



COMMISSION ON DECOLONIZATION
Commission Meeting Meeting
July 3, 2018

Meeting called to order at 3:11 p.m.

I. Roll Call

- Adrian Cruz
- Dr. Lisa Natividad
- Dr. Lisa Baza
- Dr. Michael Bevacqua
- Sen. Telenia Nelson
- Vice Speaker Therese Terlaje

II. Approval of Minutes: June 19, 2018

- **Motion to approve minutes – Adrian Cruz. Seconded by Dr. Lisa Baza. No objection.**

III. Continuing Business

- **Executive Director's Report**

- Self-Determination Study

- o Has been signed. Other updates will be provided as available.

- Liberation Day

- o Opportunity for floats. Sent out float registration form. Fee waived.
- o Parade spot for task forces and Commission. Will let everyone know location when confirmed.

- Na'la'la' Concert

- o Independence Task Force Concert. Each task forces can have a table there.
- o Dr. Bevacqua - We are most likely going to postpone because of the weather situation. If anyone has connections or suggestions for a new date, let us know. We are now looking at the 28th here at Adelup. We still haven't officially announced anything.
- o Vice Chairwoman - Skinner's plaza might be a good option for the 20th.



- **Financial Report**

- Financial report is attached.

- o Working with task forces on itemized list of things they'd like to procure to send a request to BBMR to possibly getting our funds in reserve released.

- **Task Force Updates**

- Free Association Task Force – Adrian Cruz, Chairman*

- o Waiting on podcast equipment. We have one scheduled for Thursday with independence. I'm leaving on UN sponsored trip to the Philippines on the 18th. We will be meeting with their President. Otherwise, business as usual. It is an ambassadors' meeting.

- Independence Task Force – Dr. Michael Bevacqua, Chairman*

- o Na'la'la' Concert
 - o General Assemblies
 - a. Last week we honored the legacy of Dick Taitano, and talked about political parties. We could change the political system to allow more representation and participation by the people.

- o Haleta Hikes

- a. We had a hike to Pagat

- Statehood Task Force –*

- o *Not present today*

- **United Nations Fourth Committee**

- Dr. Natividad – I suggested we have this as part of the agenda so we could continue to have the conversation. We were able to affect the resolution. They did put back in the Davis Case.

- Executive Director – there are two youth who went last October who are currently out there. We are trying to reach out to the different ambassadors for meetings. It's been a little harder to schedule meetings. The C-24 members have been a little more distant than last year. It might be that the ambassadors are not there right now.

- Dr. Natividad – Because we influenced the outcome of the draft resolution, it will move on in October. There was some critical language reinstated. The two young ones we worked with. Their recommendations mirror ours. We are all on the same page. The recommendations on the language was mirrored in all three



testimonies. The main message at this point is to protect the language on the last resolution. Do we have money to send people?

- Executive Director – the reason that the task force money cannot be used for travel is because in the law it states that it will be used for public education campaigns, so it should stay on Guam. The DOI funding I don't believe can be changed. I will check if we can use it to be used for travel. In my understanding, you could not use it for outward travel because the mission is to educate Guam. There is still \$179,000 left of the DOI grant. I'm working to see if we can do an extension.
- Vice Chairwoman – do we have an official copy of the resolution?
- Executive Director – I've requested one, but I don't have an official copy.
- Vice Chairwoman – last year we had a copy and asked people for their support on our changes made. What should our strategy be this time?
- Dr. Bevacqua – we pushed for a visiting mission last time. It would be difficult because now there is a new chair. The previous chair was very interested, but I think it would take a lot of relationship building to get the new chair to send a mission here now.
- Dr. Natividad – the committee has gone wayward with this new chair. This year's seminar was supposed to be focused on the Pacific, but it wasn't held in the Pacific and had no experts on the Pacific present.
- Dr. Bevacqua – part of October would be trying to meet with the new chair and building a relationship. There may be a possibility for them to assist us. It's hard for them to think of the Pacific.
- Dr. Natividad – if we go out as a group, we need to host a reception and invite C-24 members and our alliances. We have started to engage the new chair. When I went in April, I met with the main desk on decolonization. I told him we'd be protective of our resolution and want part in crafting it. When she asked for it, he gave it to us. Part of doing a decolonization conference next year. We've been asking for a visiting mission for almost a decade. The US would have to agree. To me, that is a big impediment. The way around that is to hold an academic conference and invite them for that purpose. If we invite them for academic purposes, they can get clearances. Here, Vicky can have an informal consultation where she will examine the state of the Chamorro people. We could bring in the key players and see from there. If nothing else, it will force engagement.



- Dr. Bevacqua – That would be good, and it will be important to go back in October to keep the relationship alive.
- Vice Chairwoman – we need to talk about strategy. Last C-24 meeting we had no strategy or discussion about trying to influence the resolution at the last minute.
- Dr. Natividad – Special rapporteur on indigenous issues – Vicky is a Filipina. She is not allowed to return to her country because she did a report on the indigenous people of her area.
- Vice Chairwoman – weren't we trying to get information to bring and report on our next trip.
- Dr. Bevacqua – we were hoping the governance study would be done
- Vice Chairwoman – maybe we can get the pieces that are available at that time and present them. What kind of strategies would be good?
- Dr. Natividad – I think what we did in October is what we need to be doing. Relationship building and working on the resolution. There's always this critique – why go to the UN? What we did in October – that's the kind of victories that we are talking about. We need to protect the language in the resolution.
- Sen. Nelson – what countries are we looking at having the biggest weight?
- Dr. Bevacqua – the C-24 nations – if we form relations with them, they may be willing to help. Our Pacific Neighbors - we also want to have allies in our region. If other nations in the Pacific, it could help us.
- Dr. Natividad – in the end, is the power play is connected to dollars. I was able to visit with Fiji. In the region, we look at the big countries. A lot of countries rely heavily on funding and do not want to risk having it affected. If not for the chair last year, we wouldn't have had that kind of success in changing the resolution so late in the game. The governor's presence is key. That's why they respond to Amanda's requests for meetings. I suggest we host a reception out there. Even though Fiji won't take those risks, we need to connect. The PSIDs is critical. We very seldom turn to the Pacific for help, so I think it was symbolic that we turned to them for support.
- Vice Chairwoman – Amanda, please check out the PSID states and provide us an update. Add Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, East Timor. We'd also like to add the C-24 Members.



- Dr. Natividad – we should also schedule to meet with Vicky, the special rapporteur on indigenous issues in October. If we are able to send representatives. If we do that, we can extend the invitation then for her to put in her calendar. If we bring someone like Vicky out, she can start looking at intersections on the issues.
- Executive Director – if we want to meet prior to the October meeting, I’ve learned that each ambassador also has ability to meet via conference call. It’d be best to have the video conferences in one day. We can see about presenting testimony digitally as well.
- Sen. Nelson – Are we pushing for a large group again? If they need to represent an NGO, why not create some just for that purpose?
- Vice Chairwoman – if that was allowed, that would mean the Governor would be able to be there as well. For the reception, could Amanda look into it and get us a quote?
- Dr. Natividad – I’d suggest asking FSM or other country for the space.
- Executive Director – UN Ambassadors have the option to use some lounges, an ambassador might just have to sponsor us in. I can check on that.
- Vice Chairwoman – meet with different countries, look into having a small reception, push for the changes to resolution. Please check on presenting digitally.
- Dr. Natividad – maybe the Commission members could present together.
- Vice Chairwoman – Amanda we are leaning on you to look at different options for the reception. Next subcommittee meeting we will work on the resolution itself.

IV. Next Meeting: August 7, 2018

V. Open Discussion

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.