

KE Meeting 2 - Minutes
16.09.2019

Attended:

Yacopo Baldacchino	Christian Aquilina (KSU)	Michael Piccinino
Chiara Vassallo	Rebekah Attard Trevisan	Denise Gatt
Naomi Deguara	Duncan Muscat	Matthew Gauci
Kyle Mangani	Chris Grech	Mattea Fenech
Nico Muscat	Jillian Spiteri	Edward Degabriele
Tano Bugelli (UESA) – Viewing Gallery	Thomas Mifsud (KSU) – Viewing Gallery	Katrina Farrugia (KSU) – Viewing Gallery
Naomi Attard (KSU) – Viewing Gallery		

Excused:

Beppe Galea	Yasmine Ellul	
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Absent:

Nicola Kirkpatrick	Omar Chircop	Celine Cuschieri Debono
Kleaven Pisani	Clive Seychell	Luca Spiteri Monsigneur
Clint Meli	Elisa June Campbell	Chaya Fenech
Matteo Camilleri	Nicole Busuttil	Damian Cuschieri
Lara Attard	Anne Camilleri	Matthew Vella
Martina Tabone	Owen Grech	Charlotte Axisa
Raiden Psaila	James Nicholas Delia Spiteri Cornish	Adam Pace
Laura Cuschieri	Owen Micallef	Yolande Newton
Anthony Rizzo	Sabrina Abugrin	Yvette Farrugia
Johann Agius	Jean Karl Micallef Grimaud	Robert Tabone
Anthony David Brincat	Nathan Gatt	Roderick Bonello
Julian Demicoli	Clive Seychell	Joslyn Saliba
Gabriel Mallia	Myron Jose Agius	Nigel Micallef
Karl Andrew Schembri	Eunice Bonello	Ernie Christ Farrugia

- Introduction

Yacopo Baldacchino: I shall begin with informing you of the dates of the meetings to be held in semester 1. We were requested several times to set up a calendar so that you would be able to plan around the KE meetings and hopefully this will increase attendance. I'll also post in the Facebook group for easier access. I will obviously still be reminding you a week before and sending the agenda and minutes. The dates are:

14.10.19

11.11.19

09.12.19

06.02.20

- Approval of agenda

Agenda approved nem con

- Approval of minutes of KE meeting 7

Yacopo Baldacchino - Michael informed us that some names were not written in full so they were arranged

Agenda approved nem con

- Approval of minutes of KE meeting 1

Michael Piccinino: In the beginning there was the discussion regarding KE meetings where the whole situation in general has to be given and the minutes also say that I would not be comfortable with the minutes going round, rather than the recordings. Certain names were not included.

- Standing Orders

Yacopo Baldacchino: We had discussed them in the last KE meeting and we also received some feedback on two articles, mainly about Erasmus and student and youth representation.

3.8.2. This does not apply to cases of sickness, **Erasmus** and being abroad for reasons of **student and youth representation**. Proof of such cases needs to be sent 24 hours before the meeting.

3.10. Each member should make his/her utmost to attend all KE meetings. Reasoning behind an excused absence should be objective. Members absent shall duly inform the education commissioner by e-mail explaining the reasoning behind the absenteeism. A valid excuse constitutes sickness, tragedy, Erasmus and being abroad for reasons of **student and youth representation**. If members have not sent proof to the Commissioner by email at least 24 hours before the meeting, they will be automatically noted as 'absent'.

Standing Orders approved nem con

- Research on a National Scale

This has twofold benefits. On one hand it will increase the quantity and quality of research on the island because it will incentivize innovation and on the other hand, policy decisions will become more informed which is to the benefit of the whole population.

Thomas Mifsud: We are working on a project in the Faculty for the Built Environment. A few months ago, a discussion was held by SACES regarding the development situation in Malta at the time. They argued that the potential the Faculty for the Built Environment is losing its effect due to such development. SACES started consultations with deans, lectures, students, etc. We want to show the potential students have with policy makers and VIPs. We met up with Hon Bartolo and they enjoyed the fact that we're working towards promoting what students are doing. I think that it is a good idea to use our platforms to promote what students are doing etc. I just wanted to ask whether there is potential in your faculties where these projects can be promoted and whether you know of any other spaces where we can promote what students do. Apart from this, it would be great if you could speak to your respective faculties to push for this idea. It would be good for us to turn UM into an innovation hub.

Edward Degabriele: This makes sense and in FHS it is already being done by MHSA. The idea MHSA had was that of a research expo. Students were not very interested. What I can say regarding FHS is that research is used quite a lot. Hence, certain faculties use the concept you spoke about (such as FHS). But there are some faculties that do not.

Denise Gatt: The Faculty of Medicine and Surgery are also contributing to research because they are offering opportunities. I really applaud you on your initiative and I feel like governmental infrastructures have an antiquated view on certain things.

Rebekah Attard Trevisan: I think things like these also help when it comes to grants. It makes sense if one were to opt for projects that require less funding and are more important for society rather than projects that require more funding and are not so important. In our faculty, awareness is not being raised and it is not being given enough importance. I think it is an important initiative and that research that is being carried out within the University of Malta needs to be shown to the authorities.

Denise Gatt: I had organised a research conference and there was attendance but few were those who actually presented their research work. Since there is a lot of student apathy, given that research is not promoted within many of our faculties, I think that this initiative needs to be given some credit (people who participate should be incentivised).

Thomas Mifsud: The way you say it and you promote it makes a complete difference. Showing them that it is being done for the common good raises more interest.

Denise Gatt: Following research up also helps as people feel that their research does not stop there but that it is being followed up and something is being done with it.

Rebekah Attard Trevisan: The fact that there is also lack of lecturer participation also discourages students from participating in such initiatives. So it's a kind of give and take situation.

Michael Piccinino: We need to take this from a step back. UM has been putting pressure on authorities to give importance to research and development. The EU target is 3% and the average is 2.07%. Malta's percentage is 0.61%.

Rebekah Attard Trevisan: Funds for lab refurbishment went to JC but the situation at the UM chemistry labs is very bad. Research cannot be conducted and the quality of the research cannot be of good quality, which is why people are not opting for research. Research and development is very important so it should be catered for and given importance.

Thomas Mifsud: I think we should start thinking of some sort of platform from all faculties so that we can come up with good ideas and promote them.

Rebekah Attard Trevisan: I think we should rope heads of departments in so that, if a good idea comes up, we can promote what we are doing and the stance will appear as if it is from the University of Malta.

Thomas Mifsud: I think now we need to have a discussion with regards to the way forward and how we are going to make it work.

- Graduation Speeches Board

Yacopo Baldacchino: The graduation speeches board is **established every year** to select the speeches for the graduation ceremonies. This is to be made up of 5 student reps and I encourage you to take part. It's a worthwhile experience. I shall be sending an application form, anyone that wishes to apply needs to fill it in and send it by email. The deadline will be stipulated in the email.

- Undergraduate Regulations

Yacopo Baldacchino: A session is going to be held on Wednesday 18th September at 4:30pm in Common Room. Try your best to attend as these are quite important. This will be an information session with Registrar to explain the changes made and answer any questions you may have. We will be working on promotion later on during the year. If you can speak to organisations to promote them during freshers' week, even through word of mouth it would be a great help.

Michael Piccinino: You can repeat more than once but the final classification will go one down if you repeat more than once. You can take up 12 credits. No medical certificate we be required to miss an exam just inform that you will be sitting for it in September. If it is your first sit the maximum mark is 100 but if it is a resit then it is still 45. If you sat for it for the first time in September, and you keep on failing it, you still have 4 times to get them. It will apply as from 23rd September 2019. At some point, postgraduate regulations will also be discussed. I think that we need to arrange the situation of faculties of medicine and dentistry because they do the complete opposite of what we normally do.

Yacopo Baldacchino: If we could promote this event with students, that would be great because students are to be aware of these.

- Engineering Warrant

Tano Bugelli: Engineering warrant shall be given to MCAST students as well. UESA disagrees because there would be two different classes of engineering and two different faculties of engineering. We disagree because the engineer's worth is diminished due to this political decision. ASIN issued 2 reports that are not as of yet published. We had asked them to publish them but they didn't because they said that they are working documents. We know that there are a number of shortcomings that need to be dealt with. We called an EGM, there were different opinions. On paper they are now going to be of the same level as us but with regards to those who have already graduated, we have not agreed on a compromise.

- Barts Medical School

Yacopo Baldacchino: We met up with MMSA on countless occasions to see what can be done in this regard. If we will be issuing a position, we would like your support. In the next meeting, Omar will be here to explain in further detail.

- Heads of Standing Committees

The purpose of the standing committees, as discussed last meeting is to compile a report about important issues arising during Faculty Board meeting. Regarding this we agreed that this report shall be compiled once every semester as certain faculties had too few faculty board meetings for a bi-monthly report.

The four standing committees are as follows:

- Humanities and Education Standing Committee
- Health Standing Committee
- Sciences and Structure Standing Committee
- Commerce and IT Standing Committee

I shall be attaching the full list of faculties, institutes and centres pertaining to each standing committee. I shall also be attaching the application form for the heads of standing committees. The application must be filled in and sent by email. The deadline is next KE meeting.

Meeting adjourned - 19:27