



KE Meeting 1

Minutes

Date: 2nd August, 2016

Time: 18:30 hrs

Venue: KSU Tipico Careers Common Room

Attendance:

Present:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martina Cutajar (Faculty of Science) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valeriya Bonkova (Faculty for Social Wellbeing)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Omar Shamala (Institute for Sustainable Energy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryan Falzon (Council)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eman Mifsud (Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation) 	

Excused:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francienne Muscat (Senate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Piccinino (Senate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gayle Lynn Callus (Council) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nico Muscat (Faculty of Arts)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenneth Hili (Faculty of Engineering) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keith Vassallo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> George Zammit Montebello (Faculty of Media & Knowledge Sciences) 	

Absent:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clayton Axisa (Senate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew Muscat (Senate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dirk Urpani (Senate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manuel Xuereb (Council)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gillian Asciak (Faculty of Arts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Katrina Azzopardi (Faculty for the Built Environment)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracey Sammut (Faculty for the Built Environment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duncan Muscat (Faculty for the Built Environment)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chantelle Abela (Faculty of Dental Surgery) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brenda Lee Cutajar (Faculty of Dental Surgery)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denise Balzan (Faculty of Economics) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luke Young (Faculty of Economics)



Management and Accountancy)	Management and Accountancy)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monique Dimech Genius (Faculty of Eductaion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rachel Cauchi (Faculty of Engineering)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stuart Vella Bonello (Faculty of Eductaion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karl Galea (Faculty of Engineering)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rita Catherine Mangion Bianco (Faculty of Eductaion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Bonello (Faculty of Health Sciences)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicholas Karl Buttigieg (Faculty of ICT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrick Gatt (Faculty of Laws)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bernine Caruana (Faculty of ICT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Dingli (Faculty of Laws)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martha Marie Bartolo (Faculty of Media & Knowledge Sciences) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francesco Refalo (Faculty of Laws)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexander Clayman (Faculty of Medicine and Surgery) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julian Bonello (Faculty of Science)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dalton Mangion (Faculty for Social Wellbeing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joshua Cortis (Faculty of Theology)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marya Camenzuli (Faculty for Social Wellbeing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nathan Adams (Institute of Earth Systems)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christopher Mallia (Institute of Tourism, Travel and Culture) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Samiro Bartolo (Institute of Earth Systems)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian Cordina (Institute for Sustainable Energy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julia Aquilina (Institute of European Studies)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anthony David Brincat (International Institute for Baroque Studies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martina Micallef (Institute of European Studies)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meverick Spiteri (International Institute for Baroque Studies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deandra Cutajar (Institute of Space Sciences and Astronomy)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luke Mark Aquilina (Institute of Digital Games) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Micallef (Institute of Physical Education & Sports)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Luc Portelli (Institute of Digital Games) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carmel Theuma (Centre for Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Azzopardi (Centre for Labour Studies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analise Sammut (The Edward De Bono Institute for the Design and Development of Thinking)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gabriella Calamatta (Centre for Labour Studies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maxim Georgievich Nikitin (International School for Foundation Studies)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Borg (Centre for Liberal Arts and Sciences) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Borg Cardona (School of Performing Arts)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew Pisani Terry Duca (Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francesca Zammit (School of Performing Arts)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terry Duca (Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neville Decelis (Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine)

Meeting started: 18.30 hours

1. Approval of Agenda – Approved nemo con.
2. Approval of Minutes – Approved nemo con.
3. Arising Matters out of Minutes

There were no matters arising out of the minutes of the previous meeting.



4. Approval of Standing orders

A brief explanation about standing orders was given, and the changes made since last term's standing orders was highlighted. It was pointed out that the new system regarding online surveys which was adopted during the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) had not been included in the standing orders. This system entails a full member to make a written request to the commission about an issue, which must then be discussed and put on the KSU website in form of a consultative survey. It was agreed that this should be added to the standing orders and approved by the next KE meeting.

5. Invigilators and Exam Hall Feedback Report

An explanation was given about the KSU complaint collection system – an event was launched on the Facebook page and a complaint website portal was available on the website, giving both anonymous and identifiable methods of giving complaints. A number of complains were received, mainly regarding examination conditions and inappropriate invigilator behavior. The main complaints perceived by student representatives were discussed and these were namely noise from other students who had finished the exam in the corridors and inappropriate room environment for sitting an exam.

With regards to exam hall conditions, most concerns focused on the presence of long benches (as opposed to individual ones) which mean that all students on one bench are disrupted when one student asks to be excused or leaves the exam room, as they need to stand up to make room for them to exit. Furthermore, slanting benches that are placed far away from the desk make it increasingly uncomfortable for students sitting written papers. It was agreed that a list of rooms considered 'appropriate' for exams should be compiled and suggested to the registrar to only be used during exams. It was decided that the conditions inappropriate for exams, are also inappropriate for lectures and therefore this list should also be used to suggest improvements as to make rooms a more suitable learning environment. The KSU education office will be contacting the student representatives to give details about the classrooms that they use, for this purpose, to be passed on to the registrar.

6. Update regarding Home Schooling Proposal

A brief overview of the report was given. The issue of assessment of the home-schooled students was discussed, and it was suggested that these students should sit the same exams which government schools offer, as well as O'Level Examinations, so as to ensure that they are up to the same standard as those learning in a more conventional learning environments. It was also decided that more information about this initiative is needed, in particular up to which level of education this system will be applied to.



7. Update regarding American University of Malta

A brief overview of the press release given by KSU was given. It was brought to the KE's attention that the shortage of lecturers at the University of Malta in certain faculties, which has been expressed by the heads of departments is already a reality, which could possibly be made worse by a new private university, dividing the country's educational resources, especially if the salary offered by the new university is higher than ours. It was suggested that we should ask for the opinions of academics on the matter, such as global college, lecturers etc.

It was discussed that the matter about the University of Malta's reputation which may be at stake should this university be introduced, as the fact that it needed the backing of other institutes to be considered a 'university' is worrying.

The issue of already limited research opportunities was also pointed out and discussed, as these are more numerous in the private sector than the public, and should this university invest in the private sector they would be more willing to give opportunities to their respective students. This will cause the level of research at the University of Malta to suffer.

It was agreed that we should speak with our University before speaking to other parties, to know their stance on the matter. We will also speak to the National Commission for Further and Higher Education (NCFHE), to discuss the negotiations and whether they will remain non-negotiable. It was also suggested that a public debate with academics should be held, including members from the government and both universities.

8. Discussion regarding time for KE Meetings

A discussion regarding a fixed time for the monthly KE meetings was held. It was agreed that the time should be 6.30pm on the first Tuesday of every month until October, in which a new time will be agreed once students receive their timetables.

9. Overview of Education Office Work Plan

A brief overview of the plan for the following year was given.

10. Launch of Funds and Grants Subcommittee

A brief overview about the aims and structure of the funds and grants subcommittee was given. This will be the first subcommittee launched this year and will aim at collecting in one place the opportunities, funds and grants available to students, so as to make them more accessible. The subcommittee will consist of students from the KE as well as students from organisations on campus. A call will be sent by email this week, and a deadline will be set for 2 weeks' time.



11. Other matters

- a. Organisations' BBQ – student representatives are invited to the organisations' BBQ on the 23rd August. The event has been posted on Facebook.
- b. Student representation workshops – the registrar has now created a study unit (2 credits) that focuses on the skills needed in student representation. Assessment will be in the form of a reflective journal, and it is recommended by the KE for all students, especially but not restricted to student representatives. The deadline to apply is the 4th August, and a maximum number of 20 people can be accepted.
- c. Deadline for publication of exam results – There is a discrepancy between the deadline of the publication of results and the period to choose elective study units in certain faculties. This results in students having to choose study units before knowing whether or not they have progressed to the next year. When contacted certain departments such as psychology, explained that they were not going against any regulations by doing so and that they were understaffed, and therefore could not do any differently. The option of changing the deadline of publication of results was discussed, but since this cannot be changed for another 5 years due to being included in Collective Agreement of the Academics, signed in July 2014, the option of changing the period of selection of study units was suggested. It was also suggested that a minimum amount of time between the date of publication of results and the date of the exam sitting should be set. These would be suggested to the registrar in the next meeting. It will also be suggested that an email with the list of deadlines should be sent to students after they sit their exams and promotion about how the credit system works, so as to avoid miscommunication between the University and its students.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:30hrs.

Martina Miggiani

KSU Education Commissioner

Rebecca Stoner

KSU Education Coordinator

