

4th Meeting of the Executive Committee

Mindanao Conversations

Ateneo de Manila University
Board Room, Xavier Hall
June 28, 2014
9:15 am - 2:00 pm

Attendance:

Execom

Atty. Jimmy Hofileña
Mussolini Lidasan
Gail de la Rita
Fr. Wilfredo Samson
Fr. Braulio Dahunan
Vinci Bueza (Secretary)
Absent – Fr. Joel Tabora (Chair)

Romeo Cabarde - ADDU
Atty. Jarley Sulay-Trugillo - XU
Nestor Banuag, Jr. - XU
Fr. Jomari Manzano - BMD
Rolan Jon Bulao - ADNU
Ruth Guerrero - ADZU
Joy Aceron - ADMU
Assoc. Dean Vannie Valiente - ADMU
Atty. Anne Maureen Manigbas - ADMU

Representatives of Advocacy and Social Engagement

Faye Risonar Bello - ADDU
Arnold Abejaron - ADDU

Also present

Dr. Germelino Bautista – ADMU, Economics Department

-
- The Prayer was led by Fr. Dahunan.
 - The Meeting was chaired by Atty. Hofileña.

Review of the minutes of the May 25 meeting in Cebu

- Appended to the minutes were the resolutions of the previous meeting.
- Correction on page 2: “Ms de la Rita asked if the announcements are necessarily initiated by the institution or can it also be activities initiated by partner stakeholders.”
- Correction on page 3: “Ms de la Rita answered that SOME students have made money.”
- Correction on page 5: “there are research and development organisations and groups that may be tapped.”
- Fr. Dahunan moved to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by the members of the Execom.
- The minutes were approved as corrected.

Matters arising from the minutes

- On Resolution no 2014-014 “RESOLVED, that Mr. Lidasan is requested by the Executive Committee to give inputs on Islamic finance during the next meeting in June”, the Execom agreed that the sharing on shariah finance will be included in the July 11 meeting of the Execom and the Special Meeting of the representatives of the Colleges of Business and Governance.
- Lidasan also announced that on the item “Institutional support for Mindanao 2020,” Ms Lourdesita Chan of the ADDU Research Council will be the chair for the Higher Education research agenda.

- It was agreed that there will be a Concurrent Execom Meeting on July 11 in Zamboanga. It was further agreed that the first 30 minutes of the Zamboanga meeting will be for the Execom.

Special meeting on the Advocacy/Lobbying Group

- Atty. Hofilena gave some introductory remarks on the Mindanao Conversations and the constitution of an Execom to implement the action points from that conversation.
- He explained that the special meeting convened on June 28 was in support of the Action Points nos. 6 and 7 to wit:

6. Supporting Social Movements and Advocacies for Social Justice and the Common Good

Provide greater institutional support for social movements and advocacies that actively lobby for the enactment of laws that better promote social justice and the common good, as well as offer university support for local churches, communities and organizations that support such advocacies.

7. Advocating for Cultural Transformation and Regeneration in Mindanao

Craft programs and initiatives geared toward cultural transformation and regeneration, providing opportunities for shifting of paradigms and value systems, and offering meaningful appreciation for positive Filipino traits.

- Hofilena added that the task at hand is on congressional action and that the meeting is considered as a brainstorming session.
- Fr. Samson: the first step is to be able to know the priority bills in congress connected to the Mindanao issues.
- Trugillo answered that XU has an inventory of laws pertinent to environment, Indigenous Peoples, especially on the Bangsamoro implications on IPRA. She also shared Xu advocacy points on mining/extractive industries, especially on the issue of the environment vs. economics. She suggested to move forward from the advocacy points. Engaging the Mindanawon representatives to congress is one way.
- Trugillo also shared that they are advocating the bill of Dinagat Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, excluding the province of Dinagat from being a Mineral Reservations. She added that Surigao del Sur and Norte are already mineral reservations.
- Cabarde then presented ADDU's policy advocacy platforms, and also the mandatory process on university positions. He shared that in ADDU, if it is an advocacy position in the name of the university, the approval of the board of trustees must be secured. He added that it does not limit offices and institutes to pursue their statements and advocacy responsibly.
- Some of the advocacy platforms Cabarde discussed included Mining, EPIRA Law, Renewable Energy Act, Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the Bangsamoro Basic Law, CARHRIL, the Robredo Bills for peoples' participation in budgeting, human rights, anti-discrimination bill and AIDS education.
- Bello also presented ADDU's advocacy points on educational reforms: the monitoring of CHED Memorandum Order no. 46 Series of 2014, including their counter proposal HB 3393 the Quality Assurance Bill by Rep. Roman Romulo, K-12, greater assistance to education. She also shared that ADDU is closely monitoring the Salary Standardization Bill of Sen. Trillanes.
- Fr. Samson suggested to prioritize the bills for common action.
- Cabarde said that the greatest energy for ADDU spent on BBL. There's a big implication for not only Mindanao, but also to the entire nation.
- Acheron shared that the ASoG is studying at the political party and anti-dynasty bill, and the implications of the Bangsamoro Basic Law.
- Guerrero shared that for ADZU, their advocacy platforms include the Bangsamoro Basic law, K to 12 educational reforms, IP rights, the environment, especially on the issue of mining is an issue. She added that the 3 Mindanao Ateneos have a common voice for the mining issue.
- Cabarde shared that for him the top 3 bills are the Bangsamoro Basic Law, Mining Act and Quality Assurance. Acheron asked how ADDU push for these bills? What activities, strategies?

Do we have champions? Cabarde answered that there are activities like fora, and dialogue conducted with allies, non-allies and partner NGOs and communities.

- It was also mentioned that XU extent of advocacy extends up to CARAGA region esp. on Mining efforts. They also have advocacy efforts on Bayug and Siocon, Zamboanga.
- Bautista was asked by Hofilena to talk about the proposal to create a research center on Mindanao Economics. He shared some concerns on the economy of Mindanao; Mindanao as an agricultural based economy; the need for an accounting of natural and human capital in Mindanao; The need to know who has access and who has effective control; and the opportunities within the East Asian growth area.
- Bautista stressed the need for an inventory of existing studies on Mindanao economy. Lidasan shared that the Mindanao Development Authority and other agencies and NGOs in Mindanao have studies on the Mindanao economy.
- Fr Manzano was asked to share on the works of the parishes in Bukidnon to better appreciate the effects of policy advocacy in the community level. He shared that their concerns include: logging, Genetically-modified organisms, soil erosion in the Pulangi river, priests not fully equipped in the diocese of Malaybalay. Also, IP concerns, NPA, zones of peace. Fr. Dahunan added that they also run 4 mission schools in the diocese of Malaybalay. He shared that they need funding for 1000 students who are currently heavily-dependent on the Educational Service Contracting (ESC). One of the problems, he added, is the migration of teachers to public schools. Fr. Manzano shared that there is also mining in Bukidnon. He is concerned with the IPs especially that the basic needs of IPs are not yet fully given to them.
- Rojo shared that ADNU Institute of Environmental Conservation and Research can really help in the mining advocacy which may assist in the research on impacts of mining to the ecosystem. Quality assurance law is also advocated in ADNU. He shared that they are also studying the BBL because it has strong implications not only in Mindanao.
- Valiente of ADMU Law shared that there are many materials that they can share. Many of the theses, other resources, and even faculty can be shared.
- Manigbas of ADMU Human Rights Center shared that the Trafficking in the Zam-Ba-Sul-Ta area is a current research of their Center. They are also studying the coal fired power plants in Cebu and other coal fired power plants in the Philippines.
- Hofilena then asked for a contact person per institution. These contact persons will constitute the coordinating group.

2014-015

RESOLVED, that the composition of this coordinating group shall be the following:

Joy Acheron - Ateneo de Manila University
Atty. Romeo Cabarde - Ateneo de Davao University
Ruth Guerrero - Ateneo de Zamboanga University
Dr. Malu Barcillano - Ateneo de Naga University
Atty. Jarley Sulay-Trugillo - Xavier University
Fr. Jomari Manzano, SJ - Bukidnon Mission District

2014-016

RESOLVED, that a core group of resource persons coming from the respective Ateneo schools and the Bukidnon Mission District shall meet and articulate the policy agenda to be prioritized by the Executive Committee; coordinate/liaise actions on the ground that will pursue/ implement the advocacy strategy and plan adopted by the Executive Committee in line with the action point on policy advocacy; serve as a study group that will propose to the Executive Committee specific communication advocacy messages in line with the priority policy agenda identified; and monitor and document implementation on the ground of the advocacy strategy and plan for the Action Point on policy advocacy

- Fr. Samson suggested that they agree on 5 bills or advocacy points to be considered urgent.

2014-017

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee for this Action Point shall coordinate programs and strategies based on the following identified priority areas of engagement: the Bangsamoro Basic Law, the Mining Act of 1995, the Freedom of Information Bill, Electoral Reforms and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997.

- Appended to these minutes is the summary report of the first meeting of the Ateneo Coordinating Group on Policy Advocacy (June 28, 2014 in Ateneo de Manila University).
- The meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.

xxx