

26.0696/lo  
19 May 2026  
Approved version

**Minutes of the public part of the 212th meeting of the FHML Council**  
**dated Tuesday 14 April**  
**2026 Present:** see attendance list

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**1. Opening, announcements and adoption of the agenda**

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair presides over and opens the meeting.

**2. a Adoption of the text of the public part of the report of the 211<sup>e</sup> meeting dated 10 March 2026**

-26.0463o – dated 30-03-26 – report with annexes.

See the approved version with reference 26.0463/lo.

**2.b Comments on the public part of the report**

There are no comments.

**3. Announcements by the Dean**

The Dean has no announcements.

**4. Final accounts FHML 2025**

Mr Schoonbrood gave a presentation on the financial performance of FHML 2025. The slides have been added to the public section of the report under reference number 26.0571/l.

In 2025, a positive operating result of €9.7 million was achieved, which is €12.7 million above budget. This positive result is largely attributable to non-recurring income, including unspent WMT funds allocated by the government as part of measures to reduce workload. In addition, income was realised for which no costs were incurred in 2025.

The multi-year forecast from 2026 onwards remains negative. This is partly due to falling student numbers, the reduction in the intake quota for Medicine, government policy and rising costs in the areas of accommodation and ICT. The positive result for 2025 has a mitigating effect on these developments, but does not offer a structural solution to the negative multi-year forecast. The main deviations are explained in the slides.

Positive developments include the success of contract research and the high number of PhD programmes.

With regard to reserves, the faculty has a substantial General Operating Reserve (ABR). In addition, there are spending plan reserves and earmarked reserves, most of which are set aside for research projects. A significant portion of the reserves is held at the departmental level within the research institutes.

Various opportunities and risks are discussed. For instance, the General Practitioner Training Programme (HAO) is facing financial difficulties.

In response to the question regarding the non-spending of WMT funds (intended for reducing workload and talent development), the director of FHML explains that approximately €10 million was previously withdrawn by the government from the first funding stream. Subsequently, approximately €7 million was returned, of which €3 million is held centrally by the Executive Board. On balance, this does not result in a substantial structural increase in available funds.

Regarding the use of AI, the Director of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences (FHML) stated, when asked, that the faculty is exploring how AI can be applied in operational management, research and teaching. The plans are being developed in collaboration with other faculties and Maastricht UMC+ and are expected to be further detailed in the 2027 budget.

**5. Health and Safety Annual Report 2025 and Action Plan 2026, and RIE reports and assessment letters from the Anatomy & Embryology and Internal Medicine departments**

- 26.0553 - dated 08-04-26 - letter from the Director of FHML with appendix

S. Lumeij and D. Vertommen provide an explanation.

The RI&Es, including the assessment, were revised in the third and fourth quarters of 2025. However, the documents before us are still in the early stages of this process; agreements made subsequently have not yet been incorporated into them.

With regard to the scope of the assessment, it is explained on request that the FHML has a comprehensive RIE, and that in addition, each department has a partial RIE. This consists of two parts: psychosocial workload and office and laboratory environments.

The Council notes from the graphs that the number of emergency response team members on duty is lower on Fridays. It is explained that, as this is a voluntary system, attempting to manage it in this way could be counterproductive. It is important that sufficient emergency response team members are available, partly because, in the event of an incident, additional personnel can be deployed from other buildings. The Dub30 building falls outside the scope, as it is managed by a different building manager.

It is also discussed that team leaders in some cases act with restraint or adopt a wait-and-see approach during emergencies. Although this has not led to any serious incidents to date, the cause has not yet been established or investigated. Additional training has therefore been included in the Action Plan.

With regard to the RI&E of the Department of Anatomy & Embryology, the Board notes a discrepancy between the prescribed measures. Whilst an FFP3 mask must be worn at all times during sawing work (page 7), the Action Plan (page 10) lists the use of FFP2 masks when operating the band saw as an action point. The Council requests that this be clarified and amended where necessary.

Taking the above comment into account, the Board gives a positive recommendation on the documents before it.

## **6. Monitoring of the PhD Track**

The Vice-Dean provides an explanation.

In December 2024, the PhD Track system was fully rolled out. This system was developed to better support PhD programmes within UM.

Implementation is generally going well, although there is still room for improvement. Each institute has its own PhD coordinator; central coordination of the implementation lies with MEMIC.

Since 2025, a working group has been active, focusing on the further development of the system. Among other things, it is looking into integrating the TSP (training/supervision plan) and PRP (research plan) into a single document, as the current approach of using two documents is perceived as less efficient. The question of whether there will be an annual structural review of the TSP and PRP is still under consideration. It is being investigated whether this could be made more mandatory.

In addition, a review of the policy on extending PhD programmes is currently underway. PhD Track could potentially be used as a tool in this process, as it provides insight into the progress of programmes and the possible causes of delays.

Furthermore, additional monitoring options are being explored, such as evaluation interviews and the identification of bottlenecks during the programme, in order to better monitor the quality of supervision. PhD Track can also fulfil a monitoring function in this regard. However, other channels, such as confidential advisors, are also available for this purpose. PhD Track is explicitly supplementary and not a replacement.

Finally, the Dean clarifies that the PhD team and the PhD candidate draw up a plan together. The assessment committee then assesses the thesis; this is not the responsibility of the institute, and it is not the intention to develop institute-specific guidelines for this purpose.

## **7. Meeting schedule for the FHML Council, academic year 2026/2027**

- 26.0523 - dated 30 March 2026 - overview

The meeting schedule is discussed. It is noted that UM will be closed on Tuesday 9 February due to Carnival. The Board will look into this further.

## **6. Additional agenda items**

There are no additional agenda items.

**7. Any other business**

\* The Council enquires about the current status regarding a potential Work & Wellbeing Monitor for students. The Dean indicates that the focus is initially on staff. The subject remains under consideration, but a step-by-step approach has been deliberately chosen. Furthermore, this will be addressed in consultation with UM Central.

\* A Council member indicates that they have received an email from the Education Institute regarding the period

6. This states that marks for the Friday exam must be submitted by the following Wednesday at the latest, which limits the time available for marking. This was also identified as a planning error last year, but has been communicated in the same way again this year. The message has been forwarded to the Vice-Dean of Education, who will look into this further.

K. Luijten