

Annual Report

Academic year 2025-2026



University Council

Maastricht University

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¹ In accordance with article 5.5 of the Maastricht University Council Regulation, the University Council reports about its activities and ensures that all parties concerned at UM can inspect the report. Other relevant documentation can be accessed publicly via the UM website or iBabs.

1. Composition

The University Council is a democratically elected body, representing the university community to the Executive Board. Consisting of students, academic staff, and support staff, it discusses new policies and current developments relating to Strategy, Research & Education, and Operations. In the academic year 2024-2025, the University Council decided to create an ad-hoc committee to discuss the proposed integration with the academic hospital (azM). This committee was continued in 2025-2026.

In 2025-2026, the University Council consisted of the following members:

Student delegation

Bram van den Berkmortel (FHML/LAW)
Vice chair of the University Council
Matthieu Marienbach (FSE)
Chair Strategy Committee
Roos Goorman (FHML/FSE)
Shari Celma Crespi (FSE)
Sophie Wucherer (FSE)
Merel Mulder (FHML)
Member Confidential Committee
Milo Cheng (FHML)
Wouter Bogers (SBE/LAW)
Daan van den Biggelaar (SBE)
Mika Wielaard (SBE)
Member Confidential Committee

Staff delegation

Support Staff

Netty Bekkers-Vos (GEA)
Chair Operations Committee
Maarten van Wesel (University Library)
Member Confidential Committee
Werner Teeling (FPN)
An Stevens (FHML)

Scientific Staff

Linda Rieswijk (FSE)
Chair R&E Committee
Raymond Luja (LAW)
Chair Integration UM/MUMC+/azM Committee
Donna Yates (LAW)
Janosch Prinz (FASoS)
Katlijn Haesebrouck (SBE)
Chair Confidential Committee

Mark Govers (FHML)

During the academic year, the University Council was chaired by prof. dr. Teun Dekker and supported by its Registry (Vera Feron and Loïc van Rijn).

The chair, the vice chair and the Committee chairs meet on a weekly basis in the Presidium. The Presidium is the day-to-day management of the University Council and is also supported by the Registry.

2. Meetings

The University Council held nine Plenary meetings throughout the year.

At the Plenary meeting, any member of the UM community, staff or student, can choose to address the University Council during the Speakers' Quarter to draw attention to issues that they feel the University Council should be aware of. In 2025-2026, six members of the UM community addressed the University Council and the Executive Board via the Speakers' Quarter.

The Strategy and Operations Committee met nine times. The R&E Committee met eight times and the Integration UM-MUMC+/azM Committee met five times. The Integration UM-MUMC+/azM Committee meetings took place in a confidential setting.

With the exception of the Integration UM-MUMC+/azM Committee, each University Council meeting (Committee and Plenary) consists of a public and confidential section, depending on the nature of the topics discussed.

Plenary meetings

Date	Time	Location
24 September 2025	14.00 – 17.00	UNS 60, M5.01 Co Greep zaal
29 October 2025	14.00 – 17.00	UNS 60, M5.01 Co Greep zaal
19 November 2025	14.00 – 17.00	UNS 60, M5.01 Co Greep zaal
17 December 2025	14.00 – 17.00	UNS 60, M5.01 Co Greep zaal
25 February 2026	14.00 – 17.00	UNS 60, M5.01 Co Greep zaal
25 March 2026	14.00 – 17.00	UNS 60, M5.01 Co Greep zaal
22 April 2026	14.00 – 17.00	PHS1, C3.015
27 May 2026	14.00 – 17.00	PHS1, C3.015
24 June 2026	14.00 – 17.00	PHS1, C3.015

Committee meetings

Date	Strategy	R&E	Operations	Location
10 September 2025	09.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 14.00	15.00 - 17.00	MBB 4-6, 2.017
15 October 2025	9 October 2025 09.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 14.00	15.00 - 17.00	MBB 4-6, 2.017
5 November 2025	09.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 14.00	15.00 - 17.00	MBB 4-6, 2.017
3 December 2025	09.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 14.00	15.00 - 17.00	MBB 4-6, 2.017

11 February 2026	09.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 14.00	15.00 - 17.00	MBB 4-6, 2.017
11 March 2026	09.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 14.00	15.00 - 17.00	MBB 4-6, 2.017
8 April 2026	09.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 14.00	15.00 - 17.00	MBB 4-6, 2.017
13 May 2026	09.00 – 11.00	-	15.00 - 17.00	MBB 4-6, 2.017
10 June 2026	09.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 14.00	15.00 - 17.00	MBB 4-6, 2.017

Integration UM-MUMC+/azM Committee

Date	Time	Location
13 November 2025 (internal meeting with the deans SBE, FASoS and FPN)	09.00 – 10.30	MBB4-6, 1.169 (Budapest)
8 December 2025 (internal meeting with the deans of LAW and FSE)	10.30 – 12.00	MBB4-6, 1.169 (Budapest)
17 January 2026 (Q&A Session)	10.00 – 13.00	UNS 60, M5.01 (Co Greep zaal)
28 January 2026 (internal meeting with members of the Local Consultative Body and the FHML Faculty Council)	15.30 – 17.00	TAP11, I0.011
9 February 2026	09.00 – 10.00	MBB 4-6, 1.101 (Rome)
4 March 2026 (internal meeting)	12.00 – 13.00	MBB 4-6, 2.017
20 May 2026	15.00 – 16.30	MBB 4-6, 2.017

At each agenda-setting meeting, the chair of the Committee discussed the progress of the process informally with the Executive Board.

Other

The chair and vice chair of the University Council regularly met with the chairs of all participatory councils, as well as the chair of the staff delegation of the Local Consultative Body. These informal **Chairs' meetings** took place every six weeks. On 9 February 2026, the Chairs' meeting focused on a theme discussion regarding *integration UM-MUMC+/azM*.

The University Council held one **Theme Day** with the Executive Board on 21 January 2026. This meeting solely focused on the *integration UM-MUMC+/azM*.

Furthermore, a delegation of the University Council met the **Supervisory Board** on two occasions (October 2025 and February 2026).

3. Topics discussed

The University Council serves as a sounding board for the Executive Board, is involved in the assessment and monitoring of new policies and initiatives, and can make its own proposals. The list below provides an overview of the most important topics that were discussed at the University Council.

- **Integration UM-MUMC+/azM.** This topic was discussed extensively during Committee and Plenary meetings. One could call it the main point of discussion during the academic year. As per request of the Executive Board, the University Council provided a decision on the integration proposals in February 2026. The University Council elaborated on its decision not to consent to the UM-MUMC+/azM integration via a letter (*UR020-26_UM-MUMC+AZM_Merger_Letter_04-03-2026*).

Furthermore, the University Council:

- Received the evaluation of the pilot year **Human Rights Advisory Committee** (HRAC) and advised positively on the revision of the framework.
- Received the evaluation of the **UM Fossil Assessment Framework** (for transitioning towards a fossil-free society) and advised positively on the extension of the pilot.
- Provided a positive advice on the proposal for the continuation of the service centres (central projects) as a result of the **evaluation UM Quality Agreements 2019-2024**.
- Gave consent to the **ITK improvement plan** and discussed the **CeQuint improvement plan**.
- Gave consent to acquire ownership of the building Gaetano Martinolaan 63-65 and provided advice on the subsequent Relocation plan in Randwyck (GM63-65 and PHS7-9). It was therefore involved in **real estate developments in Randwyck**.
- Participated in the **catering tender** working group.
- Participated in the **visits of the Labour Inspection** (Nationale Arbeidsinspectie; NLA)

Initiatives and other involvement:

- In collaboration with the Language Centre, the Student delegation of the University Council did hand in its **Proposal for Expanded and Affordable Language Access at Maastricht University**.
- **City Council Working Group.** Following the 2024-2025 academic year, the University Council decided to continue a joint project with the Maastricht City Council. A variety of meetings took place in 2025-2026. These meetings were attended by members the University Council, the municipal council of Maastricht, as well as students from VISTA college and Zuyd Hogeschool. The meetings eventually led to a report (*Raden die samenwerken aan de toekomst*) that serves as an invitation to continue cooperation and keep building on making Maastricht an open, liveable and attractive student city.
- The University Council organized two **theme sessions** regarding the topic of artificial intelligence (joined by variety of AI experts from UM) and the P&D policy (joined by the interim P&D director). This meetings were internal and mainly served as a platform for information provision and discussion.

- **Ad interim appointments of Executive Board members.** In 2026, the University Council provided the Executive Board with letters regarding the ad-interim appointments (including the extension thereof) and future profiles of Executive Board members. It also provided a letter on the **profiles of the members of the Supervisory Board.**

4. Conclusion

In short, the University Council has had a busy year where it played an important role in various development at Maastricht University. In the next academic year, the University Council will continue its work on the topics it finds most important, including: artificial intelligence, the internationalisation debate, housing for students, real estate, social safety, sustainability, DEI+, work pressure, digitalisation, the development of Randywck and more.

Interested UM staff and students can sign up for University Council elections via the Elections Office. For more information, please see the [Elections Office website](#).