

SOCIAL POLICY COMMISSION 16/17

Meeting #12

University of Malta, TAKEOFF

27th April 2017, 18:00

MINUTES

18:00 Registration

1. Approval of Agenda
Steph Dalli to be added as a speaker. Topic: Student Societies.
Agenda Approved nem con.
2. Approval of Minutes
Minutes approved nem con.
3. Student Societies issue
Steph Dalli (KSU): the university administration is working on guidelines for student societies and is not open to consultation with the students and organisations concerned. Being the only student on the board, she is at a minority, thus placing her in a disadvantaged position when trying to be a voice for students. The guidelines will be presented in front of senate.

Michael Piccinino (KNZ): speaking as a member of senate, he feels that it's crucial that students meet up before hand and present a united front on the matter.

Steph Dalli (KSU): university administration wants to impose a statute structure on organisations. An example of this is that if an organization becomes dormant, its funds get transferred to university.

Etienne Buttigieg (KSU): VO guidelines already specify what happens once an organisation is dissolved.

Michael Piccinino (KNZ): Specifically, VO law states that funds have to go to another voluntary organisation

Steph Dalli (KSU): The university finance department should have nothing to do with the finance of organisations.

Samuel Attard (MMSA): What are the motives behind this?

Steph Dalli (KSU): They're painting the picture as though they want to help student organisations, but the true sentiment is to take away the organisations' power.

James Montebello (ESO): If university takes over, organisations will no longer belong to students.

Steph Dalli (KSU): It does not make sense to have one platform for all statutes. Chiara Vassallo (Aiesec): This is especially the case for international organisations. The university council clearly has no idea of how organisations function.

Michael Piccinino (KNZ): Discussion on the topic should be postponed until organisations have all the proposals in hand.

Steph Dalli (KSU): They seem to not be open to consultation and they're making it seem as though KSU is in favour of this, but only because it's in a minority and thus has no deciding power on the matter.

Michael Piccinino (KNZ): It's crucial to present a united front as organisations.

Nicole Sciberras (ELSA): How can they bind us?

Steph Dalli (KSU): the leverage they have on us is students' house.

Matthias Mallia (JEF): How can we discuss the way forward? How can we change their perspective?

Michael Piccinino (KNZ): We can try and stop it. Once documents are in hand, we can take a step forward.

Steph Dalli (KSU): It's important to be clear that a meeting with the administration will not be a consultation session as nothing will be changed.

Maria Falzon Scubed: If this happens organisation seized to exist. Practically they're saying close your doors and go home

Samuel Attard (MMSA): They want to exhaust us

Steph Dalli (KSU): the intention to take away students' power has been building up for a long time

Matthias Mallia (JEF): If we vote in favour of a consultation session and let them know that we all want to be consulted and they deny it, what can be done is that we go public and release a document saying that the university of Malta is completely killing student organisations.

Michael Piccinino (KNZ): the board will decide on whether to hold a consultation session on the 9th.

Alex Hili (KSU): If we work together we have enough strength to publicise it.



Michael Piccinino (KSU): we can also invite student representatives.

Chiara Vassallo (Aiesec): When things go to on the news things actually change

Nicole Sciberras (ELSA): Why is there only one student on the board?

Alex Hili (KSU): The majority of boards only have 1 student representative

Steph Dalli (KSU): It's done to appear as actually listening to students

Gabriella Sutton: Is there a higher authority who can call them out on this?

Alex Hili (KSU): The rector's approach will be against students.

Etienne Buttigieg (KSU): If we invite the rector and inform him that we're all against it he'll be intimidated

Michael Piccinino: He won't attend such a meeting

Alex Hili (KSU): Plan of action till now: create a document that can be shared on the day

Michela Cutajar (Insite) Can the minister of Education be contacted?

Matthias Mallia (JEF): the ministry will not take this seriously at this point

Michael Piccinino (KNZ): University administration and the government are not on good terms.

Matthias Mallia (JEF): seeing how government wants young people's votes they might work in our favour. I would like to join in the writing of this document.

Steph Dalli (KSU): We can use this to fight against student activism.

Alex Hili (KSU): We can also do a petition.

Samuel Attard (MMSA): let's say it passes, can organisations disassociate themselves from Senate

Steph Dalli KSU): Organisations are Senate recognised; By disassociating themselves, organisations that are senate recognised lose the right to organise events on quad and have an office in students' house.

Matthias Mallia (JEF): The best way forward is to suggest consultation. If it's not approved – we go public

Proposal put forward.
Vote passed nem con.



4. Equality Bill

Etienne Buttigieg (KSU): In a nutshell, it sums up concerns presented by UBG. A task force was created that drafted the bill.

Proposal of approval of equality bill
Vote passed nem con

5. Manoel Island

Michela Cutajar (Insite): We did not receive the document.

Etienne Buttigieg(KSU): In case of a change in executive, send us an email.

Nicole Sciberras (ELSA): Were any points left out?

Etienne Buttigieg (KSU): Send us an email and we'll check.

Alex Hili (KSU): The feedback on the issue was that most people don't want development but want improvement.

Etienne Buttigieg (KSU): All the points discussed in the previous KPS were included.

Proposal of approval put forward.
Approved nem con

Etienne Buttigieg (KSU): Those who haven't attended a certain number of meetings won't get a vote for the KSU Commissioner election. You'll soon receive an email to give us a valid reason for not attending and if no feedback is received, it will be revoked.

Meeting adjourned at 18.45