

23.2306/Io  
12 December 2023  
Approved version

**Report public part of the 186<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Faculty Council FHML  
On Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Present:** see attendance list

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**1 Opening, announcements and setting of the agenda**

The Chair opens the meeting. Due to the Dean's unexpected absence, agenda item 6 was postponed to the next meeting of the FHML Council.

The Chair informed the FHML Board about the new Vice-Chair of the student section, J. Smeets.

**2a Adoption of the text of the public part of the report of the 185<sup>th</sup> meeting dated  
September 12<sup>th</sup> 2023**

-23.1930o - dated 27-09-23 – Report with attachments

See the approved version of the report with reference 23.1930/I.

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

There are no comments

**3 Announcements Vice-Dean**

The Vice-Dean informs the Council about the decrease in student numbers in the BioMedical Sciences (BMS) Bachelor's programme. An analysis on the possible cause of this decrease is currently taking place. Possibly, the numerus fixus plays an important role in this. This could lead to the FHML Board deciding to lift the numerus fixus. If the latter is the case, the FHML Council should be consulted. As this must be done by law before 1 December 2023, the proposal is to consult the Council in writing in that case.

When asked, M. oude Egbrink indicates that the reason for the numerus fixus at BMS was due to the sharp increases in student numbers. There was a threat of a capacity problem, which threatened the quality of education. The accreditation committee also found student numbers too high at the time. For this year, the maximum number of students (400) had been selected, of which only 175 students eventually enrolled. The FHML Institute for Education assumed that the introduction of a numerus fixus would cause a decline, because of its psychological impact. After all, this has also been seen at other universities. However, a decrease of this magnitude is not desirable, partly because of the financial impact. We are now investigating the group of selected students who decided in the end not to enroll. Some of them have enrolled in the Medicine programme; others are currently being contacted (by telephone).

**4 Housing/area development and new construction Randwyck**

The Director of FHML indicates that, following the extensive presentation by the buildings manager at the previous FHML Council meeting on the accommodation in the UNS50, there are no new developments to report.

Regarding the renovation of the Randwyck University Library, the Director reports that there has been a delay in the tender process, as a result of which it is to be expected that the UB will not be ready at the end of this year but rather in the spring of 2024. The temporary study places in the UB and the building at Endepolsdomein will be maintained until the University Library is ready. With regard to the renovation of the laboratory animal facility (CPV), the Director of FHML indicates that the renovation costs have increased significantly, due to price increases and inflation, among other things. The relevant Steering Committee is looking at possibilities to make savings / adjustments in the plan. It is also looking at possibilities to accelerate the renovation of the CPV.

The Council indicates that complaints have been received about the downsizing of square metres at the departments and asks whether these complaints have reached the FHML Board. The Vice-Dean confirms that a letter has been received from a number of departments and that the Board will talk to the heads of the departments concerned.

The Vice-Dean indicates that indeed fewer square metres have been allocated, as a result of the adjustment of the current standards, which has in turn to do with the necessary renovation of the

laboratory animal facility. The situation at each department will be examined and in that light, the best possible solutions will be considered. For example, some employees with appointments at the hospital were mistakenly housed in the faculty buildings. Therefore, possible solutions are being looked at by the faculty and the hospital together. Furthermore, the Council indicates that an additional concern is that there need to be places available for internship students at the departments. Students are not included in the calculation of square metres per department. The Vice-Dean indicates that this too should be handled as creatively as possible. It is a complex operation and only by continuing to talk to each other can we arrive at solutions.

### **5 Budget FHML 2024 – 2028**

- 23.2256/I - dated 03-11-23- FHML Council Budget Committee report dated 2 November 2023
- 23.2180/I - dated 26-10-23- draft budget

P. Schoonbrood, head of department Control FHML, gives an introduction to the Budget FHML 2024-2028 and explains the figures highlighting the main developments. The slides are attached to the public part of the report with reference 23.2340. The Budget FHML 2024-2028 has a positive result.

In response to the present budget and on the basis of the present report of the budget committee of the FHML Council, some additional questions regarding the content were raised by the Council and answered by the FHML Board and/or Director. Listed below.

-Upon request, the Director of FHML explains that the workload of teachers will not increase because of the new courses. A spending plan reserve has been created for new courses, which means that money is also available for staff expansion. Regarding the reduction of workload, M. oude Egbrink adds that two years ago, several working groups had been set up for the purpose of reducing the workload, including a working group on teaching standards. The Executive Board then decided to start exploring a shortened academic year first. In this, the rector's preference is to scrap period 6, shortening the academic year by four weeks. This implies that several programmes would have to be revised. Therefore, the FHML Institute of Education is not in favour of this. A study by an external agency concluded that shortening the academic year by 4 weeks alone would not lead to a reduction in workload. Another UM-wide working group has now been set up to look into the possibilities of shortening the academic year in combination with additional measures. For instance, adapting the hours standardisation system and looking into what the financial consequences would be. This working group will present an advisory report in spring 2024. Furthermore, as part of the workload reduction, block support has been introduced and additional formation has been arranged to provide more tailor-made solutions in the smaller programmes. When asked, M. oude Egbrink indicates that the format of the resits is being discussed internally, with the various programme coordinators.

-M. oude Egbrink, when asked, indicates that no revisions are taking place within the curriculum of the BioMedical Sciences bachelor's programme.

-M. oude Egbrink informs the Council, upon request, about the state of affairs regarding the ePass portfolio system. The Portfolio Committee has written an advisory report that was recently presented to the executive board of the FHML Institute for Education and will soon be shared with all bodies. A clearly written report in which the committee recommends the use of two types of - sustainable - portfolios. One type of portfolio for programmes that partly use a portfolio and a comprehensive portfolio for programmes that test fully programmatically. The Council asks whether buying ePass back has been explored as an option. After all, this would not require any additional effort from staff, OBP, or students, unlike introducing an entirely new system. M. oude Egbrink explains that 'sustainable' means that the portfolio system has to be simple and easy to maintain. The current ePass, which was initially built internally by test- and ICT- experts from the Department of O&O (Educational Development and Research), is too complicated for wide use and cannot be supported software-wise by UM.

-The Council states that it is clear that growth in student numbers is financially important for FHML, but wonders whether an 11% increase is realistic. The Director of FHML indicates that in the forecast, the projected increase in student numbers is expected especially in the new bachelor's programme Regenerative Medicine and Technology.

The Director of FHML further explains that the Budget is based on the figures that are projected in April. This is also the basis on which the State contribution is ultimately determined. Initiated by UNL (former VSNU), discussions are taking place with the minister about the current government

funding system because this system still contains perverse incentives due to the allocation of funds based on student numbers.

-The student delegation asks about promoting student welfare and asks what activities are organised for this purpose and whether students are involved. M. oude Egbrink indicates that funds are made available for this purpose from the National Programme for Education (NPO). Each programme looks at how the resources can be used in consultation with students.

-The Council understands the need for the faculty to grow but asks whether enough consideration is being given to the expansion of accommodation and asks whether there is sufficient capacity for teaching activities, study places and office spaces for new staff. The Director of FHML indicates that there are several possibilities for expansion of spaces such as the former MSM building on the Endepoldomein. All this however depends on various developments, such as the impact of the internationalisation discussion and the coordination with the other faculties in Randwyck, FPN and FSE. The Municipality of Maastricht also has plans regarding the area development of the entire campus site, although these are still premature.

-The Vice-Dean, when asked, explains that prevention is a nationally chosen theme within the Sector Plan. In addition, the investments within the prevention theme are in line with Maastricht UMC+'s strategy on Healthy Living.

-When asked, the Vice-Dean gives an update on the implementation of Recognition & Rewards. Recognition & Rewards requires a culture change, which the FHML Board is stimulating, among other things by implementing Development Boards within the departments, in which an approach aimed at personal development is central. The department chair has a major role in Recognition & Rewards. Special leadership training courses have been developed for this purpose. The costs are borne centrally. When asked, the Vice-Dean indicates that the department chairs do not receive extra hours for their management role, but there is currently discussion about a possible compensation.

It is agreed to put this subject on the agenda for a meeting of the FHML Council. At the same time an update on the OBP (support & management staff) will be given.

-Upon request, the Director of FHML confirms that mentorship is still part of 'Luik 2'. Considering the financial perspective and the spending cuts it will remain this way.

-The Council notes that postdocs are currently mostly given a permanent appointment because of the funds from the Sector Plan and the Starting Grants and asks whether this will remain so. The Director of FHML indicates that this remains to be seen, this is 'in the lap of the gods'. Funds from the Sector Plan, for example, are not structural funds. Starter Grants are in a way structurally allocated. At the moment, the research institutes are positive about their ability to recruit. In addition, a relatively large number of people will retire in the next few years, making through-flow possible.

Based on the discussions held, the explanations given for the documents presented and the questions above, the Council agrees with the main points of the FHML 2024-2028 budget. Given the expected growth in the number of students, the Council advises the Board to pay early attention to the required growth in staff and the required growth in spaces for staff and education.

## **6 Strategic policy on professorships**

This agenda item will be postponed to the next FHML Council meeting.

## **7 Chair of surgery**

- 23.2092 - dated 05-10-23- letter Dean with appendix
- WC.23.116 - dated 15-09-23- letter chair Science Committee Maastricht UMC+
- 23.2696 - dated 22-09-23- letter chair Education Committee Medicine

The Vice-Dean explains the situation.

On the basis of the discussion held, the explanation given by the Vice-Dean and the documents presented, the Council advises positively on the structure report for the appointment of a professor and head of the department of Surgery.

## **8 Proposal to change the name of the Department of Toxicogenomics**

The Vice-Dean introduces the topic.

The Council indicates that in the documentation no information can be found on the staff's opinion on this proposal. The secretary to the Board of FHML indicates that the department chair's substantiation of the proposed name change has been incorporated into the present letter from the Dean.

The Council has a question about the underlying reason for this name change and asks how the Department of Toxicogenomics relates to the Department of Clinical Genetics of Maastricht UMC<sup>+</sup>. The FHML Board will look into this.

On the basis of the discussion held, the explanation given by the Vice-Dean and the documents presented, the Council agrees to the proposed name change of the department to 'Translational Genomics'.

With regard to the background information, the Council would like to receive additional information on how this department relates to the Department of Clinical Genetics at Maastricht UMC<sup>+</sup>, partly in view of the fact that Clinical Genetics exists as a single department within two UMCs and there are research lines in Clinical Genomics in Maastricht and Nijmegen.

#### **9 Extra items for the agenda**

There are no extra items on the agenda

#### **10 Any other business**

There is no other business to be discussed.

Kim Luijten