

To: Executive Board

Date

10-03-2025

Subject

KRUR 2025 (Response letter) - Right of Consent

By email

Our reference

UR/RA/ 38804

Your reference

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Page

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Enclosure

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Department

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Dear members of the Executive Board,

The University Council acknowledges receipt of your letter dated February 3, 2025 (Reference: CvB/275814/AB/RP), which responds to the Council's letter of consent of December 17, 2024 (38795 KRUR 2025). We appreciate the Executive Board's stated lack of opposition to the proposal. However, we also wish to express some concerns regarding other aspects of the letter, which we outline below:

- Misalignment in the understanding roles in the KRUR Process**
The University Council acknowledges that the KRUR falls under the Executive Board's responsibility within the statutory frameworks. As a participatory body, the Council does not draft policies but provides input and advice. While the Council has offered extensive recommendations to align the KRUR, it appears that the primary responsibility for this process has shifted towards the Council. This interpretation of roles does not align with the Council's understanding of its position.
- Concerns regarding statutory consultation timelines**
The University Council notes the Executive Board's statement regarding time constraints in implementing changes. However, the Dutch Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) stipulates that the Council's advice must be sought at a stage where it can meaningfully influence decision-making. Given that consultation only took place in December 2024, the Council was left with limited opportunity to contribute effectively. This situation raises concerns about adherence to statutory consultation timelines and the impact on the Council's advisory role.
- Collaboration with the CSB**
The University Council appreciates the Centraal Stem

Bureau's (CSB) willingness to engage in discussions, including its participation in the Second Plenary meeting and the Consultation meeting, as well as its efforts to address technical questions throughout the process. However, despite these interactions, the Council had hoped for a more active role from the CSB in collaboratively drafting a concept proposal. Strengthening this cooperation could help facilitate smoother progress in future cycles.

4. Response to substantive aspects

The University Council acknowledges the Executive Board's overall positive stance toward the proposal. However, while the response expresses no objection, it does not directly engage with the specific textual amendments suggested by the Council. We recognize that, given the decision not to implement changes, a detailed response may not have been deemed necessary. Nonetheless, a more substantive reflection on the Council's proposed amendments could have contributed to a more constructive dialogue.

5. Consideration of stakeholder consensus

The University Council appreciates the Executive Board's emphasis on ensuring broad support for the proposal. We would like to highlight that the current draft already reflects consensus among students, staff, PhD candidates, and the PhD councils involved, as mentioned in our letter. However, we acknowledge the importance of also engaging faculties in this process, given the potential impact on them. The Council is open to exploring ways to further strengthen faculty involvement to ensure an even more widely supported proposal.

6. Considerations regarding legal and representative balance

The University Council acknowledges the Executive Board's concerns regarding fundamental rights in relation to the proposed electoral adjustments. We would like to emphasize that similar structures exist at other Dutch institutions, where faculty-bound employee seats are in place. While the Council is confident that the proposal aligns with Dutch law, we understand the importance of ensuring fair representation within the electoral process. We remain open to further discussion on this matter.

7. Ensuring fair participation for PhD Candidates

The University Council notes that PhD candidates, like other employees, already have the option to step down mid-term if necessary, as accommodated under existing procedures. While we recognize the importance of stability, we believe that any additional requirements should not disproportionately impact PhD

candidates. Given their unique position within the university, we welcome further discussion on how to best support their participation in the Council while ensuring effective representation.

Given the concerns expressed in this letter, the Council kindly requests the following:

1. A reflection on the matters addressed in this letter.
2. An outline from the EB's perspective on how both the EB and the Council can move forward in developing and implementing this proposal.

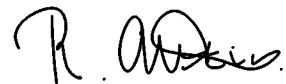
The Council remains willing to collaborate with the CSB on finalizing the text, provided the EB assumes its rightful leadership role in this process. We look forward to your response to this letter. Alternatively, the EB may choose to address these concerns during the next scheduled Consultation Meeting, provided the response is comprehensive and aligns with the urgency of this matter.

With kind regards,

On behalf of the University Council,



L. Hellings
Chair University Council



R.S.C. Austin
Clerk University Council