

23.2627Io
 20 February 2024
Approved version

**Report public part of the 187th meeting of the Faculty Council FHML
 On Tuesday December 12th 2023
 Present:** see attendance list

1 Opening, announcements and setting of the agenda

The Chair opens the meeting.

**2a Adoption of the text of the public part of the report of the 186th meeting dated
 November 7th 2023**

-23.2306o – dated 23-11-23 - Report with attachments

In response to the discussion on workload reduction on page 2, M. oude Egbrink indicates that, contrary to what was stated in the report, block support will be further expanded rather than introduced. This will be amended textually.

See the approved version of the report with reference 23.2306/Io.

2b Comments on the public part of the report

Following the announcements, M. oude Egbrink informs the Council about the state of affairs regarding the numerus fixus at BMS.

Due to the low number of incoming students at BMS, an investigation was started to find the possible cause. It turned out that, besides the threshold-raising effect of a numerus fixus, the (nationwide) early application deadline had also been a problem. This year we've received 1,200 applications less than last year. The figures also showed that the number of, so-called 'parking students' was halved. This is a positive development. Of the selected students who ultimately did enroll, some registered for other programmes. Of the remaining 222 students, 112 were deficient and the rest was contacted (by phone). This showed that the majority opted for a study programme elsewhere in the country. The selection process shows no other peculiarities. The FHML Board was advised to maintain the numerus fixus at BMS for at least another year and place greater emphasis on marketing and communication. The FHML Board subsequently decided accordingly. Students will be made aware of the application deadline (15 January) through various channels and it is also clearly indicated that they may participate in two selection procedures.

In response to an item in the FHML 2023 budget about the expected 11% growth in student numbers, the director of FHML stresses, when asked, that the 11% was based on a prognosis.

Following agenda item 8, the Council wants to know the underlying reason for the name change and asks how the Department of Toxicogenomics relates to the Department of Clinical Genetics Maastricht UMC+. The FHML Board has put this question to the relevant department chair but has not yet received a response. In anticipation of this, the FHML Board has postponed the decision to change the name.

3 Announcements Dean

The Dean informs the Council about an article in NRC about one of the FHML professors in connection with, among other things, incorrect reporting of ancillary activities. With regard to ancillary activities, things are being looked into internally. The Dean has recently sent an e-mail to inform FHML employees about this internal investigation and has announced in the same e-mail, that a meeting will be organised at the end of January 2024, in consultation with the MUMC+/FHML Platform Scientific Integrity. This meeting will allow for, among other things, an exchange of views on further optimisation of processes and focusses on raising awareness. Last year, the Platform Scientific Integrity has developed the roadmaps 'scientific integrity and social safety' for students and employees. Consideration is being given to developing a roadmap for this issue as well.

4a Housing/area development and new construction Randwyck

The director of FHML informs the Council about the construction of new practice labs in UNS50. The work will start from 1 February 2024, which means that the practice labs will be operational

well before the new academic year, on September 1st, 2024. Furthermore, the renovation of the University Library in Randwyck will be completed by May 1st, 2024. After this, 150 study places will be structurally maintained in the building at Endepolsdomein.

As already mentioned last time, the costs of the UNS50 renovation have risen sharply, partly due to inflation. To save costs and prevent a further increase, a plan is being worked on to accelerate the renovation. The intention is to discuss that plan with the Executive Board early next year.

4.b Housing departments and interns

- 23.3364 - d.d. 04-12-23- e-mail voorzitter Raad FHML met bijlage
- 23.3168 - d.d. 13-11-23- brief voorzitter vakgroep Pulmonologie
- 23.3040 - d.d. 03-11-23- brief vakgroep Chirurgie en Onderzoeksinstituut M4I

With regard to the letter from the internship coordinators about concerns regarding the lack of accommodation for interns, the Chair indicates that an initial meeting has taken place today with the internship coordinators concerned, the Dean, the scientific director of the Institute of Education FHML and the FHML buildings manager. It was a positive and constructive discussion. The other submitted letters from departments show that there is a lot of unrest within the various departments. Many people are worried and do not feel heard.

The Dean explains that in the beginning, the FHML Board together with CRISP-facilities (building management) and all department chairs involved, started the dialogue together in several meetings about the need to downsize the square metres for the departments in the context of the Uns50 renovation and because of the inclusion of the animal testing facilities. Indeed, all departments have expressed the importance of an animal research facility. As it is not financially feasible to have a separate building, the (limited) options had to be explored internally, taking into account the possibilities for hybrid working (as a result of the corona pandemic). Furthermore, the allocation of square metres to the departments is being reassessed on a regular basis, because staff changes occur frequently. Furthermore, the Uns50 renovation is regularly discussed during the periodic meetings of the FHML Board with the scientific directors and the department chairs. The FHML Board assumes that the department chairs forward all important information concerning this topic to their staff, but the Dean realizes that this might not happen sufficiently in all cases. It would indeed be more effective in this regard if employees, in some cases, were also informed directly, by e-mail, by the FHML Board.

Consequently, the Dean specifically addresses the letters on the agenda.

The letter from the department Chair of Pulmonology prompted a conversation between the FHML Board and the department Chair in question. The earlier decision of the FHML Board was adjusted on the basis of a number of valid arguments. This to the satisfaction of the department chair. A letter from the department of Internal Medicine, which was not sent as a copy to the FHML Council, was taken up in a similar way and that conversation also led to a good solution for the parties involved.

The letter from the Department of Surgery and the Institute M4I has a preliminary process in which several discussions have already taken place with those involved by director FHML and the FHML building manager. The timing of the letter was somewhat unfortunate, as one of the undersigned left for a few weeks abroad immediately afterwards and could not be reached for consultation. It was only a few days ago that a conversation about this could take place. In this process not all requests could be met, partly because the FHML Board had previously committed to a solution involving specific rooms for one of the other groups (Internal Medicine). It was agreed to continue the conversation with the groups concerned after New Year's (in the beginning of 2024).

Finally, the letter from the various internship coordinators. As mentioned by the Chair of the Council, a conversation took place today. The FHML Board shares concerns about the lack of accommodation for interns, is considering possible solutions and will continue the conversation with those involved at the end of January 2024.

The Dean remarks again that the FHML Board is willing to enter into dialogue with groups at any time. With that in mind it is not always the best idea to send these kinds of letters to all kinds of bodies. One of the letters also contains wording that does not fit our academic culture and, moreover, can be interpreted in different ways. At the same time, the FHML Board also realizes that employees get worried if they are not fully informed through the regular bodies. In future, the Dean will therefore organise more frequent meetings to inform employees, as was recently done for the researchers in the context of the renovation of the Central Animal Testing Facilities (CPV).

The Chair agrees that certain information from the FHML Board does not always reach all employees, so that people only know at a late stage what is going to happen.

Finally, the Dean adds that there are also many groups where the conversation about downsizing went well right away.

The Director of FHML indicates that a number of departments are facing multiple relocation movements. The plan to accelerate renovation in Uns50 in order to save costs is also looking at whether the additional interim moves and temporary accommodation can be avoided. It is also being investigated whether the Computer Landscape can be newly realized elsewhere, thus creating additional spaces. Incidentally, this still requires prior coordination with the UM Executive Board.

5 Information Security Policy FHML

E. Lammers, FHML information manager, made a presentation on the FHML information security policy. The slides are attached to the public part of the report with reference 23.2588.

When asked, E. Lammers explains that when receiving phishing mails one should always pay attention to the sender and if one does not trust the mail it should be forwarded to the ICTS Service Desk. A member of the Council suggests using an already built-in function in Outlook to detect phishing mails.

E. Lammers states, when asked, that UM's ambition is to meet maturity level 3. The Director of FHML adds that this is also an agreement between the minister and the universities (UNL). An audit is currently taking place within UM.

6 Strategic policy of professorships

The Dean makes a presentation on the FHML's professorship policy. She indicates that the different categories of professors are currently under review. The (subject) Professorship Plan and the Top Talents programme have been terminated.

The Dean explains the process of becoming a full professor as well as the process of the structure report. Finally, the consultation round and the evaluation process are being discussed. The slides are attached to the public part of the report with reference 23.2587.

7 Annual discussion on the procedure for appointing members of the Program Committee(s)

- 23.2369 - dated 09-11-23- letter Dean with attachments
- 23.3344 - dated 01-12-23- e-mail secretary Programme Committee BioMedical Sciences
- 23.3210 - dated 16-11-23- letter Chair Programme Committee Health

The Dean explains.

The Chairs of the Educational Programme Committees have a preference for maintaining the current appointment procedure for the composition of the Programme Committees.

When asked, the secretary to the Board explains that it is stipulated by law that the method of appointment should be discussed annually and in consultation with the relevant bodies. When the 2016 Strengthening Governance Act was implemented within UM, it was decided not to have the composition of the Programme Committees determined on the basis of elections, but instead to use an appointment procedure involving the Faculty Council.

The Council agrees to maintain the current procedure. A member of the Council notes that the terms of office of the members of the Programme Committees are relatively short and that in practice it has been found that a longer term of office could be more valuable. The Chair indicates that it is important that the Programme Committees realize a roof-top retirement structure.

8 Extra items for the agenda

There are no extra items on the agenda

9 Any other business

There is no other business to be discussed.

K. Luijten

Translation: I. Leijts