



## KE Meeting 3 – Minutes 14.10.19

Attended:

Yacopo Baldacchino	Matthew Xuereb	William Farrugia
Rebekah Attard Trevisan	Denise Gatt	Naomi Deguara
Matthew Gauci	Nico Muscat	Jillian Spiteri
Edward Degabriele	Omar Chircop	Nicola Kirkpatrick
Clint Meli	Lorie-Emm Spiteri (GUG)	Kleaven Pisani

Excused:

Michael Piccinino	Chiara Vassallo	Eman Haber
Raiden Psaila	Celine Cuschieri Debono	Beppe Galea
Kyle Mangani	Nicole Busuttill	Karl Andrew Schembri
Clive Seychell	Roderick Baldacchino	

Absent:

Chris Grech	Ernie Christ Farrugia	Yasmine Ellul
Luca Spiteri Monsigneur	Eunice Bonello	Elisa June Campbell
Chaya Fenech	Matteo Camilleri	Damian Cuschieri
Lara Attard	Anne Camilleri	Matthew Vella
Owen Grech	Martina Tabone	Charlotte Axisa
James Nicholas Delia Spiteri Cornish	Laura Cuschieri	Yolande Newton
Owen Micallef	Adam Pace	Yvette Farrugia
Sabrina Abugrin	Anthony Rizzo	
Johann Agius	Jean Karl Micallef Grimaud	Robert Tabone
Anthony David Brincat	Nathan Gatt	Julian Demicoli
Clive Seychell	Joslyn Saliba	Gabriel Mallia
Myron Jose Agius	Nigel Micallef	

- Approval of Agenda  
Agenda approved nem con
- Approval of Previous Minutes  
Previous minutes approved nem con



- Approval of Minutes from KE Meeting 1

Minutes from meeting 1 approved nem con

- Students' Charter

Yacopo Baldacchino: We are doing a reform of the students' charter through a task force. The students charter needs to become legally binding. We should discuss this in a KE Meeting to get a general consensus of the themes. The students' charter has several information resources and links and has become an information booklet. At this point the charter is divided into three segments. The charter should include what is required from the administration and from the lecturers

An agreement was reached that the charter becomes legally binding even if it is something that will be negotiated and might be less ambitious than the one present at the moment. At the moment everything is on paper. It is important that the core principles remain there.

William Farrugia: at the moment the charter is a collection of principles, which might be contradicting University legislation. It needs to be negotiated since it effects different stakeholders. It is optimum time since the staff collective agreement has expired.

Omar Chircop: do you have any idea whether University administration will accept that it becomes legally binding?

Matthew Xuereb: I think that if as a commission we compile a resolution that the students charter should become legally binding, University will have no other option than to negotiate, if it agrees with the concept of an agreement with the students.

Omar Chircop: It should agree since we have repercussions if we don't abide by regulations while the university has nothing.

Matthew Xuereb: I propose that a committee is enacted by senate to deliberate when the charter is broken. Student reps need to be on this committee. Without enforcement it becomes ineffective.

Edward Degabriele: Will administration be liable for academic's fault?

Matthew Xuereb: University needs to take responsibility for lecturers' error

Matthew Xuereb proposed a motion stating "The Commission agrees that the students charter should be binding and empowers KSU to lobby for said charter". Motion Approved.

Yacopo Baldacchino: What do think about the charter being divided into sections targeting the administration and the academics?

Edward Degabriele: Do you think we should separate full-time lecturers and visiting ones?



William Farrugia: We can't directly reach an agreement with the staff. The agreement, even on matters concerning the staff, has to be with the administration

Denise Gatt: There may be a problem in the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery since we are taught by people employed by government.

Edward Degabriele: Faculty of Health Sciences have the same problem

William Farrugia: I am aware that such lecturers have some kind of allowance from university, but we can clarify on this

Matthew Xuereb: the details will come at a later stage

Denise Gatt: don't mention lecturers directly, refer to them as teaching staff

Edward Degabriele: Under the current charter there is a point that concerns professional counselling service. This is very vague.

Matthew Xuereb: I'd rather we focus on fundamental points.

Omar Chircop: this needs to be seen on a faculty basis

Edward Degabriele: We need to look into what happens in the case of a conflict between other agreements

Motion: The Commission approves the setting up of a task force dealing with the students' charter chaired by the Education Commissioner. Motion Approved.

- Constitutional Reform Task Force

Yacopo Baldacchino: We sent a call for this task force. The president emphasized that the constitution needs a reform so as KSU we have formed a task force to submit feedback. If you're interested send an email to the education office.

- Barts Medical School

Matthew Xuereb: KSU and MMSA have set up a task force to discuss Barts Medical School. This task force meets regularly and is moving rapidly. We had a press conference but unfortunately, we had no feedback on the resolution passed during the MMSA EGM. The Ministry offered us a meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and we are seeing what steps need to be taken.

Omar Chircop: This issue has been going on for years but this board took a stand. In the resolution titled 'List of Requests and Safeguards' we are listing proposals that defend our educational rights. There is no written agreement since we were given verbal assurances which have already been broken.



Edward Degabriele: Health Sciences students do not have lockers.

Omar Chircop: The original decision was that the groups will be together but now they have been separated, to the detriment of students.

Edward Degabriele: From what I'm seeing, they're present at different times so consultants and patients would have already had to deal with the group of UM students. It's a situation where everyone is losing.

Omar Chircop: Even though they're paying less than international UM students, they are still paying a substantial sum.

Matthew Xuereb: An important update is that we applied for freedom of information requests which have been delayed and rejected.

Matthew Xuereb proposed a motion stating "The Commission expresses solidarity with MMSA and medical students within the University of Malta in light of the addition of Barts students at Mater Dei hospital and the lack of communication between the Ministry of Health and the MMSA-KSU Barts Medical School Task Force. Motion Approved.

- Other Matters

Matthew Xuereb: Tomorrow we shall be having a memorial debate on the anniversary of the assassination of the journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia. We encourage student representatives to be present. This event will express our frustration with the way the media is being handled in our country.

Yacopo Baldacchino: Vacancies for positions on the graduation speeches board have been filled and applications were received for three out of four of the Heads of Standing Committees. Rebekah Attard Trevisan is the Head of Standing Committees for Science and Standing Structure while Edward Degabriele is the Head of Standing Committees for Health.