26.1373/Io
13 October 2026
Approved version

Minutes of the public part of the 216th meeting of the FHML Council
dated Tuesday 8 September 2026
Present: see attendance list

0. Preliminary discussion
The new council members are sworn in.

The Chair welcomed the (new) members and gave a presentation on the work and powers of the FHML Faculty Council. The slides have been added to the public section of the report, under reference 26.2224/I.

The student representatives have not yet elected a vice-chair from among their ranks. They will inform the Chair of this as soon as possible.

The student section is also asked to consider the Council's representation on the Small Council, which meets once every two weeks, and on the Student Council, which meets once a month.

1. Opening, announcements and adoption of the agenda
The Chair opened the meeting.

2. Introduction of new members of the FHML Council
The new student members briefly introduce themselves and outline the following priorities and ambitions:
-enhancing the quality of education, with a specific focus on the responsible and critical use of AI by students;
- greater clarity and transparency regarding policy and the way in which AI is applied within degree programmes;
- improving the link between the university and the degree programmes, with clear roles and expectations for students, tutors and lecturers;
- improving the provision of information on the course of study, including clearer information on academic progress;
- increasing the visibility and awareness of the Faculty Council amongst students;
- making assignment and feedback forms more structured and effective, with the aim of reducing the workload for both students and lecturers;
-further improving and, where possible, organising final-year projects more uniformly across the various degree programmes;
-exploring ways to offer students more space and peace of mind after exams, following the example of initiatives within other faculties.

The FHML Board then gave a brief introduction. The Dean was absent due to being on holiday. The Vice-Dean stood in for him.

3. Introduction of the Vice-Dean
The Vice-Dean will give a presentation on the organisation and activities of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences (FHML). He will explain the various departments within the faculty and discuss how teaching and research are organised within the FHML. Among other things, he will focus on the teaching profile and the links between teaching, research, academic care and innovation. The slides are attached to the public section of the report, reference number 26.1267.

In addition, the Vice-Dean provides a brief explanation of the proposed integration of Maastricht University (UM) and Maastricht University Medical Centre (azM). He explains that over the past year it has become apparent that the collaboration and integration offer many opportunities and added value in terms of content. However, in terms of governance and organisational structure, the proposed model did not prove to be the right direction. Further details and possible next steps are still under discussion.

4. Announcements by the Vice-Dean

The Vice-Dean states that the new strategy of Maastricht UMC+will be presented and explained at a forthcoming Council meeting by the Deputy Director of the Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences (FHML) and the Director of Executive Support to the azM Executive Board.

The Vice-Dean for Education informs the Council of an amendment to the Medicine Teaching and Examination Regulations (OER). This amendment relates to admission to the Master's programme in Medicine. The substantive admission requirements for students wishing to commence the Master's programme in Medicine remain unchanged. However, the wording of Article 4 is being amended.
The current wording was closely aligned with UM's Bachelor's programme in Medicine, which meant it may not have provided sufficient scope for students who had completed their Bachelor's degree at another university.
The amended wording clarifies that students with a Bachelor's degree in Medicine from another university may also enrol on the Master's programme in Medicine at UM, provided that places are available or become available during the admissions process. The amendment is partly intended to anticipate developments at other universities, where waiting lists are already in place for the Bachelor's programme in Medicine. Although students are not actively encouraged to undertake their Bachelor's degree at another university, it is considered important that the regulations are carefully and clearly structured to cover this situation as well. There are currently no indications of a significant increase in the number of students transferring from another university.
The amendment to the OER is therefore considered to be a notification and will not be revisited on the agenda. The full OER will be submitted to the Council in May/June 2027.

5. Risk Identification and Assessment (RI&E) Reports
- 26.1090 – dated 21 July 2026 – letter from the Director of FHML with appendices

D. Vertommen, facilities manager, and S. Lumeij, health and safety officer at Health, Safety & Buildings (HSB), briefly introduce themselves. S. Lumeij then provides an explanation.

An RI&E is mandatory for laboratories and office environments and is carried out every five years. The RI&E reports for the Department of Surgery and HSB are now available, including an action plan. The RI&Es are assessed by Arbo@UM and subsequently discussed by the Health and Safety Committee, the FHML Board and then submitted to the Faculty Council.
The action points are addressed and followed up in collaboration with the department chair and the Health, Safety and Environment Contact Person (ARMICO).

In addition, two procedures relating to biosafety have been revised. The approved procedures are circulated within the units via the ARMICOs and are also brought to the attention of staff via the website and newsletter.

When asked, S. Lumeij stated that the psychosocial workload (PSA) component is not yet included in the current HSB RI&E report. The RI&E is therefore not yet complete; the PSA assessment will be carried out at a later date. The timing of this depends in part on the availability of external parties.

With regard to the student wellbeing monitor discussed earlier, the director of FHML states, when asked, that the primary responsibility within the RI&E lies with the employer and the employee. Different bodies and tools exist for students. However, it is indicated that the student perspective may be taken into account in future.

The meeting also discussed how students are informed about safety regulations in a laboratory. Students receive an induction at the start of their work. Where additional instruction or supervision is required, this is recorded and appropriate support is provided.

The quality of cleaning is raised as a point for attention in the Surgery Risk Assessment and Evaluation (RI&E). A pilot scheme is currently underway to improve cleaning; progress is discussed, amongst other things, during the ARMICO meetings.

The procedure 'Working Safely with Animal Material' is discussed. S. Lumeij will enquire with the Biological Safety Officer (BSO) as to why certain categories have not been included in the documentation before us.

The Council gives a positive recommendation on the RI&Es under consideration and the revised procedures. In this regard, attention is drawn to the timely completion of the still-pending PPE inventory and the further follow-up of the action points from the RI&Es.

In addition, the Council suggests adding the missing categories to the 'Working Safely with Animal Material' procedure, so that the procedure is as comprehensive as possible.

6. Additional agenda items
There were no additional agenda items.

7. Any other business
The Council enquired about the current status of the policy and guidelines regarding the use of AI in education and research. The AI working group is drafting a document entitled 'How to deal with AI'. In this context, it was asked whether this applies to all degree programmes and what guidelines exist for the use of AI in research.

The Vice-Dean for Education explains that general UM guidelines on the use of AI have already been established. The current working group is working on further details for the educational sector and aims to support degree programmes in the responsible use of AI. The document was recently discussed with the programme directors, but is still under development and cannot yet be regarded as an adopted policy document.
A document on the responsible use of AI has also been drawn up for research, which is in line with the UM-wide policy and is being widely implemented. As AI is developing rapidly, this topic remains a work in progress.

It was agreed to place AI in both teaching and research on the agenda for the next Council meeting and to provide the Council with an update on the further development of the guidelines and the working group.

J. de Gooijer noted that AI is also high on the agenda within the Universities of the Netherlands (UNL). In addition to policy, support is also a key focus area. UM-ICT is working on an AI hub, which is expected to become available shortly.

K. Luijten