brought back onto the agenda. The Chair remarked that anyone interested in joining the taskforce is welcome to do so. Additionally, the Chair encouraged the taskforce to develop well-thought-out technical questions. No new members joined the taskforce.

02.14 KRUR 2024 – Response letter

The Chair expressed concerns regarding the response letter, noting that some remarks should be revised to maintain a positive relationship with the EB. The proposed changes are available in Teams. The Chair suggested deleting a remark about the deadline. A UC member disagreed with this, stating that the UC must also adhere to deadlines. In paragraph 4, the letter mentions that the UC feels hindered, and the Chair proposed making this statement more concrete. A UC member stated they felt the tone was acceptable as it was. Another UC member recommended adopting a more diplomatic approach and avoiding too harsh a tone, which was supported by another member. The Chair suggested working with a UC member to make the letter more diplomatic. The UC member agreed but requested that the Chair schedule a meeting with the CSB. The revised letter will be uploaded to Teams, and UC members will have two days to provide feedback. If there are no further comments, the letter will be sent as the final response.

Action point:

- The Chair will work together with the UC member to finalize the response letter to '*KRUR 2024'*

03 Incoming documents

03.01 ESE-fr0063 - Pin-only Practice EUR
The Chair asked the UC whether any UC member want to write a response. It was concluded that the Clerk will let the faculty council know it needs to reach out to the EB

Action point

- The Clerk will inform the ESE Faculty Council that they need to reach out to the EB regarding their letter "ESE-fr0063 - Pin-only Practice EUR ".

03.02 Response to 38788 Gowns for all
A UC member wants to write a response letter.

03.03 Response to letter 38799 Central crisis plan EUR
No remarks

04 Any other business

Removal computers from the lecture rooms
A UC member mentioned hearing about plans to remove computers from lecture rooms. The Chair suggested that this topic might be addressed in the consultation meeting. Another UC member advised that the UC should wait for an actual plan before raising the issue with the EB.

04.01 Overview of attendance and taskforces
A UC member remarked that the overview was missing therefore it will be discussed in the next meeting.

Action point:

- The Clerk will add '*Overview of attendance and taskforces'* to the agenda of the next plenary meeting

05 Closing