

**ACT 174: STUDENTS' EMPOWERMENT AND
IT'S IMPLICATIONS TO UiTMCT**



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5. Report

5.1 Proposed Executive Summary

Student Empowerment has been discussed at various level of higher education system for quite some time. Unfortunately, the concept and scope of empowerment have never been clearly explained and understood by the administration of the universities. In 2010 UiTMCT has begun its first move in introducing the concept by strategizing various steps to implement the concept. The concept of emphasizing on student decision making in various areas including residential placement and policies imposed on clubs. Institut Pemimpin Muda (IPM) was established to enhance the capabilities of the student leaders in understanding and moving forward for the process of introducing and implementing the concept. In early 2013, the first Mesyuarat Kepimpinan Mahasiswa (MEKEM) was convened and decisions made by the student leaders were being implemented by HEP UiTMCT. This is the first notion of empowerment seen in UiTMCT.

Along with the establishment of MEKEM, various units of student leaders emerged under the good office of the Deputy Rector of HEP in conjunction with the empowerment. It includes Badan Guaman Mahasiswa (BGM), Unit Kualiti Mahasiswa (UniQ) and 100 strategi (100S). Each unit compliments each other in terms of scope of the empowerment. In reality, student governance has been established informally.

After 9 years of its introduction and implementation in UiTMCT, what are the implications that can be seen to UiTMCT? Is it a concept that helps the administration of the university? Do student's lives become much more manageable? Do issues and conflicts between the management and students have been resolved much more friendly-manner?

5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary

The Students' Affairs Office of the University Teknologi Mara Cawangan Terengganu (UiTMCT) executed students' empowerment concept by initiating various students' units and organizations in contemplating a Student Union. The Office of Students' Affairs UiTMCT drafted a blueprint of students' empowerment concept back in 2013 as a basis to student governance which becomes the components of a Student Union. As follows, Institut Kepimpinan Muda (IPM) was established to enhance the capabilities of the student leaders in understanding and moving forward for the process of introducing and implementing the concept. Consequently, Mesyuarat Kepimpinan Mahasiswa (MEKEM) was convened which resulted to establishment of Badan Guaman Mahasiswa (BGM), Unit Kualiti Mahasiswa (UniQ) and 100 strategies (100S). Each unit compliments each other in terms of scope of the empowerment. Under the supervision of Students' Affairs Office, the reality is that student governance has been established informally in UiTMCT, even though in the absence of Student Union.

One of the key ingredients in students' empowerment is students' participation in decision-making process. Thus, following the amendment to Educational Institutions (Discipline) Act 1976 the Students' Affairs Department of Universiti Teknologi Mara Cawangan Terengganu has initiated a student unit namely Badan Guaman Mahasiswa. After sometimes, Badan Guaman Mahasiswa was reformed into Badan Keadilan Mahasiswa which comprises of two sub-units, Badan Guaman Mahasiswa and Tribunal Keadilan Mahasiswa. Badan Guaman Mahasiswa functions as students' representative in disciplinary proceedings whereas, Tribunal Keadilan Mahasiswa functions as a mediator or arbitrator in resolving students' disputes. Of both units, the Tribunal Keadilan Mahasiswa holds quasi-judicial function. The Tribunal shoulders the responsibility of assisting the Students' Affairs Department in hearing students' complaints.

The aim of this research is to evaluate the implications of students' empowerment in UiTMCT and how it helps the administration of the university especially in resolving conflicts between management and students. Besides that, this study also benefits the Students' Affairs Department in developing students' leadership and sustainability.

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