



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam.

MINUTES
COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION
Commission Meeting
February 5, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 3:25pm. Roll call determined there was a quorum. Present were Speaker WonPat, Mayor Ben Gumataotao, Joe Garrido, Miguet Bevacqua, Lisa Baza, Lisa Natividad, Eddie Duenas, and Youth Congress Speaker Leonardo Orisini.

Minutes of July 28, 2014 meeting was approved by Eddie Duenas and 2nded by Mayor Gumataotao subject to change.

The first item for discussion is centered around the 250 word essay on each status option by the taskforce chairmans. Only Joe Garrido complied with the assignment. Mike Bevacqua stated he would email his when he was done. Eddie Duenas asked what the limit was 250 words in which the Executive Director replied that it was the limit from the web designers. The essay will be used for the websites which are in the process of being launched in the near future, and is part of the education program.

Second item of business was about the Island Wide High School Decolonization debate where the Executive Director asked for volunteers to assist the high school teams in reviewing the position papers about the 3 political status options and guiding them on producing the best presentation for the debates.

Speaker WonPat stated that each task force chairman should be involved and is a given. Joe Garrido had a concern that the participants should be educated and for the political status they defend and not just participate halfheartedly. Also, that students should not represent a status they can't properly advocate for (i.e. a Chinese student should not defend independence when he or she cannot vote in in the referendum). Mike Bevacqua interjected and relayed that in his UOG class, he has these types of debates and feels it is good for students to get to know how it feels to participate. He feels students get an appreciation for the struggle for political status and get to put themselves in the colonized shoes. He further mentioned that he's observed Statehood as the popular choice in the beginning of the semester, but at the end, the Independence and Free Association level off with statehood and at times Independence surpasses Statehood. Lisa Baza stated that the task of the Chairmen is simply to guide the students in assuring the information about their status choice is correct and informative. She felt it should not be any more complicated than that. Joe Garrido stated he was busy so the Executive Director advised

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that he didn't have to participate but to give a name from his taskforce to take over. Garrido then stated he would do it.

In the end, Dr. Lisa Natividad, Lisa Baza, Mike Bevacqua, Eddie Duenas, Joe Garrido, and Leonardo Orisin agreed to volunteer. Speaker WonPat also agreed to have her office help out.

The third item centered was around the update for the federal grant Speaker WonPat mentioned in the last meeting. She corrected the last meeting minutes by making it clear that she was not writing a grant but was merely giving an example of how money could get to the Commission. For the record, she is not writing a grant to be shared with the commission. There was discussion about making another attempt to apply for the 250 thousand dollar DOI grant. A meeting will be set up with?

There was no open discussion so the meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

EDWARD A. ALVAREZ
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