



**COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION**  
**Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**January 23, 2018**

**I. Roll Call**

**a. Present**

- Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo, Chairman
- Jonathan Guerrero, Independence Task Force Representative
- Adrian Cruz, Free Association Representative
- PJ Guerrero, Representative for Sen. Fernando Esteves
- Eloy Hara, Statehood Task Force
- Tristan Quintanilla, Guam Youth Congress
- Mayor Robert Hoffman, Mayors' Council of Guam
- Dr. Lisa Baza, Member-at-large
- Dr. Lisa Natividad, Member-at-large

**b. Excused Absences**

- Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje, Vice Chairwoman  
*(Excused for session)*
- Sen. Telena Nelson  
*(Excused for session)*
- Sen. Fernando Esteves  
*(Excused for session)*

**II. Approval of Minutes: December 5, 2017**

- a. All approvals are subject to correction
- b. Motion to approve – Eloy Hara. No objections. Passes.**

**III. Updates**

**a. Executive Director's Update**

• **Website**

1. Mariana and one of our volunteers have completed scanning and cataloging the documents from the Agana Library as well as other media articles from the MARC. We are in the process



of having them uploaded to the website. It is our goal to make it that everything is online and easily accessible.

- **Self-Governance Study**

1. Executive Director - Yesterday the sub-committee met and approved for review the draft no. 2 of the MOU. During one of the previous subcommittee meetings, the members agreed to have the MOU go between COD and the UOG School of Business and Public Administration Regional Center for Public Policy. If the Commission chooses to amend anything, section 8 on the last page allows for amendments. I want to point out that the COD has approval authority over subcontractors and scholars associated with the study.
2. Dr. Natividad – So they will give us a bank of scholars that we would approve?
3. Executive Director - We can also do a steering committee. We made sure the Commission retained the right to approval.
4. **Motion to accept – Mayor Hoffman. No objections. Moved.**
5. Executive director – MOU will now be reviewed by Governor’s legal team as well as UOG’s legal team. After that it will go through a couple of signatures including the Chairman, the UOG representative, and the AG. We will keep you updated. On our side and UOG’s side, I don’t expect a delay. As soon as it is approved it will go to the AG.
6. Adrian Cruz – I think they said the study will be completed by Summer.

- b. **Chairman’s Update**

- **Correspondence - MIF Letter**

1. We’re having the Micronesian Island Forum with the governors of Guam and territories and Northern Marianas as well as Presidents of the Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia and the governors of those states. I think it’s important the issue of political status is brought forward. We’re having the meeting in Saipan early summer. When I went to NY, it was nice to have the backing. FSM was with us as we made our big push to the



UN, in particular to our quest for full political maturity. Some other island states were with us as well. They all were with us, but I felt good about the president of FSM's support with his strong personality. I believe the issue should be a topic of discussion in our leader's forum. I have a letter to Ralph Torres. I believe it's important to bring up in the agenda with the leadership.

2. Dr. Natividad – I believe they passed a law that established the political status commission again. You might want to follow up with their governor so we can work with them in the meantime.
3. Chairman – It would be nice to hear the viewpoints of nations who have reached full political maturity as well as an update from our brothers and sisters in the North. I think it would be an interesting dialogue. We could bring the resolution there as well. I couldn't make it because of timing, but the republic of Nauru is celebrating their 50th anniversary. They were one of our big supporters, and Amanda will be representing me in Nauru for their 50th anniversary.
4. I am looking towards all your input as we put together discussion points for the MIF.

• **Letter to UOG SBPA –**

1. Part of education is getting a poll in. It is just a straw poll asking them where people stand. I assume there will be a little thing there on native inhabitants. Nothing will be mandatory. I'm looking to UOG School of Business and Administration to ask people where they stand, and their reasons. I've given them my full support on that. I've written this letter. I have talked to the dean as well as Professors Rivera and McNinch. I wanted you to be aware of this correspondence. We don't have updates right now.

**IV. Financial Report**

- a. Mariana Pangelinan – Numbers are pretty much the same. There have been a couple of new purchase orders. The only other difference is that the allotments for the second quarter of FY2018 have been released, so the numbers are a little bit higher. Everyone should have a copy of the financial report.



## V. Task Force Updates

### a. Free Association

- Adrian Cruz – We have been getting our office a little more in order. We are trying to get a graphic artist to make pamphlets. We are waiting on our website. Other than that, status quo.

### b. Independence

- Jonathan Guerrero – Business as usual, monthly General Assemblies at Chamorro Village at UOG. This April we have a concert lined up. We had a war reparations drive in December. We had 150-160 that signed up, not including other family members who came to fill out forms. We are thinking of having another drive at the end of April. We have been working closely with Mariana. We have our projects lined up so we are just moving month by month.

### c. Statehood

- We are status quo. We are very much ahead in educational research, study, pamphlets, and our website, which we are continually updating. We are trying to figure out how best to get this educational project before the election in case we get one.

### d. Chairman

- I just want to speak my mind. The governance study is going to be very interesting because of the dynamism happening in the US today. There is the dynamism of being mandated to do certain things as a territory. I'm excited to see the outcome of this governance study because of how things are moving along in the United States.

## VI. Open Discussion

### a. Sub-Committee Meetings

#### • Self-Governance Study Steering Sub-Committee

1. Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 3pm. We will send a reminder as well as confirmation on which conference room we will be using.

#### • Education Sub-Committee

1. February 20, 2018 at 3pm. We will confirm the conference room.

- Chairman – Just a reminder I will be leaving island on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

### b. Adrian Cruz – Did you ever get your aircon?



- c. Executive Director – Not yet. We want to thank our Commission members for supporting the motion for us to get that. We are just waiting for the quotes.
- d. Adrian Cruz – I know there was talk of the members who don't attend?
- e. Chairman – Should we not have a discussion with them to see corrective action or are we past that?
- f. Executive Director – I don't know how they worked it before, but I know the law states that if you miss three consecutive meetings, the Governor and the Speaker will be sent a letter, and then the Governor can reappoint. At this point we are still going through the attendance. We just ask that if you're not able to make it to let us know. You'll notice that in the minutes we have those who have contacted us marked as excused. That is how we differentiate it right now. We are looking into that.
- g. Tristan Quintanilla – Youth Congress Committee on Youth Affairs established a subcommittee on decolonization. I am the chair of that. I spoke with my Vice Chair. We would like to seek funds from the Commission on Decolonization if possible. We want to purchase camera and audio equipment to start a youtube channel and website to create videos to educate the youth on decolonization. We just started determining what we want to do. We need help to determine a budget.
- h. Dr. Natividad – you could meet with Mariana between now and the next meeting to determine your priorities and come back with a proposal. You might want to consider the legislature's channel. You could look into that to pipe some of the stuff you produce.
- i. Chairman – The Governor's channel too.
- j. Executive Director – Since we are talking about budget, for the FY19 Budget Request, because the funding stays the same, we went with status quo with added budget for travel for each of the task forces to send one representative as well as a \$1,000 budget for a new computer. Right now Mariana's computer isn't completely functioning. It's six years old. We could send out copies, but that has been submitted already.
- k. Chairman – BBMR and Fiscal Team are doing analysis of the tax reform act. There is an impact of this year because the first reduction is taking place in February. There is going to be an impact on government revenues for this fiscal year, and even more for the next governor and legislature. I just want to throw that out there. I know we submitted this status quo budget. We may have some issues. I don't want to say what the



percentages are because I haven't been briefed in detail. It is going to have an impact of \$1 trillion. Just a little warning.

**VII. Next Meeting:**

- a. Dr. Natividad – on the same day scheduled for our next meeting at the University we have a presentation on the Historical Development of Organization of People for Indigenous Rights at the same time.
- b. **Motion to change the meeting date so those who are interested could attend to Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 3pm. – Dr. Natividad. No objections. So moved.**

**VIII. Adjournment**

- a. **Motion by PJ Guerrero. Seconded by Tristan Quintanilla.**

**IX. Meeting Adjourned at 3:35**