

University of Donja Gorica

STUDENT FORUM

CONSTITUTIVE SESSION

Report

Podgorica, 10.12.2020.

Constitutive Session of UDG Student Forum took place on 09.12.2020. in the premises of the University's Student Club.

The Forum is the third student body on UDG. It is formed as a network of young people who will discuss about problems they encounter throughout spheres of education, career development, and life in general.

CEO of Student Business Centre, and a founding member of the Forum, **Nikola Micunovic**, made opening regards, inviting all present members and guests of the Forum to a creative discussion. He made a brief review of the Agenda, after which the election of the first president of the Forum began.

Danilo Bulatovic, a second-year student at the Faculty of International Economics, Finance and Business, was unanimously elected president of the Forum. He took over the chair of the Session and said that the emphasis of it will be set on development of student's being which will also be the subject of debate. Before opening the debate, he invited the rector of UDG, professor **Veselin Vukotic** to give a speech. Professor Vukotic congratulated the foundation of the Student Forum, describing it as a seed from which new ideas and initiatives should sprout. The Forum is, according to him, a platform for creating new connections and friendships, as well as developing a wider network amongst students. *"I believe in our students. I see development in them. In you. You are people for a new age"*, Professor concluded.

After the rector's speech, discussion was opened. Members and guests of the Forum debated on a topic *"Are students aware of their potential and abilities, as well as their failures?"*. Students of almost every faculty at UDG participated and actively contributed to the discussion, giving their opinion on importance of fear, parenthood, mentorship, formal education curriculum as well as informal education and youth activism. Some of students' highlights from the discussion are listed below:

- **Sladjana Grbovic**: coronavirus crisis taught students a lesson that there is time for everything, so they should work more on their skills and practical knowledges.
- **Nejla Muric**: UDG is a place where we acquire elementary skills for functioning on professional and academic level, as well as in life in general.
- **Milica Kraljevic**: work produces results which are widely accepted measure unit of success. That is why pure theoretical knowledge is not enough so students should get used to work as soon as possible, for work cannot bring anything bad.
- **Adelisa Canovic**: parents represent moral support that should always be listened to, but only those who have the ability of independent decision making can lead their own lives.

- **Emir Hadzimusovic:** decision making requires courage, and it requires standing behind made decisions. UDG is a University completely focused on students and their development, therefore they should not be afraid to make their own decisions.
- **Marko Milacic:** fear is a fuel in the process of individualization that makes us different and authentic. Fear should be understood and accepted as our own, because those are the first step to fighting it.
- **Amer Hadzimusovic:** learning from older colleagues is equally important as learning from younger ones. Learning from both is the formula of success. Parents are student's lifetime mentors, but they should have a relationship that does not evolve to a control of a student's life.
- **Tijana Bogdan:** time management is one of the most important lessons taught on the first year of studies at UDG. Fear is something present in every freshman, and it takes courage standing up to it.
- **Semina Kalac:** Students underestimate themselves, thinking they are not capable for further growth and development. Such perspectives are questionable due to lack of experience they have. The civilization is at a crossroad, and COVID-19 certainly brings changes.
- **Mia Mugosa:** Failure is just a seed of a future success since mistakes are a great source of skills and knowledge. Constant work on improving oneself is the key of developing and enhancing professional skills, and fear of mistakes is overcome by seeing it as a chance to improve. This attitude during studies inspired her to open her own NGO, converting her words into actions.

Professors and teaching associates also took part in the discussion, talking about their experiences from their student days. **Marko Nisavic** pointed out that *“teamwork is something truly limitless”*. He also invited students to use UDG's international network because it brings a lot of great opportunities. **Marija Radunovic** invited students to step out of their comfort zone defining it as a path to personal growth and overcoming fears. She also explained that mentorship is meant to monitor the development of the student's being.

At the very end of the Session, students were asked to give concrete ideas and to recommend books that should induce further work of UDG Student Forum. Professor Vukotic recommended his book *“Symbols and metaphors”*, which he wrote so students could get a more thorough insight into principles on which UDG was founded. Organizational team of the Forum invited all present members to develop ideas and initiatives and to discuss about them through UDG student bodies.