

## KE Meeting 2 - Minutes 12.10.2017 – 6.30pm

### Present

Jacobob Portelli	Amy Christina Slater
Gillian Asciak	Carla Galea
Patrick Gatt	Martina Cutajar
Nico Muscat	Sinclair Bugeja
Jean Claude Scicluna	Bernard Micallef
Yacopo Luigi Baldacchino	

### Excused

Kaitlyn Byrne	Nathan Grech
Francesco Giuseppe Refalo	John Montebello
Dirk Urpani	Sean Ellul
Shanice Borg	Cody Galea
Matthew Pulis	Gabriella Sutton

### Absent

Ryan Falzon	Nicholas Karl Buttigieg
Alexander Hili	Bernine Caruana
Manuel Xuereb (PG)	Keith Vassallo
Clayton Axisa	Matthew Galea (PG)
Denis Muscat (PG)	David Mallia
Michael Piccinino	George Zammit Montebello
Daniel Vella	Alexander Clayman
Mark Borg (PG)	Julian Bonello (PG)
Dylan Gauci	Valeriya Boykova Bonkova
Maria Katrina Azzopardi	Anthony David Brincat
Tracey Sammut	Mevrick Spiteri
Chantelle Abela	Elizabeth Camilleri
Martina Camilleri	Isabelle Kniestedt
James Attard (PG)	Noemi Said
Rachel Cauchi	Tiziana Gatt
Dylan Mercieca	Deandra Cutajar



Andrew Pisani	Christian Cordina
Maria Azzopardi	Omar Shamala
Anabel Muscat	Nigel Xuereb Said
Mark Borg	Eman Mifsud
Neville Decelis	Terry Duca
Elizabeth Borg Cardona	
Francesca Zammit	

Meeting started 6.30pm

Jacob asked if anyone has a problem with the meeting being held in Maltese. Amy asked for the meeting to be in English. There were no objections to this.

#### 1. Approval of Proposed Agenda

Jacob asked if anyone has anything to object to or add regarding the agenda which was sent round. Jacob asked for an addition to the agenda about the 'education department issue'. Agenda was approved by all with this addition.

#### 2. Approval of Previous Meetings' Minutes.

Jacob asked for a vote on the previous meetings' minutes, which were sent round prior to meeting. All in favour.

#### 3. Graduation Speeches Board

Jacob said the board still has one place left and asked if anyone else would like to join. Amy asked what the responsibilities are, and Jacob explained that it would require correction of all speeches handed in to the board, attendance to one or two meetings, and carrying out interviews for candidates. Amy accepted to be the 5th member of the board.

#### 4. KE + KPS Workshops and Handbook.

Jacob apologised for our quiet period during Freshers' Week. KE and KPS workshops will be held on the 28th October. Student Rep Handbook will be given out at workshops. Jacob asked everyone to read previous year's handbook and to see if anyone agreed or disagreed with anything. Jacob asked Gabriella if she has anything to add about the workshops from the KPS side, nothing yet.

#### 5. Standing committees

Jacob said we will issue the call again for this. He also said there is big problem with attendance and we will be talking to all representatives to see why this is. Gillian reminded that rule applies for no vote after 3 meetings missed without valid excuse. Gillian asked if anyone has any problems with the way the standing committees split. No objections.



## 6. Photos for Student Rep Campaign

Jacob said photos were left aside for fresher's week but we will be working on it again.

Gillian reminded that someone had suggested putting photos of the reps on the faculty notice boards, and asked if anyone has any more ideas for promotion.

Jean Claude suggested sending a directive to the faculties to introduce the reps to the students, especially first years. He himself does this of his own initiative. This might push more people to contact the faculty rep when there is a problem.

Jacob said that we are also trying to get the emails for rep elections to come from KSU as most emails from registrar are ignored by most students. Jacob explained to Sinclair the point currently being discussed.

Martina suggested getting administration to promote the fact that students reps also go to KE and not only faculty board, and making lecturers realise that faculty board meetings cannot be attended by reps if they are during lecture hours.

Patrick said that they need to realise that we are members the same way that they are members of the faculty board and we should be heard as well.

Jacob asked if anyone has any issues.

Amy said institute statute says that reps are elected for 1 year. But she and other reps were elected for two years, board of studies of another subject reps were elected for 1 year, and onher board (human language technology) she was elected for 2 years. She was not even told she would be on board of studies for HLT.

Martina said that in some courses, if you are elected as student reps, you are automatically elected as student rep on board of studies

Jean said that on their board of study, the same people have been attending for 3 years, but no formal elections ever held

Jacob reminded all to please send email about the info on board of studies and how they are elected in each faculty. Gillian said another e-mail will be sent about this.

## 7. Budget 2018 Reaction

Jacob said that KE and KPS will be issuing a reaction to the budget and briefly explained the points that will be included in the document. Jacob pointed out that especially on the point of reducing bureaucracy, it is ironic considering proposal of two new boards in UoM act.

Patrick asked if this document came out from KE and KPS, Jacob said it was mostly from KPS as if it had been from KE everyone would have been informed beforehand.

Jacob mentioned the point on no tax for people doing masters, except those who are doing a professional masters, as a positive one.

Patrick asked why those who are doing a professional masters are left out, Jacob explained that these students receive a stipend, unlike those not doing a professional masters.

Jean said that we should push the point on the carpooling initiative, even though it was not a KSU idea.

## 8. Education Department Issue



Gillian explained that an email was sent to all students from the education department offering teaching positions as a part time opportunity to students who are not trained to teach and have not even graduated yet.

Martina said it does not make sense for people who are not trained in teaching to do a job like this.

Bernard pointed out that this is already happening for graduates who can apply for supply teachers.

Sinclair asked what happens if there actually students who want to take this opportunity. He pointed out that some students in his department teach at primary school. Some students might like the idea.

Gillian pointed out that you should not have people teaching who are not trained to do so.

Patrick said it would be like someone practicing law without a warrant.

Martina said it is even more important to have trained teachers because there is a curriculum to follow and the students will be doing o levels.

Amy pointed out that since they asked for availabilities in the e-mail, this means the students will not even have a consistent teacher.

Gabby also said this is counterproductive considering the point in the budget about investment in teachers and educators.

Martina said that this is a problem which has been noticeable for a while and they should have tackled it before. They can go back to old system of Bachelor in Education if there is such a shortage of teachers.

Jacob said that we will be issuing a statement on this.

#### 9. UoM Act Consultation Event with Minister

Jacob reminded everyone about the event on the 18th.

Gillian said that event is out and programme is soon going to be posted.

Jacob said it would help if everyone could share the event.

Patrick asked if anything that is sent by email can also be posted on fb.

#### 10. Vote on UoM Feedback Document

Bernard pointed out that the initial proposal by KSU said dean could continue after two terms. He proposed that after second term dean cannot present their nomination to give space for other nominees. If no adequate candidate is presented, then they are allowed to contest. Adequate candidates should still be chosen by the governing board. This gives more initiative for different people to apply.

Martina asked what would happen if no candidates are found to be adequate for the post.

Gillian said this is on a case by case basis and we cannot make a rule for it.

Patrick said that in the case that there are no other nominations, you cannot appoint someone who would not like to be dean.

Jacob said this should be asked to the minister at the consultation.



Bernard asked if this problem has ever actually come up, as the position is hotly contested in his faculty.

Sinclair pointed out that especially since salary is good, it should not be a problem to find candidates.

Martina asked how much a term is, Gillian said that it is 4 years.

Jean Claude said that since there is the system of deputy dean, these are the people that should be willing to step up in this case.

Bernard suggested that the HOD is chosen by senate, as it is now, instead of by the dean, so the dean does not create an 'empire'.

Martina pointed out that the Dean is part of senate, so is still present when HOD is chosen. Jacob said that we can include this in the KSU document, asked if anyone has any problems with this.

Jacob and Gillian explained KSU's position with regards to capping of deans' term.

Martina suggested that if we say no capping, the third term of the dean must go through review.

Gillian said this is already proposed in the document, but after 1 term not 2. Student reps must be involved in review process.

Martina pointed out that most students in her faculty do not have any actual contact with the dean, except herself as student rep.

Jacob said: reps should be encouraging students to make more contact with them to speak to deans and heads of department when an issue arises.

Bernard said that the review will be carried out on academic staff, and after a few years some things will change in the non-academic staff.

Jacob agreed feedback will include opinions from non-academic staff

Vote: Capping or no capping on terms served by Deans?

Nico: without capping

Gabriella: no capping, Kaitlyn proxy: no capping

Jacob: capping

Jean Claude: no capping

Yacopo: no capping

Martina: no capping

Bernard: capping, Matthew proxy: capping

Amy: no capping

Patrick: no capping, Francesco proxy: no capping, dirk proxy: no capping

Sinclair: capping

Carla: no capping

Shanice: no capping

John + Nathan: as proposed, no capping

Results: 14: no capping, 4: capping, no abstentions



Bernard's proposal to have head of department chosen by senate approved by all. Will be included in document.

Jacob encouraged those who voted for capping to still bring this up with minister.

Vote: Entire document

Proxies:

- John: yes
- Nathan Grech: yes
- Shanice Borg: yes
- Dirk: yes
- Francesco: yes
- Matthew Pulis: yes
- Kaitlyn Byrne: yes

Members present:

All in favour.

Meeting closed: 7.50pm

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Jacob Portelli  
KSU Education Commissioner

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Gillian Asciak  
KSU Education Coordinator