

SRC Meeting- 01 June 2020, 12:00 via Zoom.

Present:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary-General
4. Treasurer General (To be excused at 13:30)
5. International Affairs Cllr
6. Academic Cllr
7. Community Engagement Cllr
8. Sports and Societies Cllr
9. Oppidan Cllr
10. Student Benefits and Sponsorships Cllr
11. Residence Cllr
12. Students Developments and Support Officer

Late:

13. Activism and Transformation Cllr
14. Environmental Cllr

Apologies:

15. Media Cllr
16. Projects Manager

Minutes:

1. IEB constitution/policy

Council had questions about IEB. We now have an opportunity to ask Mr. Ofei directly.  
General question: Wants to know how IEB as a structure works.

Mr. Ofei: The IEB is under the DSA. What happened was the IEB was strictly under the SRC and Mr. Ofei's office. There were a lot of questions about the legitimacy of elections. What happened is that a former SG had a romantic relationship with one of the candidates, which caused a bit of commotion, and the IEB came about to counter

conflicts of interests such as these. IEB is a combination of students and staff. Students are appointed by the Student Leadership (Student parliament, Oppidan Committee, etc.). There is also an Impartial Officer and Chairperson appointed. Students and staff are needed to strike a balance. The idea would be that at the beginning of the year, then all these structures will be in place. IEB conducts elections for student parliament, so by the time student parliament sits and student body meeting is held, IEB would not have been elected.

Mr Ofei: Acknowledged the President's observation that membership of IEB has remained the same for a long time. Clarified that any staff member can form part of the IEB. The system had to be changed so that by the end of the year the IEB structure is in place.

VP: Council doesn't understand why there is silence. Question: Who decides on IEB constitution (who can change it?) and who governs IEB, or runs IEB?

Mr Ofei: Everything about elections used to fall under the SRC. Concern was since SRC has a direct interest, then they can't govern IEB. Hence IEB should fall under the DSA. Mr Ofei proposed that in terms of the policy, it can still fall under the SRC but the members of IEB should be independent of the SRC. Confirmed that the SRC can change the IEB policy. IEB cannot come up with their own policy, it should be SRC or another structure.

Pres: Follow up question, if the IEB is saying the policy can only be reviewed by the IEB when IEB sees it fit, then what power does the SRC have?

Mr Ofei: Does not disagree with council. Just mentioning what IEB has been saying that IEB must be independent of the SRC. But since it deals with SRC matters it makes sense for it to be under the SRC. Moving forward, what will happen is the IEB, being headed by Stewart and Zuko, are making recommendations on how elections can be held, and then the SRC can make comments and then it will go to Student Services and Senate.

VP: Does not agree. Elections of SRC should be in the SRC constitution, sending it to Senate and Student services reduces the power that SRC has.

Mr Ofei: SRC, according to SRC Constitution, can come up with how SRC elections are run, or how SRC is elected. But how IEB functions cannot be in the hands of IEB.

VP: Agrees. SRC can interfere on the functioning of IEB. But IEB can't tell students how SRC is elected.

MR Ofei: Moving forward, Mr Ofei will send us the policy. We will make recommendations on how elections are run and those will be sent to IEB.

CE: Thanks Mr Ofei for the clarity. Mr Ofei recommended a way forward. Is this something we can implement now, or we will have to wait for next year?

Mr Ofei: Yes. As a matter of fact, we were hoping that by June we would have a new policy. That is the reason I was included in the policy conference. If the policy can be done before the elections that is the policy we can use.

Mr Ofei: Will send council the new schedule and how they plan on conducting elections.

President: Thanks Mr Ofei and moves on to next agenda item.

#### **Council Discussion:**

VP: Mr Ofei covered everything, and we might not have to remove IEB entirely. We will need to find the IEB constitution/policy because even Mr Ofei does not know where it is currently.

President: The task of reviewing the IEB policy will be left to the VP to execute.

## 2. Submission of Suggestions for SRC Training

Mr Ofei: It seems some people do not know what is expected of them. Including an Exec member because this is Exec's role. If something is sent to council and council cannot submit on a given time, council has every right to ask for the submission to be postponed. If nobody says anything, then it means that there is no problem with the submission. If you need clarity, ask for clarity before the deadline.

Secondly, it bothers me that the only time people react is when it comes to the honorarium. Every time Eric gets a response it's when honorarium is mentioned. The email was sent, there was no response. A reminder was sent there was no response. Only time people reacted is when honorarium was mentioned. Accountability is very important and was even touched on during training. Even after he asked for negotiations, people still continued to shift the blame and stated that it wasn't their problem. Council should not unite behind such causes.

Int'l: Understands what Mr Ofei is saying and where he is coming from. When Mr Ofei asked for comments and suggestions, it appears as if it was something people could only submit if they had any submissions.

Mr Ofei: Gets the point, as Mr SBS pointed out. Hence people needed ask for clarity way before.

Activism: We have not had deductions before. Its unfair to assume people only reacted because money was involved. It's hard for people to negotiate when the other party does not see reasons for the negotiations. There was no indication that it was mandatory.

Mr Ofei: We must agree to disagree that honorariums are not a factor. This is not the first time this happened. There is evidence that people only act when honorariums are threatened. Similar thing happened in March.

Pres: What's the way forward? Can people still submit comments? Will there be honorarium deductions?

Mr Ofei: There has to be a negotiations. To hold people accountability.

CE: Understands it's a matter of accountability and sees it better. Was quite confused by the reminder and mention of Madam Enviro in the text. We would appreciate maybe a week's reminder and urged Exec to negotiate.

Mr Ofei: Agrees. It's actually SG's duty to remind people of submissions and had it been normal times SG would have reminded everyone.

President: Thanks Mr Ofei. Council will discuss this.

Mr Ofei: Left at 12:55

### **Council Discussion:**

CE: Feels we should negotiate to avoid deductions

SG: If we do negotiate, we should also address Mr Ofei's conduct.

Enviro: Agrees with Madam CE. We could have engaged earlier. The truth is we only reacted because he mentioned honorarium.

TG: Partially captured by SG. In whatever we're negotiating, we should also address him not being clear. In his mention of the honorarium, that was a bit harsh. He could have reminded us on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Sports: Partly captured by most speakers. Especially by his conduct. The response by council was not wrong. Believes that Ofei will always use technicalities to silence us. We should also bring technicalities and point out how he was wrong.

Pres: When Mr Ofei asked for negotiations, what does he mean?

VP: If its begging, then VP is out.

SG: Agrees with VP. If it means begging, then we do not do it. Then explain why we did not submit.

President: Eric is aware of reasons why we could not submit so he clearly wants us to beg.

Academic: His email was not worded right. It gave the impression that it was not optional.

SG: Eric is already aware of our reasons. He just chose not to focus on the reasons and focused on the messages he thought the tone was a bit off.

CE: Let's put our pride aside and explain why we do not want deductions. Let us negotiate to maintain a good working relationship with him.

SBS: Doesn't understand why we have to negotiate and why honorarium is being deducted if it was just deduction.

### 3. Water Task Team Meeting

#### Madam Enviro to provide feedback document

Pres: Thanks Madam Enviro for the detailed feedback. Jay did not stress her concerns in the meeting with senior management. She only mentioned doing away with grey water due to the health hazards concerned.

President: Strongly feels that Madam Residence should be part of the Water Task Team.

### 4. Academic Councillor's meeting feedback

#### (Feedback document attached)

President: Captured on how students can explore an extended leave of absence and not deregister.

CE: Saw that one of the points mentioned is the likelihood of the academic year continuing until March 2021, seeing that its now June, how feasible is that?

Academic: That is a possibility as exams will not be written this June and also not to compromise the quality of our degrees.

President: Snr management has noted that there is a possibility of extending the academic year.

Res: Can students reach out to the Academic Councillor if they have challenges with online learning?

Pres: Students might not be aware of this. This should be publicized.

Academic: Her job description has changed so much due to COVID-19. From working with emails and appointments to dealing with e-learning. So, we cannot leave the concerns open ended.

Pres: Suggestion for Madam Academic to hold meetings with faculty reps regularly.

Academic: Received email that term 1 will end on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July??

CE: Likes the idea of continuously communicating with substructure. However, does not feel a lot of leaders see the urgency of continuing with their work during the pandemic. Our substructures might be a minority, we should take it back to students. How are they finding e-learning? For Madam Academic, postgraduates with coursework they are still getting assessed while not learning anything.

#### 5. Meeting with Management: Students Return to campus.

Madame Residence: Concern with regards to PGV res being self-catering and students having to be in quarantined for 14 days how will they get food?

Pres: Dates of return were not discussed, as well as SRC being part of the 33% of students to return.

Res: How will students return to campus?

VP: In the COVID Task team it was mentioned that PPE will be provided by the institution.

CE: With regards to the statement we received, in terms of the last point on level 3, how will the university determine which students are not in conducive environments for studying?

Pres: The task to determine that was delegated to DVC: Research and Innovation, Dr Clayton.

CE: Did they mention the number of laptops still to be dispatched to students?

Pres: Laptops are still being dispatched.

Madame Oppidan: There has been a volume of emails from oppidan students requesting that the university allows them to return to their private residences since their home environments are not conducive for studying.

Pres: We will engage management on that. Will the Oppidan bus be operational when the first 33% students return to campus?

Madame Oppidan: Yes.

6. Year plan review

VP: Since most students will be home during this period, we will still need to have SRC projects and so we need to readjust our year plan to suit the circumstances we are in. Consultation for this will be between now and 15<sup>th</sup> June to readjust the year plan. We have until June 15<sup>th</sup> to submit reviewed year plans.

President: When doing the year plan, let us not forget to collaborate, with other portfolios and other institutions.

Meeting adjourned.