



COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION COMMISSION MEETING Minutes December 5, 2017

I. Roll Call

- a. Present
 - Adrian Cruz, Free Association Task Force
 - Dr. Michael Bevacqua, Independence Task Force
 - Sen. Eddie Duenas, Statehood Task Force
 - Dr. Lisa Baza, Member-At-Large
 - Dr. Lisa Natividad, Member-At-Large
 - P.J. Guerrero, Representative of Sen. Esteves
- b. Also in attendance:
 - Eloy Hara, Statehood Task Force
- c. Not in attendance:
 - Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo, Chairman - Excused
 - Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje, Vice Chairwoman - Excused
 - Tristan Quintanilla, Youth Congress - Excused
 - Sen. Telena Nelson
 - Mayor Robert Hoffman

II. Approval of Minutes: November 7, 2017

- a. All approvals are subject to correction
- b. **Motion to approve – PJ Guerrero, Seconded by Dr. Natividad. Passes.**

III. Updates

- a. Davis Case – We are awaiting a copy of that brief. We have made the request and once it comes in we will send it out.
- b. Website Update
 - In packets, you have a list of resources available at the Agana library which have been uploaded to our website. We will also be uploading the recent testimonies.



- Task forces – if you want any more information up on the website on your specific page, please email us and we will also include it.

c. Self-Governance Study

- There is the option of doing an MOU. Included in the packet is a scope of study. The original intent was to have the study ready before the next regional seminar. There are legal fees included, but they would be able to complete it by that time. The 1,000 for advertisement in the case of an IFB will not be counted should we do an MOU. GEDA was unable to make it today, but if you have any questions I could try to answer them or forward them to GEDA.
- Dr. Natividad – So this would have us give the full 120,000 and entire scope of work to GEDA
- Dr. Baza – Would they subcontract it out to one or 10 people?
- Dr. Natividad – is this what the subcommittee envisioned? GEDA doesn't have the expertise for all these areas. I can't imagine how they could think of implications outside of economics. The way it's written. If they spend \$120,000, they can, and we might only have an economic study.
- Executive Director – We could adjust and have them
- Dr. Bevacqua – Originally it was supposed to be one person who subcontracted it out. Then it was changed to different parts. Now it gives all responsibility to subcontract to GEDA.
- Dr. Natividad – to me, this is giving them all autonomy. Do we want to be the ones in charge of subcontracting?
- Dr. Bevacqua – the assumption is that GEDA would have to subcontract the areas which are not their specialty.
- Eloy Hara – Many of these areas which were studied before still stands for statehood as much of it will be status quo. Most are redundant as far as we're concerned.
- Dr. Bevacqua – The idea is that with GEDA it will happen more quickly.
- Executive Director – If we split it into two studies, we can have an IFB out at the same time as GEDA works on the economic part.



- Adrian Cruz – for the Invitation for Bid, it will still be out of our hands as we don't have a choice in who will bid. Originally we were going to stick to 10 broad categories.
- Dr. Natividad – years ago, we came up with a very comprehensive list. For example, citizenship is a very big one.
- Eloy Hara – We could actually remove infrastructure as power and water are public corporations and not controlled by the government. We can easily get all that data from the utility.
- Executive Director – So we are just looking at possibly taking out part a (formerly phase 1) being taken out of the MOU. The bid would be tricky. One way we can help to avoid a protest is the pre-bid conference. The concern is if we don't get a vendor, which happened with Free Association's IFB.
- Dr. Natividad – I think we should just take this. I want to see that all we had in our past list is covered in this one. Usually when you have a contract this big, they would present us with a very comprehensive explanation of how they're going to spend the \$120,000. We need to be much more concrete about what we're expecting from them.
- Sen. Duenas – What would this study relate to the individual task forces?
- Adrian Cruz – It would have the outcome for each of the status options. They would look at other places that work in a similar way.
- Dr. Bevacqua – There was difficulty coming to a consensus as what would be appropriate for each of the task forces. Originally it was much more pointed about investigating key issues. We had to broaden it to come to a consensus. One of my suggestions about the change in funding looking at 5, 10, 20 years from now.
- Eloy Hara – Example: Healthcare - For the Compact Impact, based on the number, we should get several million because we have the most population from those area. As a state, it would be covered by Federal funds. We don't need those kinds of funding because we already have it.
- Executive Director – Let's assign members of the Commission to the subcommittee.
- Dr. Bevacqua – I will work with Adrian to come with 10 very specific details to be studied.



- Dr. Natividad – Can I suggest we do it as a Google Doc, so we could all edit.
- Adrian Cruz – Can we also change it to be a 20 year study? Joe Bradley said if he could change anything about the former study, it was that he would make it a 20-year study.
- Executive Director – We will table it and upload it tomorrow to make it more specific and then meet December 19. We will also add tribal status

IV. Financial Report

- a. Executive Director – I had a meeting with the grant administrators for the DOI grant. They were concerned that we won't be spending any of the money. I told them the Self-Governance Study is going to be going through. We are also looking into other things.
- b. Thank you for approving our procurement of a printer and other supplies.

V. Task Force Updates

- Executive Director – added update on Chamorro Forum – It has been rescheduled to sometime in January. I will inform the task forces as soon as I get the exact day.
 - I have been sending interested members for each of the task forces your way. Please reach out to them.
- b. Free Association – given by Adrian Cruz
 - We are still waiting for some important procurement stuff.
 - We did a lecture at UOG for a class.
 - We're scheduled for another radio podcast this week Thursday with Julius Santos
 - c. Independence – given by Dr. Michael Bevacqua
 - Last General Assembly for the year was at Chamorro Village, with 50 people.
 - Our last teach-in which focused on families with inter-generational activism.
 - Our last big event of the year is this Friday – the war claims event at UOG.
 - d. Statehood – given by Eddie Duenas



- We presented to a UOG class last week with an open forum and question and answer.
- We have an arrangement to meet with a video production.
- For our website, I pay to retain the domain name. I would like to transfer that expense so I'm no longer paying out of pocket.

VI. Open Discussion

- a. Dr. Natividad – I wanted to put on the table – I'm wondering if for Spring 2019, if there's interest in investing in maybe a 2-day decolonization conference. We could bring in some presenters. It will allow us to have deep substantive conversations about decolonization.
- b. Adrian Cruz – we could even film that and have it aired.
- c. Sen. Duenas – I think we should be more flexible with our meetings – for example when neither the Chairman nor the Vice Chairwoman is able to make it.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. **January 16, 2018. Motion by Dr. Baza, Seconded by Adrian Cruz.**
 - We believe we won't be able to meet quorum.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.