

25.2230/lo
9 December 2025
Approved version

**Report on the public part of the 207th meeting of the FHML Council
on Tuesday, 4 November 2025
Present: see attendance list**

1. Opening, announcements and adoption of the agenda

The chair opens the meeting.

2.a Adoption of the text of the public part of the minutes of the 206^e meeting of 7 October 2025

-25.2060o – dated 24-10-25 – report with appendix

See the approved version with reference number 25.2060/lo.

2.b Comments on the public part of the report

There are no comments.

3. Announcements by the Dean

The dean indicates that feedback has been received following the review of the Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Medicine and A-KO. The verbal feedback was very positive; the programmes have passed the (re)accreditation with flying colours.

4. Accommodation/area development and new construction in Randwyck

The director of FHML indicates that a full update on accommodation and area development will be provided during the next council meeting in December. Students' questions about learning spaces (study areas) will also be addressed at that time.

The council notes that it is completely dark around Uns50 in the evening, particularly around the curve of the library on the south side, where there is currently no lighting. The director will raise this issue with Facility Services.

5. FHML Budget 2026

-25.2054/l – dated 30-10-25 – report of the FHML Council Budget Committee dated 28 and 30 October 2025

-25.1829/l – dated 22-10-25 – budget

P. Schoonbrood gives a presentation on the FHML Budget 2026. The slides have been added to the public section of the report with reference number 25.2122.

The faculty's financial situation is currently stable and manageable, partly due to its available equity capital. At the same time, it is clear that costs will continue to rise in the coming years, while income will decline slightly. This is expected to lead to a structural deficit from around 2029 onwards. This gives the faculty time, but also necessitates, to prepare measures for the coming years and to make joint decisions (with institutes and central services, among others) about priorities, investments and the allocation of resources.

Following the report of the FHML Council Budget Committee, the outstanding questions about the budget will be submitted to and answered by the FHML Board.

2. Key points of the policy

General (p.4)

- The committee asks how the sector plans are being used in concrete terms for the Climate Health theme. What is the rationale behind this choice and what is the expected impact on existing sector plans?

The board indicates that the sector plan funds have been implemented as originally planned financially. An internal review was conducted to determine where these funds could best be deployed, taking into account national recommendations on the use of sector plans. The funds can also be used across the three pillars of the sector plans, focusing on urgent social challenges such as Climate Health.

This deployment will not be at the expense of regular sector plan activities. Further explanation of the Climate Health initiative will be provided at a subsequent meeting of the FHML Council.

2.1 Education

2.1.1 Optimal student intake (p.5)

-The committee inquires about the minimum number of students required to maintain a master's programme.

The board indicates that maintaining programmes is a decision that is made on broader grounds than student numbers. On average, approximately 30 students per Master's programme is taken as a guideline, with separate analyses being carried out for small programmes.

Differentiation in education (p. 6)

-Students have indicated that the mentor programme at BMS is not functioning optimally. The committee asks whether there are any indications of this and, if so, whether improvement measures are being considered.

The board is not aware of these signals. The evaluation data available in IWIO also show no negative signals. It is agreed that the student in question will contact the Vice-Dean of Education directly to explain the exact context.

Teacher professionalisation (p. 7)

-The committee notes that the programmatic assessment system is not yet fully functional. Questions are asked about the schedule for the implementation of PebblePad and quality assurance.

The board explains that PebblePad will be implemented in phases, learning from programmes that already have experience with PebblePad. For programmes that have not yet switched over, Epass will remain in use.

2.1.3 Developing and innovating programmes (pp. 7-8)

-The committee notes that enrolment in Regenerative Medicine and Technology remains low and asks whether this poses a problem for the continuity of the programme.

The board indicates that this does not currently pose a problem for continuity. However, it is a clear point of attention for the programme and has been discussed with the programme.

- Although the budget explicitly focuses on reducing the workload for lecturers and support staff, the committee asks how this objective can be achieved in practice in the short term, given the development of new programmes (Medicine and HPIM).

The board explains that a project will be launched to clarify the frameworks within which training courses must be organised and what support can be offered by the OI within those frameworks. This clarity and structure is expected to have a positive effect on the workload by reducing variation and providing clearer expectations for education developers, providers and support staff.

2.2 Research & Impact

Climate Health Institute (p. 9)

-The committee inquires about the decision to focus on 'climate on health' rather than 'health on climate' and how this fits within the UM-wide strategy. It also asks about funding in relation to sector plan resources and structural embedding.

All questions relating to Climate Health will be compiled and discussed in a separate meeting of the FHML Council.

Optimisation of research support (pp. 9-10)

-The committee asks how the role and input of the FHML in the Maastricht UMC+ research support process is safeguarded.

The board has indicated that the designated coordinator is the dean. There is also a steering group with representatives from various institutes and a sounding board group. The FHML is largely in the lead because Education & Research is the responsibility of the faculty.

Regional deals (p. 10)

- The collaboration with St. Jans Gasthuis Weert is not mentioned; the committee asks for background information on this.

The board explains that regional deals concern national subsidies. There is no regional deal between the MUMC⁺ and St. Jans Gasthuis, which is why this institution is not mentioned in the budget.

Knowledge security, human rights and fossil fuels (p. 11)

-The committee inquires about the content of this policy and the role of the Sensitive Partnership Unit.

The board indicates that this concerns UM policy and is not specific to the faculty. Initiatives are screened for knowledge security, human rights and fossil-related issues, in addition to existing cooperation agreements.

Strategic course Healthy Living (p. 11)

- The committee notes that this section is brief and asks whether more information is available about the elaboration of this theme.

The board has indicated that the current course of action regarding this theme will be continued and further refined; the plans for further elaboration will be shared with the FHML Council in due course.

2.3 Business operations

Recognition and appreciation (p. 13)

-The FHML has further refined the UD and UHD profiles and criteria, partly with a view to aligning them with the three professor profiles. The committee asks how these adjustments relate to the new vision on education and career policy, which emphasises education, and how the discontinuation of practical professorships will be dealt with.

The board refers to the presentation given at the previous meeting on the new UM professorship policy and, when asked, further states that for associate professors, qualifications, including the BKO (Basic Teaching Qualification), are part of teacher professionalisation.

Social safety (p. 14)

- The confidential advisors for PhD students and postdocs also make an important contribution to social safety. The committee asks how the results of evaluations and their follow-up are incorporated into policy and practice, and whether – in addition to the confidential advisors – additional measures are planned to further strengthen social safety.

The board indicates that a PhD coordinator has been appointed within each institute to supervise the process surrounding PhD programmes. In addition, a confidential advisor has recently been added as a point of contact for issues relating to social safety. To clarify roles, steps and procedures, a roadmap has also been drawn up to give PhD students a better understanding of the process.

PhD and Postdoc Policy (p. 15)

-The committee asks about a catch-up policy for PhD training and the postdoctoral policy.

The board has indicated that the postdoctoral policy is currently being further developed. Focus groups have been organised to identify the needs of postdoctoral researchers. Training courses for PhD students are available, but are currently voluntary. No specific career or development policy has yet been established for OBP (support staff). Professional development for this group is currently being addressed in a broader sense within the faculty, as part of strategic personnel development.

3.7 Opportunities and risks (p.28)

Climate Health Institute

The committee asks about the organisation and management; all questions about Climate Health will be compiled and discussed in a separate meeting of the FHML Council.

6.1 Education Institute

6.1.3 Opportunities and risks (p. 39)

-It is stated that certain activities will be discontinued due to workload; the committee asks which activities are specifically involved.

The board indicates that decisions on measures are being made with a view to 2030, taking into account the short-term consequences.

Based on the discussions and explanations provided, the council, taking into account the above comments, approves the main points of the draft FHML 2026 budget and recommends its content.

6. Name change for the Master's programme in Health Education and Promotion (HEP)

-25.2070 – dated 29-10-25 – letter from the dean with appendix

Based on the documents presented and the discussion held in the council, the council recommends approving the name change of the Master's programme in Health Education and Promotion to 'Health Promotion' as of the 2026-2027 academic year.

7. Additional agenda items

There are no late agenda items.

8. Any other business

No use is made of the public question time.

K. Luijten