



KE Meeting 4

Minutes

Date: 31st September, 2016

Time: 18:00 hrs

Venue: KSU Organisation's Boardroom

Attendance:

Present:

Martina Miggiani	Denise Balzan
Rebecca Stoner	Ryan Falzon
Omar Shamala	Nico Muscat
Michael Piccinino	Gillian Asciak
Steph Dalli	Martina Cutajar
Omar Shamala	Manuel Xuereb
Kenneth Hili	

Excused:

Valeriya Bonkova	Gayle Lynne Callus
Rachel Cauchi	Maria Dimech
Andrew Muscat	

Absent:

Clayton Axisa	Marya Camenzuli (PG)
Francienne Muscat (PG)	Martha Marie Bartolo
Dirk Urpani (PG)	Felic Micallef
Gayle Lynn Callus	Duncan Muscat (PG)
Duncan Muscat (PG)	Joshua Cortis
Chantelle Abela	Nathan Adams
Brenda Lee Cutajar (PG)	Samiro Bartolo
Luke Young	Julia Aqulina
Monique Dimech Genius	Martina Micallef



Stuart Vella Bonello	Christopher Mallia
Rita Catherine Mangion Bianco (PG)	Christian Cordina
Matthew Bonello	Anthony David Brincat
Nicholas Karl Buttigieg	Meverick Spiteri
Bernine Caruana	Luke Mark Aquilina
Patrick Gatt	Jean Luc Portelli
Robert Dingli(PG)	Deandra Cutajar
Francesco Refalo	Robert Micallef
Martha Marie Bartolo	Carmel Theuma
George Zamit Montebello	Eman Mifsud
Thomas Bajada	Maria Azzopardi
Julian Bonello(PG)	Gabriella Calamatta
Maria Katrina Azzopardi	Mark Borg
Tracey Sammut	Terry Duca
Dalton Mangion	Andrew Pisani
Alexander Clayman	Neville Decelis
Francesca Zammit	Analise Sammut
Elizabeth Borg Cardona	Maxim Georgievich Nikitin

Meeting started: 18.10 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. Graduation Speeches

The graduation speeches report was sent out via email previous to the meeting. A brief overview of the report was given. The interviews were held over 4 meetings, and each one was marked according to the guidelines. There were 24 applicants, 1 of which withdrew. Recommendations were received to make the call earlier, better promotion of the event, to have a workshop or information session about what is required and expected from students, to receive feedback before the interview and to let them know how many other applicants for the same ceremony. The board also suggested that 2 non-KE members should be included on the board, to increase transparency. Ryan Falzon explained that this would increase transparency, and could include student with interests in speech writing and public speaking. Kenneth



Hili pointed out that with KE members, there is a degree of accountability. Rebecca Stoner pointed out this this could lead to people using this to manipulate their score. Michael Piccinino suggested that since this will apply for the next year's applications, this should be noted and recorded, but discussed next year with the next KE.

5. Update on Interdisciplinary Near Peer Teaching

The first near peer teaching workshop was carried out last week, in which students from different courses teach other students skills which would be useful for them. Suggestions were asked from the board to suggest topics. Members agreed to discuss this with their respective organisations and bring forward any suggestions.

Ryan Falzon brought up that last year FEMA was interested in starting an accounting clinic, which was based on a similar Basis. This will be considered and followed up on.

6. Update on Dissertation Workshops

These will be held from the 16th November 'til 14th December, during Degree Plus hours. The event will be coming out this week. These will be recognized by Degree Plus.

7. Student Representative Elections

These will be held on the 10th of November. There are elections in the Senate, Council, Faculty of Arts, European Studies and FEMA. As agreed last meeting, the current student representatives will have a cover photo promoting the election, a cut out will be erected and the videos promoting the student representatives will be ready by the February elections. Common room will be reserved for voting. Members were encouraged to remind their colleagues to vote.

8. Students Contribution Scheme

This has been updated from previous last years' method of a form in hard copy, and is now online. Not many applicants have applied. Michael Piccinino pointed out that there needs to be encouragement in person. Ryan Falzon asked whether the Stipends office agreed to promote it on their page and Martina Miggiani informed him that they explained that once you have declined to donate, then you will not be able to edit your decision. Gillian Acsiak suggested that this be brought up as a reminder during the KPS. Martina Cutajar suggested that this should be an option when registering for the KSU account. Michael Piccinino pointed out that since you need to collect student's data for this, it might put students off



from registering on their website in fear of this. Manwel Xuereb suggested that a link to apply be sent out with the link to vote for student representative elections, but since this is sent by the University so may not be possible. Martina Cutajar suggested that since the registrar's emails can sometimes be ignored, KSU should send an email about this from their account. Omar Shamala suggested that the KSU email be granted access to the student body, for the same reasons mentioned previously. In the meantime, members are encouraged to promote this initiative.

9. Guidelines Subcommittee

A new subcommittee is being launched to put together a step by step guidelines for new Student Representatives on how to tackle problems and carry out their role. This will be useful for current student reps and in the future. The call will be sent out this week, and members are welcome to apply. Kenneth Hili pointed out that a handover period for student representatives should exist, so that during for example the first month of the term, while the new student representative is still accountable the previous one will be there to guide him and advise him. Gillian Asciak pointed out that the faculties will not allow more than the allocated number for student representatives to attend the meeting. Ryan Falzon suggested that a handover officially requested by University should occur. Stephanie Dalli raised the point that some student representatives are not interested in doing their duties during their term, let alone afterwards. Kenneth Hili also discussed that the inclusion of acting as a student representative as a study unit might be counterproductive, as if I know I will not be able to attend the stipulated percentage of attendance required, one will not apply as one will not want a 'fail' on their transcript.

He also suggested that a better link should exist between the Board of Studies and Faculty Board and that their meetings should not occur on the same day, and that anything student related should be given an allocated and fixed time so that the person in question can come, discuss his case and leave. These are the recommendations that he will be passing on to his faculty.

Gillian Asciak brought up a suggestion which was discussed in a previous meeting, that separate boards should exist which deal with their own allocated problems and a report compiled for each one, which will then be discussed at the Faculty Board meeting if there is a concern or problem, which would save time.

Kenneth Hili and Martina Cutajar also pointed out that these meetings occur during lectures and placement/ Lab times, this means that they need to either miss out on an educational opportunity or attending the meeting. This was discussed, and the factor that finding a time when all members of the board are free would be very difficult.

Kenneth Hili suggested that the attendance of the members of the Faculty Board should also be published – since students voted from them and they should therefore be held



accountable. Nico Muscat also pointed out that this should be applied for all minutes, since these concern students too.

Ryan Falzon suggested that the Registrar be invited to 2 meetings of the guideline Subcommittee to discuss these issues with her.

Kenneth Hili suggested that KSU put the new and previous student representatives into contact, to facilitate the handover of information, by sending them both an email with the other's contact details. He also suggested a form which could be given to the new student representatives with the information that they would need to know, which they could go through and confirm that they were confident in each point and if not, could contact their predecessor.

10. Other matters

A thank you to the members who's terms as student representatives end this November. Their help and input was very important for all decisions taken in KE.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:08hrs

Martina Miggiani, KSU Education Commissioner

Rebecca Stoner, KSU Education Coordinator