

Meeting of the Research Institute associated with the University of Zaragoza, ZLC

April 30th, 2026

Participants:

Luis Morellón, Vice Rector, Academic Policy, Universidad de Zaragoza; Pilar Pina, Vice Rector, Scientific Policy, Universidad de Zaragoza; Rafael de Miguel, Director of the Research Institute, ZLC; Raquel Campos, Board of Trustees, Government of Aragon; Jorge Delgado, Professor, UZ; Yossi Sheffi, Professor, MIT; Susana Val, Professor, ZLC; Yasel Costa, Professor, ZLC; Tori Wang, Student representative, ZLC, Isabel Nuez, Permanent Guest, Managing Director, ZLC; Marta Romero, Secretary of the Institute, ZLC

Excused:

José Antonio Yagüe, Director of the School of Engineering and Architecture, UZ

Guest :

Sara Sánchez, MDSC Director, ZLC

Rafael de Miguel welcomes the Council Members and proceeds to the agenda.

Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the previous session of 10 November 2025.

The minutes of the last session are approved unanimously.

2. Approval of the application, to the Governing Council of the University of Zaragoza, for the authorization of the verification report, to the MIT SCALE University Master's Degree in Logistics Engineering and Supply Chain Management.

Rafael de Miguel refers to the document shared with all members describing the new Master's degree. He thanks Luis Morellón, noting that this has been a long and challenging process, during which care was taken to bring harmony and agreement with the engineering and business colleges (EINA and FECEM).

There is full agreement at ZLC among faculty and researchers, with several meetings and communication taking place to confirm both the structure and the program curriculum. Alignment is also reached with the University of Zaragoza, involving four academic departments, with the Government of Aragon, acting as the owner of the foundation (Patronato) and the competent authority in higher education as well as with MIT, including key SCALE stakeholder, Yossi Sheffi. Feedback is also received from other CTL professors including Christopher Mejía, María Jesús Sáenz, and Matthias Winkenbach, and their suggestions are incorporated into the proposal.

Luis Morellón and Rafael de Miguel will present the program for approval from the Governing Council on May 13th, including a list of eight members for the Commission, as a suggestion for the Governing Council, that meets the legal requirements, as well as the ZLC staff as advisors. The program comprises 60 ECTS credits: 12 in the first semester, 12 in the second semester, and 24 elective credits. The second semester includes flexible options covering topics such as AI, applied analytics, digital transformation and innovation, as well as special topics to ensure more flexibility. It also includes 3 credits for MIT Scale Connect and 9 Master thesis.

The program is designed to run for four years, extendable up to eight, allowing for adjustments based on evolving industry needs, regulatory requirements, and the agreed level of flexibility in course offerings (special topics).

Susana Val notes that there has been extensive discussion on this topic, particularly regarding the need for ZLC faculty members and staff to take ownership and management of the courses in their current form. Rafael reassures her that this document is only a first draft. In the full application, faculty assignments will be clearly defined and explicitly outlined. Professors will be consulted again, as a detailed description will be required before the final version of the application is approved. All of this will be reflected in the final document, a 40-page submission expected to be completed within two months after approval on May 13th.

Pilar Pina raises the question of whether the admission requirement is 180 ECTS credits, noting that further clarification is needed given that standard access to a Master's program is typically 240 ECTS. This issue was discussed with Pilar Sánchez and Pedro Escriche, Vice General Manager for Academic Policy and Head of Service for Academic Planning, respectively. Rafael de Miguel explains that most students are international and come from different educational systems. Many of them hold three-year bachelor's degrees often complemented by a one-year Master's, while others have four-year degrees or even prior postgraduate qualifications.

The proposal is approved by all the Council members.

3. Approval of the substantial modification of the report of the Master's Degree in Lifelong Learning, Master's Degree in Supply Chain Management (MDSC): strategy and digital transformation.

Rafael de Miguel comments on the lifelong learning Master program, MDSC that is maintained under the same name, but with some modifications: strategy and digital transformation that will reflect its orientation toward MBA-style content, including management and leadership. The course portfolio is updated with different names to include e-commerce, strategic management of purchasing, managing high-performing teams, and leadership, alongside revised content covering areas like AI and compliance.

Sara Sánchez, MDSC Director has been invited to this meeting. These modifications will be submitted through the University of Zaragoza platform. Approval from the Governing Council is not required for this program.

Nevertheless, the proposal is approved by all the Council members.

4. Smart and Sustainable Logistics & Supply Chain research group. Application for the call for the period 2026-2028, in accordance with the Order of 13 April 2026 of the Government of Aragon.

After the call issued by the Government of Aragon, ZLC must submit a proposal for funding research with approximately €70,000 for three years (2026-2028). Susana Val will continue to lead this group, as in the past three years.

The discussion then focuses on how to further strengthen the group by incorporating researchers from ZLC, as well as from the University of Zaragoza and ITA.

5. Requests and questions.

No questions are raised.

Rafael de Miguel thanks the members of the Council for their attendance and the meeting is adjourned.

MORELLON
ALQUEZAR LUIS
ALBERTO - DNI
25155230S

Firmado digitalmente por
MORELLON ALQUEZAR
LUIS ALBERTO - DNI
25155230S
Fecha: 2026.05.06
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Luis Morellón
Presidente Consejo del Instituto

Marta Romero
Secretary of the Institute Council