

September 26, 2014

Approved Nov 21st, 2014. *Note: Future sessions will be Audio recorded.*

A.U.K. Senate Meeting – Minutes

Minutes taken by: Mentor Nimani

Attended: Dr. John Mosbo, Vice President, Daniel Cosentino, Dr. David Eustice, Dr. Besnik Bislimi, Mrika Katorri, Edison Jakurti – President of A.U.K. Student Government

Daniel opens the session at 9.07 am. Rules and procedural rights are read.

Members gave oaths – to uphold the Constitution of Republic of Kosova. David Eustice has objections to the oath on Kosovo Constitution and wants time to read the text of the oath. John Mosbo lead the oath.

Oath processed, by David Eustice too.

Vice President Mosbo:

- Worked with 4 other Senate's: two were dysfunctional, one good and one OK. Small senates are good, and debates should be encouraged on all subjects, rendering meetings never ending.
- Curricula
- Evolving policies and faculty progress
- Issues related to teaching and faculty
- We have no control over curricula since it is RIT.
- Policies – we are a young institution. We need to complete these policies for the institutions as they affect faculty and the students.
- Issues of practices that effect faculty and students that have been developed till now or should be, or change them.

Responsibilities:

- Extent to which Senate represents the faculty
- Senate decides on behalf of faculties and represent the interest of faculty
- AUK Senate should be a working group
- Nothing wrong if faculty brings issues before the Senate
- Select issues and passing on to the other departments and deliberating those we pick
- Productive Senates are those who are small and may work internally. Example: (dysfunctional Senate) – revision of faculty handbook being revised for years. We

compromised and passed a decision for which it took 1 year (though before it has been hanging forever). It was US versus THEM. I have no patience for that.

DANIEL:

- Any comments?
- Establish timeframe?

Edi Muhaxheri:

- 5h year as a Senator
- Why do we have a Standing Committee?
- Last year we worked on curriculum. We should call on things not on RIT.

John:

- RIT degree is an RIT issue.
- How much flexibility do we have for RIT degree department?
- RIT approves a course
- We should propose a course – since we do not know if they will approve it.

Besnik Bislimi:

- AUK decides to give courses based on faculty. We should give other course names such as SPECIAL TOPICS

John:

- Declares that these are all great points
- Also, the requirements for curriculum should best fit to the needs of Kosova.
- There are interesting courses that we should look into
- Points out that he is not authoritative to decide what best fits Kosova

DANIEL:

- The stronger our proposals are, more likely RIT will approve them.
- The issue is how we fit our curriculum into RIT curriculum
- We will need to have more understanding on RIT in general

- WIKI – senate minutes to be published online and recorded for the other faculty to see.

John:

- Agrees with Daniel to give it a try

Edison Jakurti SG:

- Shares thoughts on SG Project to start in June: Scholarship and on September: Mabelle issues.
- Deal with students harmed by semester conversion. Third of students issues were resolved.
- Organize a survey on Food Committee? Reinstall?
- Other projects: open up AUK community
- There are no relations with other University SG, sports activities
- Edi Muhaxheri is a SG Advisor.
- Thanks faculty for cooperation

Besnik Bislimi:

- Food committee was useless

Daniel:

- Lendita sends the menu

Edison:

- States that there were no changes on the menus.
- Recommends to negotiate or
- Find someone else to replace My Belle.
- Legally there are no obstacles to get rid of My Belle

Daniel:

- Reverse your agenda: first start cooperation with other universities, not food.

Edi:

- No end to debates on faculty promotions
- Looking forward on finishing accreditation of AUK
- Adjunct faculty member should be taken care
- Issue regarding the contract requirement: and do other job as required
 - Faculty should be asked to do only work related to the course

John:

- We look forward to new functionality
- Issues are always pushed for other meetings

Daniel: Faculty contracts teaching related issues and promotions

John: Suggests allowing him to see the plan until the next meeting

Discussions are held on the issue of promotion by Besnik, Lorrain, Julia who talk about previous experiences.

John wants to talk to Michael Waschak and Besnik Bislimi regarding their experience.

Daniel: these 2 documents are on Wiki, merging makes sense.

John: let's start what is really important and merge the documents.

Besnik: Changes need to comply with Kosovo laws. We need to think how to draft them.

David Eustice: suggests these 2 documents must take one session, with an agenda for the topics? Can we be professional?

John can try, Besnik insists to be specific.

John: to find out how much he need to catch up with the help of Besnik and Michael, two weeks are needed.

Daniel: Academic Calendar will be related to faculty appointments in the charter. Academic calendar is a must.

John: Issues of calendar needs to be discussed.

When do we begin Fall Semester?

We start early, 1 September, since we are limiting ourselves of students. Other institutions seem to start at October 1. Delayed start may be beneficial.

John: Can we arrange the time when AUK is closed. Example: January – February, would save on heating bill. There are tradeoffs. Requires completing schedules, delay start will be good.

Edi Muhaxheri: Credit Bologna System- they just add credits.

Daniel: we need AUK working with Bologna. Where do we actually stand on Bologna – Kosovo was rejected, although wants to be part of the Bologna credit system.

EDI: to match other credits, universities will change credit requires for accreditation. Credits = contact hours.

Besnik: No time on holiday, solution could be only for freshmen, we will give them more time.

John: we are correct: contact hours we need to follow that – US government requires them from accreditation agency, what constitutes a credit. Clearly that is a seat time. We need to stick to contact time.

Besnik: How to proceed? Ask someone?

John: suggest make a group to meet with him informally, bounce ideas. Group should keep in touch with the faculty.

Besnik: including SG>

John: Agrees. Think about trimesters? Three semester system - middle or after part of June.

Besnik: SG should talk with students on these ideas. Daniel could do some initial steps.

David: feedback from students

Edison: Winter Classes?

John: We could have then 3d session, online courses, etc.

Besnik: Credit courses work well, it is experience. But RIT has issues.

John: Colorado has experience teaching in blocks. We could split a semester into 2 parts, depending from the load. I am open to that.

Edison: Ask math teachers?

Besnik: for English is a problem?

Edi: Advanced courses: try David in Chemistry.

Edison: Crash courses, 8 hours a day, all absorb the materials?

Besnik: yes, very successfully.

Daniel: Amendments; In December Faculty to vote for amendments. Standing committees might need to ask others to form.

Edi: agrees.

Daniel: 2nd Wednesday on December. Give Michael the charter.

Mrika: no time on Friday, TTH to meet only. Tuesday 11 am.

Daniel: will circulate ideas. 4th week on Tuesday.

Mrika: Friday after 2 PM to meet. 2.30 Friday.

Michael to propose changes to Academic Senate.

Daniel: Record issues on WIKI.

David: Campus Safety.

Lendita Rugova has emergency contact and faculty office has first aid kit. Bring this in management meeting.

David: Science Lab, EYE Wash system?

Daniel: Faculty Assist: Who do you call if projector does not work?

Course overload

Senate to discuss curriculum

John: agrees senate to discuss curriculum

Daniel: Formal stand committees, providing academic titles, there are differences between RIT promotions and Kosovo Law

Board of Trustees – 30 – 40 students per classroom. Access to text books.

John: some issues may need work from other committees.

Senate should assign things to committees or set up ad hoc committees. Text books issue is something to learn more about. Ivana should be on the committee. Report to Senate to raise issues to agenda. Ask board for specific issues grant writing, etc.

Smart Board – 3 D Printing.

Where to put them?

Besnik: Restructuring AUK. What is process then student take UP classes to substitute AUK classes> AUK should approve them only. Class size must be decided too. Currently have 38 students in some courses.

Meeting concluded at 10.40 am.