



KE Meeting 2 - Minutes

Date: 14th September 2018
Time: 1000 hrs

Attended:

Jean Claude Scicluna	Naomi Attard	Carla Galea
Clint Meli	Naomi Baldacchino	Nathan Gatt
Hanien Alouzi	Bernard Micallef	Lara Attard
Alexander Hili		

Excused:

Owen Grech	Nicola Kirkpatrick	Patrick Gatt
Matthew Pulis	Eman Haber	Robyn Vella
Maria Azzopardi	Kaitlyn Byrne	Matthew Vella
David Mallia	Yvette Farrugia	Yacopo Baldacchino
Shanice Borg	Nathan Grech	Amy Christina Slater

Absent:

Nigel Micallef	Michael Piccinino	Daniel Vella
Denis Muscat	Joslyn Saliba	Martina Tabone
Kyle Mangani	Adam Pace	Lara Cuschieri
Martina Camilleri	Rachel Galea	Owen Micallef
Eunice Bonello	Dylan Mercieca	Julian Demicoli
James Attard	Daniel Formosa	Jason Micallef
Jacob Portelli	Francesco Refalo	Keith Pace
Damian Cuschieri	Husam Alibahlani	Matthew Galea
James-Nicholas Grima Delia Spiteri Cornish	Julian Bonello	Owen Micheal Grech
Fr. Sinclair Bugeja	Anthony David Brincat	Yolande Newton
Anthony Rizzo	John Montebello	Nathan Grech
Johann Aguis	Jean Karl Micallef Grimaud	Cody Galea
Sean Ellul	Noemi Said	Generoso Seychell
Tiziana Gatt	Deandra Cutajar	Christian Cordina
Omar Shamala	Julian Chirchop	Owen Grech
Eman Mifsud	Terry Duca	Andrew Pisani
Anabel Muscat	Gabriel Mallia	Mark Borg
Neville Decelis		



Meeting commenced at 1020hrs.

This meeting is an emergency meeting as we will be discussing the Engineering warrant.

1. Approval of Agenda
All in favour.
2. Approval of Previous 2 Meeting's Minutes.
All in favour.
3. Engineering Warrant

There was the EGM of UESA, KSU was present. Engineering students were explained the timeline on what happened and the way forward by forming a resolution which will be presented to the concerning stakeholders. This was distributed to all student representatives via email.

In this meeting we will be reviewing the resolution and if this will be approved by the majority of the student representatives, the KE will be supporting the UESA.

- *The Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as "MCAST") should publish the previous programme of study of all B.Eng degrees, as well as the amended programme of study to ensure a level playing field with its counterpart within the University of Malta;*

Nathan: MCAST do not even upload or publish the past papers, and a student who was studying at MCAST stated that the course is simpler with regards to the study units, when compared to UOM course. Also, we do not know what the abridgement entails and their average per year.

Carla: They can do a two year and can get into UOM.

Alex: MCAST have more technical experience than theory.

Nathan: This is why we have a problem as MCAST have more technical experience and UOM is behind and we are not innovative and hence employers sometimes give a priority over UOM students due to the experience.

Alex: I believe that UOM students will always be given a priority.

Nathan: There are more students applying for the jobs now, so the pay might be reduced too.



- *MCAST and the University of Malta should publish the ASIIN report including all its recommendations to ensure transparency in regard to the decision taken to grant MCAST graduates the Engineering warrant;*

ASIIN reviewed both courses. In both courses required improvement and it was confirmed that the MCAST course is not in par with the UOM course. According to what was said during the Press release from the Ministry, the MCAST course was reviewed and the required changes stated by ASIIN were done. However, this report is not available to be viewed by the public.

All agreed that this report should be published.

- *Any abridgement course should be audited by an approved auditing organisation such as ASIIN and course content should be designed in consultation with the Board of Professional Engineers.*
- *All mathematical study units followed by their counterpart University of Malta students should be incorporated into any abridgement course for previous MCAST B.Eng graduates;*

If the abridgement course is done .

Nathan: 3rd year the students will choose between structural and industrial. Many students fail from a subject in the structural part of the course as it is mainly mathematical knowledge, this will hence filter the MCAST students as they do not have an A level MCAST.

Jean: Programme of Studies is not available therefore we cannot compare the courses.

ASIIN should re-evaluate the MCAST courses to certify that the proposed recommendations by the same German experts have been followed through to an adequate standard as expected of the Engineering profession in Malta. This should be done periodically on both MCAST and the University of Malta;

The course that have these recommendations have not yet started, therefore we cannot assess it.

- *Entry requirements as of 2019 for all MCAST Engineering courses should be the equivalent to that of the University of Malta Engineering courses i.e. Grade C or*



above in both Pure Mathematics and Physics A level; this in order to ensure a level playing field

- *The Engineering Profession Board should consider improving the screening process by bolstering the interview to focus on engineering principles and ethical aspects in relation to the Engineering profession. This should be one of the measures to add more value to the Engineering Warrant.*

The warrant requires local experience that the MCAST should satisfy in order to apply for the warrant.

Nathan: This is going to be a burden on the engineering students as currently it is an informal interview.

Carla: If they do not have ethics or enough technical information in their courses, this interview could distinguish between the UOM students and MCAST students.

Furthermore, while echoing the opinions of all University of Malta engineering students, UESA would like to remark that,

- *Currently, there is a lack of transparency as to what the content of the course offered by MCAST is;*
- *Both Engineering students at the University of Malta and UESA, as the official student representative body, have not been consulted on the upcoming changes to the Engineering Profession Act;*
- *The Ministries concerned intend to amend the Engineering Profession Act to satisfy the demands of MCAST engineering graduates and students, however they have failed to listen to University of Malta Engineering graduates and students which are to date legitimate stakeholders in the Engineering profession;*
- *Going forward, we believe that any amendments should be discussed with all stakeholders involved, particularly students which are future professionals;*
- *To date, there is little clarity as to who will accredit the abridgement course which will allow MCAST Engineering graduates to sit for the Engineering Warrant interview;*

Nathan: Chamber of engineers has a large say as the minister as they issue the warrant and do the interview.

Carla: The faculty did not about the warrant changes.

Naomi: According to the university website, the rector is the chairperson of the faculty board, so I think he should comment on the situation.

Carla: We have sent an email to the Rector and has answered very vaguely and KSU and UESA do not know his next move. UESA spoke to the Dean.

Nathan: Victoria Gatt lectures both UOM and MCAST and stated that the maths level is different in the courses.

Carla: I think the Engineers and Lectures should be the first that have spoken up.



Alex: This will result in loss knowledge, loss of quality and loss of economy as the engineers are not up to standard from MCAST.

Carla: Yesterday it was mentioned that if this MCAST course is established it shows that there are problems at UOM.

Nathan: I think that there is lack of teaching methods.

Alex: Also, they should tackle the method of assessment.

Nathan: I think we work and have more content than MCAST in general.

Alex: There is an assessment going on at the UOM and it is doing well, allowing the courses to be up to standard.

Hanien: We need to be careful with the way we establish the statement and not criticize and demean MCAST.

Approval of resolution: all in favor.

The student representatives will be informed regarding any changes or updates.

The resolution will be discussed with the chamber of engineers. KSU and UESA will follow up the situation and take a stepwise approach to put pressure on the required stakeholders. We will be awaiting the Dean's reply.

Meeting Adjourned.