

MEMORANDUM BY THE HON. MINISTER OF EDUCATION FOR CONSIDERATION
IN CABINET

SUBJECT: The policy with regard to the proposed setting up of a Governing Body at the College of Arts, Science and Technology.

On the 19th October 1962 an Advisory Committee was appointed by the Minister of Education to consider the setting up of a Governing Body for the C.A.S.T.

In their report dated 27th June 1963, (a copy of which is attached for the information of Hon. Ministers) the Committee recommended that the proposed Governing Body should have wide delegated powers with the Minister ultimately responsible for overall policy.

It was also suggested that this Board be delegated with the powers to control and administer the funds of the College, to regulate the functioning of the College, to determine the staffing requirements and to make recommendations to the Public Service Commission as regards appointments, to appoint examiners and to determine examination fees, and to apply to the Government for funds every 3 years or whenever special circumstances demand.

With the proposed arrangements the Minister of Education shall be responsible to the Government only subject to the powers delegated to the Governing Body. Consequently the Minister will practically lose every control on the administration of the College.

As an alternative it is proposed that the Board be an advisory one appointed by the Minister with the approval of the Hon. the Prime Minister. The terms of reference of the Board will be to advise the Minister on the administration and general management of the College.

As regards the relationship of the School of Engineering with the Royal University, certain concessions to the University Authorities will have to be considered with the purpose of enabling the University to have a say in the curriculum of studies, the appointment of lecturers and Assistant Lecturers, the Board of examiners, and the conduct of examinations. This is considered reasonable in view of the fact that the University is entrusted with the conferment of the relative degrees.

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With regard to the other sections of the Poly-technic preparing students for the City & Guilds examination it is felt that there should be no particular difference in the system from that obtaining at present in the Teachers Training Colleges and in Secondary and Technical Schools all of which fall under the direct control of the Department of Education both as regards administration and schooling.

For Decision: Hon. Ministers are asked to state whether they agree that:-

- (1) **The proposed Board should be appointed to act only in an advisory capacity.**
- (2) **Steps be taken to discuss with the University Authorities the question of the School of Engineering as suggested at para. 6.**

EDUCATION OFFICE,
141, St. Christopher Str.,
Valletta.

27th June, 1963.

HON. MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Governing Body for the
Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology

Setting up of Advisory Committee

It is made clear in the Plan of Operation for the Malta Polytechnic (C.A.S.T.) Project that the formation of a Governing Body is an essential item in the scheme, after the initial setting up of the College by the Department of Education.

Subsequent to the visits of two Senior Officers from U.N.I.S.C.O., Paris, you appointed us on the 19th October, 1962, an advisory committee to formulate the steps necessary to establish a Governing Body within six months. The matter has been given the fullest possible consideration in view of the importance of the matters under discussion.

General Findings of Committee

The following report is submitted for your approval and we would welcome the opportunity to discuss its contents with you personally at your convenience.

Report of Advisory Committee

It is clear that an Institution of the status of the College of Arts, Science and Technology with its work of university standard must be given wide powers in the framing of academic policy, arrangements for the appointment of staff and the expenditure of monies within the heads of an approved triennial grant. In order to exercise these powers and to take responsibility for future planning and administration a Governing Body of some type is a sine qua non.

Furthermore, in view of the proposed relationship with the Royal University of Malta, it has been made clear that representation of the College on the Council of the University must depend upon the Governing Body having executive powers.

With these considerations in view, the possibility of various types of Body has been duly investigated. They may be enumerated thus:

1. A purely advisory Body making recommendations to Government.
2. A Board having wide delegated powers, with the Minister of Education ultimately responsible to Government for overall policy.
3. An Autonomous Body to which Government would appoint an agreed number of representatives.

The first of these has been discarded as it was not considered to be in keeping with the spirit of the discussions held with U.N.L.S.C.O. representatives and subsequently embodied in the Plan of Operation. Moreover, lack of executive power would render reciprocal representation with the University impossible.

The third type of Body is regarded as the ultimate aim and is the only type with real administrative autonomy, while it would offer great advantages, may not be an acceptable policy in view of the dependence on certain Government Departments for some of the requirements of the College.

It is therefore recommended that as a first stage, the duration of which will depend on many factors, the second type of Board be set up. We propose below the general lines on which the constitution, powers, duties and membership should be formulated. It is appreciated that the final operational document will need to be drawn up under legal advice.

Suggested Scheme for Governing Body

I. Status of College

- a) The College shall be an educational institution maintained by the Malta Government.
- b) As such, the Minister of Education shall be responsible to Government for its administration subject to the delegation of powers as hereunder.
- c) The Minister of Education shall delegate to a 'Board of Governors' such duties and powers as are hereby defined.
- d) The authorities of the College shall be:
 - The Board of Governors
 - The Academic Board
 - The Boards of the various faculties or departments.
- e) The Principal shall be the Chief Academic and Administrative Officer of the College appointed by the Board of Governors and responsible to them.

II. The Board of Governors - Powers. The Board shall have the following powers delegated to it:

- a) To control and administer the funds of the College.
- b) To make regulations regarding the functioning of the College provided that in academic matters the advice of the Academic Board shall be sought.
- c) To determine, after receiving the report of the Academic Board, the staffing requirements of the College.
- d) To make recommendations to the Public Service Commission on the appointment of officers, teachers and employees of the College. The case of appointment of teachers in courses in the

College for degrees of the Royal University of Malta shall be subject to such agreement between the College and the University as may be decided upon.

- e) After consideration of the recommendations of the Academic Board, to appoint examiners and to determine any fees that may be paid to such examiners, except that in the case of examinations for degrees of the University this function shall be exercised by the Royal University of Malta.
- f) To make and operate arrangements with the Royal University of Malta by which certain degrees of the University will be awarded to students of the College who satisfy the examiners on the completion of courses approved by the University.
- g) To make application for and spend a triennial grant of money from the Malta Government and any other funds required for special purposes.

III. The Board of Governors - Duties. The Board shall be responsible for:

- a) The provision of instruction, research and dissemination of knowledge in such branches of learning as it may determine.
- b) Internal examinations and all necessary arrangements for external examinations.
- c) The granting and conferring of diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions.
- d) The general discipline of the staff and students of the College.
- e) Arrangements for cooperation with industrial, commercial and other Bodies concerned with the employment and welfare of the students in the College.

IV. The Board of Governors - Composition

- a) The following should be the composition of the Governing Body:
 - 1) A Chairman elected by the Board from amongst its own members or otherwise.
 - 2) Four members appointed by the Legislative Assembly.
 - 3) One member appointed by:
 - i) His Excellency the Governor
 - ii) His Grace the Archbishop
 - iii) The Royal University of Malta
 - iv) The Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers.
 - v) Malta Joint Group of the Engineering Institutions.

- 4) Director of Education
 - 5) The Principal of the College.
 - 6) Not more than three members to be appointed by the Board due regard being given to the need for industry and commerce for example to be represented.
- b) Clerk to the Governors - The Registrar.
 - c) The Board shall have power to coopt persons for special purposes without voting power.
 - d) Tenure of office of members to be three years with the eligibility for re-appointment. In the case of those appointed by the Legislative Assembly the tenure of office shall be three years or the life of the Government in office, whichever is the less.

(Sgd) Chev. J.F. Vassallo O.B.E.

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