

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA
(USAG)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

**MINUTES OF THE 1ST NATIONAL
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC)
MEETING**

VENUE;
**KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, SUNYANI CAMPUS AUDITORIUM.**

DATE; 21ST DECEMBER 2007

© general secretary 2008.

e-mail; secretary@usagtoday.net

link = [http//mail.usagtoday.net](http://mail.usagtoday.net)

MINUTES OF THE 1ST NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE USAG HELD AT THE KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUNYANI ON 21ST DECEMBER 2007 AT THE SCHOOL'S AUDITORIUM.

1.0 Opening

1.1 The first NEC meeting was duly opened by the President of the association at 10 ; 40am after Honorable Ashmiu Sulemana; the local SRC President of UDS Nyankpala campus had said the opening prayer.

1.2 Quorum

The C.S took a roll call of member institutions present after which he declared a quorum had been formed.

1.3 The meeting was duly presided over by the President of the Association Hon. Andrew Poku Bonsu. He, in his opening remarks apologized to members present for the late start of meeting.

2.0 Members present

Please refer to appendix A

3.0 Welcome address

Hon. Aaron Osei Agyemang; the local SRC President of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Sunyani campus was full of excitement to have had the privilege to host the first NEC meeting of the USAG for the 2007/2008 USAG year. He called on members present to see each other as one in the spirit of unity. He finally welcomed all members and institutions to the best municipality in Ghana.

4.0 State of USAG

The President of the Association informed members about the state of the association as at the time of the meeting. The following were some of the issues that came up in his address

- (a) That the new national officers have been duly handed over to at a colorful ceremony at the Christian Service University College (CSU) Kumasi in October 2007.
- (b) He also lamented on the association's inability to change signatories to its GCB account due to the uncooperative behavior of some of the outgoing executives in this respect and other issues, necessitating the opening of the new bank account at ECOBANK.
- (c) That the association was as at the time of the meeting having no funds to operate as nothing was left behind. He said an amount of 4 million which represented the capitation and dues of CSUC for the year had been taken over by the outgoing executive before the handing over. Thus personal funds of new executives are what are being used to run the association.
- (d) On the court issue, he told the house that the court had proposed an out of court settlement which the court was to be briefed on the issue on 27 November 2007. But reports reaching him indicated that no substantial progress had been made on the matter. However, he added that the court was fully aware that there has been a handing over.
- (e) He revealed that Mr Mawunyega the supposed patron of the Association has denied being the patron on the basis that he had not been legitimized by an oath and was not ready to

continue in that order. He (Mr Mawunyega) however, requested that the former President calls him after which he will get back to current President on his final decision.

- (f) The association as at the time of the meeting owed some institutions like the University of Ghana Legon from the last congress.
- (g) He said as at the time of the meeting, auditing of books had not been done yet because documents needed for the exercise weren't complete. Some officers have submitted their books for auditing but the former President has not been too co-operative in his respect as some receipts alleged to be in her custody have become irretrievable.

4.1 Matters Arising

4.1.0 Patron

Honorable Adom Kwakye Douglas of UDS Navrongo wanted to know if Mr Mawunyega was not the patron. He was answered in the affirmative. Honorable Emelia Agbenyo; local SRC Secretary of UG Legon representing the local SRC President of UG charged the National Executive to do all they can to get a patron for the Association. A member also wanted to know if Mr. Mawunyega was the only patron of the Association. The President said that he was not and that there are a group of them including Mr. Asuma Banda.

The President urged the house to make inputs into who becomes a patron of the Association.

4.1.1 Change of Signatories

Hon. Emelia Agbenyo; local SRC Secretary of UG Legon representing the local SRC President of UG urged the association to take steps to prevent the trend of every new administration opening a new account upon assumption of office. Honorable Aaron Osei Agyemang was quick to add that the former executive be compelled to change signatories to the account. Hon. Ashmiu Sulemana of UDS Nyankpala said the old account should be returned to. He said diplomacy should be dropped in these matters and when necessary legal action taken to reinstate the old account. The President added that the account has not expired but that since the new executive have know access to it proper steps to close it has become very difficult.

4.1.2 Court issue

A member of the house attributed the woes of the association to the court case and added that settling that case will go along way to solve most of the problems of the association. Hon. Peal Ekua Agyemang; the local SRC President of the University of Education Winneba sought further information on the legitimacy of our meeting as we are still in court.

In response to the above concern, the President informed the house that the court was duly aware of the handing over and is aware the association is now under a new leadership. He also said the out of court settlement proposed by the court is not yielding positive results because of personality differences. He also said aggrieved parties obviously wanted financial compensation which is beyond the association thus calling on all members to in their own way try to amicably resolve the issue for the sake of the USAG.

4.1.2 Auditing

Hon. Emelia Abgenyo; local SRC Secretary of UG Legon representing the local SRC President of UG told the house that all measures should be adopted to retrieve receipt from the former President. The SRC President of CSUC Hon. Ayitsey Godwin couldn't agree with her more and proposed legal action where necessary as it flouts the constitution of the Association. A member of the house also proposed a committee to properly audit the past administration.

4.1.4 Funding

A member wanted to know whether personal funds used by the national officers in the interest of the Association will be refunded by the Association or not?

The President deferred the matter for later discussion.

A member told the house that some institutions are rethinking paying their dues as it is evident monies are not properly accounted for.

4.1.5 Reserves

The President allayed the concerns of some members of the house on the zero balance syndromes, hinting the Association that the new constitution makes provision for reserves and the national officers intends to live by it.

4.1.6 CSUC ₵4M (GH₵400)

The President of CSUC was asked by the house to throw more light on the subject. In his submission, he recounted incessant pressure from the ex-president asking him to pay the amount into her personal account which he refused to comply with. He said the ex-president and the then coordination secretary; Maxwell K. Zanu came for the money in cash on the name of using it to finance some USAG programmes. He also lamented on the fact that the CSUC has not been certified as a member of the Association yet and appealed to the new executive to expedite action on their concerns.

5.0 Projects and Programmes

The projects and programmes earmarked for the USAG year was read to the house by the President, they included;

- *Fund for the needy (Nnobua Fund)*

The President informed the house that copies of the proposed working document have already been circulated to member institutions to study and make inputs. He also mentioned that there was the need for a Board of Trustees (**BoT**) to be formed to manage the fund, of which members were to span from all walks of life including men of collar. Copies have been made available to all prospective trustee members. On funding for the fund, the President said measures such as church donations to support the fund will be instituted. He said he hoped that beneficiaries could access the fund as from next semester.

- *Initiative Awards*

An initiative awards for creative students who find ingenious means of solving current societal problems and awards for SRC's with good standings shall be introduced hopefully this USAG year to encourage students to be creative and to promote good governance at the SRC level. Funding for the creative awards is beyond the association therefore sponsorship shall be sought for that purpose but that of the SRC's should be within the reach of the Association if member institutions pay up on time.

- *Secretariat*

The President educated the house on the need to have a secretariat and said that proposals in so far estimates the cost between GH₵600 and GH₵1000.

- *Motivational Programmes*

Motivational programmes and messages will be undertaken by the Association with the messages airing on the various campus radio stations. This is going to be a collaborative effort of the local SRC's and the Association. The motivational programmes however will be from campus to campus starting from UDS in February 2008. It will then follow from there to the

other campus in due course. An NGO; Waves International is going to be the facilitating body for this programme.

- *Medical Screening*

This programme shall be under the auspices of the WOCOM. This shall be done targeting head porters and traders at Makola. This will make USAG relevant to all in this country.

- *Student Travel Programme*

The Association is putting together a travel programme to enable students who wish to have an exchange programme and or continue their studies outside the country to do so at the least inconvenience. X'plore Agency is in charge of the facilitating process for visas and other travel documents. This will generate money for both the Association and the facilitating local SRC's.

- *USAG Bulletin*

The Association shall embark on a publication of a news paper which shall carry news on the Association and other national issues. The cost of production for one copy is GH¢30p per copy.

Matters Arising

Nnobua Fund

Hon. Augustine Amoah; the local NUGS Secretary for UCC was skeptical about the future of the fund as sponsors are sponsoring similar funds on some campuses. In addition, alumni would want to help their alma matta other than the broader set (USAG).

The President reacted by saying that it would be more beneficial if all SRC's are put under one umbrella making available a pool of resources to assist of support smaller institutions . He also added that the fund is not to collapse the existing funds on our various campuses.

Hon. Jeffery kofi Ofori Akurang; local SRC vice President of UMaT, was concerned about the eminent double levying of students as students shall contribute to local funds as well as the national funds. He in this light recommended that more donor support is sought and space sold to corporate bodies in the USAG Bulletin to make some money.

On his part Hon Gariba Lawal; representative of the SRC President of KNUST Kumasi, said that the fund should not be rushed into implementation, but more attention should be paid to sustaining the fund. He thus suggested that initial monies accruing to the fund should be invested and this could be a reliable source of funds to the fund thereby sustaining the fund.

On funding the President said much of the funding strategy shall be by appeal.

The CSUC President Hon. Godwin Ayithey wanted to know how beneficiaries are to be selected as the Association is made up of both private and public universities that pay varied fee ranges but may contribute the same amount towards the fund.

The President said beneficiaries to the fund must be needy. However, who qualifies and who doesn't shall entirely be up to the Board of Trustees (**BoT**). He also added that the implementation period shall be reviewed with much emphasis on its sustenance.

Awards

Hon. Ashmiu Sulemana; the local SRC President of UDS Nyankpala campus suggested that NEC and Senate members are certified at the end of the year to recognize their contribution towards the student movement.

WOCOM

Hon Emelia Agbenyo of UG Legon, encouraged the commissioner to look into other issues like women coming up for positions and female dropouts. She also called for proper coordination with the local WOCOMS to form a formidable WOCOM front.

Hon. Godwin Benin of UEW – K wanted to know what had become of the ex-commissioners ‘dress well’ campaign.

The WOCOM Hon. Fadila Iddrisu informed the house that the ex-commissioner could not raise funds neither could she secure any form of sponsorship for the project and hence could not come off.

Hon Jeffery Akurang of UMaT urged the commissioner to reduce the number of programmes earmarked for the year and concentrate on a few strong ones getting all the commissioners on board to make it a huge success.

Student Travel

Hon Emelia Agbenyo of UG Legon cautioned that the student travel programme is critically watched to prevent brain drain.

Secretariat

Hon. Emelia Agbenyo urged the Association to use its resources judiciously saying the Association as at now should concentrate on the website as a secretariat after which the issue of the structure can be looked at.

Hon Akparep John Yaw; the local SRC President of UDS Wa campus urged that attention be given to issue of a secretariat as it will go a long way to facilitate the associations efforts.

On the website the President told the house that the webmaster has been unable make the web more interactive and upgraded. Due the webmaster’s inability to meet these requirements he (webmaster) has decided to withdraw from the contract.

The President also wanted to know how the local SRC’s can facilitate the radio programme. Hon Godwin Benin in a reaction to this said it should be the responsibility of the local SRC’s to arrange for airtime for the programme on their various campuses

6.0 Budget Statement

The budget statement was presented to the house by the financial controller; Hon Asare Amoako Atta Jnr; financial controller of the Association.

6.1 Matters Arising

Hon. Godwin Benin of UEW – K suggested that the acquisition and furnishing of an office complex should be scrapped out of the budget to make room for the Association to make some surplus money. The President referred that decision to Senate.

7.0 A O B

- ✓ Hon. Ashmiu Sulemana of UDS Nyankpala campus urged the Association to have a strategic plan to keep the Association focused.

- ✓ Hon. Augustine Amoah of UCC also called for proper documentation to alleviate embezzlement and its related issues.
- ✓ Hon Ernest Daboah of UG, ACC suggested the Association takes some of its programmes to the second cycle institutions to create the awareness in them before they get to the universities as they are the future USAG.
- ✓ The President also called on the various SRC's to have a desk space in their secretariat to facilitate, promote and educate people on the programmes earmarked for the year.

8.0 Closure

The local SRC President of KNUST Sunyani; Hon Aaron Osei Agyemang moved a verbal motion to bring the meeting to an end at 2 ; 25pm. This was duly seconded by the Hon Gariba Lawal Kabiru; representative of the SRC President of KNUST, Kumasi. The closing prayer was said by Hon Pearl Ekua Agyemang; local SRC President of UEW – W.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

USAG	University Students Association of Ghana
NUGS	National Union of Ghana Students
SRC	Students Representative Council
WOCOM	Women's Commission(er)
UEW – K	University of Education Winneba, Kumasi
UEW – M	University of Education Winneba, Mampong
UEW – W	University of Education Winneba, Winneba
UG, Legon	University of Ghana, Legon
UG, ACC	University of Ghana Accra City Campus
KNUST, Kumasi Technology	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
KNUST, Sunyani Technology	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

UDS	University for Development Studies
UMaT	University of Mines and Technology
CSUC	Christian Service University College
UCC	University of Cape Coast
Hon	Honourable

APPENDIX A

No	Name	Institution	Portfolio
1	Aaron Osei Agyemang	KNUST - Suyani	SRC President
2	Emelia Afi Agbenyo	UG - Ilegon	SRC Secretary
3	Kabiru Lawal Garbey	KNUST Kumasi	Rep. of SRC President
4	Adom Kwakye Douglas	UDS Navrongo	Rep. of SRC President
5	Akparep John Yaw	UDS Wa	SRC President
6	Augustine Amoah	UCC	Local NUGS Secretary
7	Jeffery Kofi Ofori Akurang	UMaT	SRC Vice President
8	Daboh Ernest	UG, ACC	SRC Vice President
9	Ayithey Godwin	CSUC	SRC President
10	Pearl Ekuu Agyemang	UEW - W	SRC President
11	Konoboa Paul Yeboah	UEW - M	SRC President
12	Ashmiu Sulemana	UDS Nyankpala	SRC President
13	Asare Amoako Atta Jnr.	USAG	Financial Controller
14	Amuzu Prince	USAG	Treasurer
15	Williams Kwarah	USAG	Coordinating Secretary
16	Fadila Iddrisu	USAG	WOCOM

Compiled by

Nii Lomotey Tetteh
General Secretary