

RHODES UNIVERSITY

STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2020

**AT 18:30 IN THE RA ROOM, STEVE BIKO BUILDING, RHODES
UNIVERSITY**

2020.M3.1 PRESENT

President, Vice President, Secretary-General, Treasurer General, International Affairs, Media, Academic, Projects, Student Benefits and Sponsorships, Community Engagement, Residence, Oppidan, Environmental, Activism and Transformation.

2020.M3.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE/ APOLOGIES

None.

2020.M3.3 OTHER MATTERS FOR THE AGENDA

None.

2020.M3.4 CALL TO ORDER

Madame President asked Madame Community Engagement to open in prayer. Madame President called to order the regular meeting of the Student Representative Council at 18:30 on 24 February 2020 in the RA Room, Steve Biko Building.

2020. M3.4 STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OFFICER

- a) Grazzle to be held on Tuesday February 25th Elections to follow thereafter. SRC's attendance at Grazzle compulsory. The Grazzle should not be long. Direction of the house to be transferred to Mr. Vice President.
- b) Mr. Ofei will send the council a template to follow to improve their rough drafts of their goals and objectives for the year. He instructed

council on 3 points to guide them when compiling their goals and objectives:

1. To consider what the university's strategic goals are.
2. To state what their plans and goals are linking these to the university's goals.
3. To indicate how they plan on achieving this.

In this way their plans will be indicative of whether they achieved their goals or not.

ii) Mr. Ofei offered several examples.

1. Firstly, one goal expressed by one of the council members was to promote leadership skills amongst high school students. He explained the first leg was already completed. Now the member had to indicate how they would achieve this.
2. In another example, that of Purple Thursday, Mr. Ofei explained that the purpose of Purple Thursday for the DSA and the university is to promote diversity in our geographical space. Then one would link their plans for Purple Thursday to this, and how they will achieve it. In this way the 3 guidelines are met.

iii) Mr. Ofei commended Madame International on her goals and objectives. He added that she needed only to expand on the how.

- c) Mr. Ofei urged that council have a proper plan with regards to Intervarsity when they attend the meeting with the Vice Chancellor (Set for the 3rd March 2020). Mr. Ofei also firmly expressed that he would like to be included in that meeting.
- d) He urged council not to forget the inauguration of new council members coming in through the by-election.

Mr. Ofei was excused immediately after this agenda item.

2020.M3.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Proposed by Madame International, seconded by Madame Secretary General. Minutes passed.

2020.M3.6 MATTERS ARISING**6.1. Working relationship with Sports Administration**

- a) Mr. Projects Manager explained that there is a lot of miscommunication with the Sports Manager. He is concerned that the SRC continues to be undermined by Sports Admin. One example is that the intervarsity meeting was called only after the Vice Chancellor requested it. The SRC's involvement which should be central continues to be an afterthought. Mr. Projects wishes to send an email to the Sports Manager raising all these issues.
- b) Madame International recalled council's attention to last week's resolution, which was to set up a meeting date with all concerned stakeholders. She emailed the Sports Manager and cc'd Madame Secretary General to set this up. The Sports Manager replied that a meeting was already set up with the SRC, the meeting with the Vice Chancellor and the matters she raised would be discussed at the latter.
- c) Madame President confirmed that this will then be the council's agenda item for that meeting.
- d) Mr. Projects asked for clarity as to whether the current order of issues is how he should raise them in tomorrow's meeting.
- e) The council responded in the affirmative.

6.2. Intervarsity

- a) Mr. Projects averred council to a request from Mr. Ofei for a set plan for Intervarsity. He requested clarity on whether this was something he had to produce.
- b) Mr. Vice President shared his fear that the Vice Chancellor may decline to allow the council to host an Intervarsity after party. He suggested that this is what council must plan for in reference to Mr. Ofei's request. He clarified that the meeting was to be held on the 3rd of March 2020 thus he can set up a team with Mr. Projects to plan the after party ahead of this meeting with the Vice-Chancellor.

6.3. Purple Thursday Sign ups

- a) Due to take place this Thursday 27th February 2020 and will be run on a similar basis to society sign-ups.
- b) A one-hour window in which noise will be accepted has been granted.
- c) Societies to set up at 12:00 noon and to have taken down stalls by 14:10.
- d) All council members are requested to please send their timetables to Mr. Projects as they are requested to assist with these sign-ups. The Projects Team will also be assisting.
- e) This will be repeated next Thursday 5th March 2020.

6.4. Traffic Light Party presentation

- a) Mr. Projects was approached by a student company who wishes to host a Traffic Light Party in conjunction with the Rhodes University SRC. A Traffic Light Party is a party aimed at encouraging mingling based on the relationship status of attendees, using color-coded cups, for example green is for single persons.
- b) The company proposes to host this party on the Great Field on the 6th of May.
- c) The company had misconceptions as to the reasons the SRC does not host parties of this kind. They believed it was because the SRC did not make a profit. Mr. Projects however clarified the misconception, the SRC does not wish to make a personal profit, but one that would benefit a charitable organisations.
- d) Thus, the company proposed to host this party with the SRC and proposed that the SRC will receive 10% of the profit which will be directed to a charitable organisation.
- e) The proposal was submitted to the council too close to the date of this meeting and such council members had not had a chance to properly engage with the information.
- f) Madame President proposed that this be put forward as an agenda item for next Friday's meeting.
- g) Mr. Projects will communicate to the company that the SRC has received their proposal and will deliberate on it.

6.5. Feedback from meeting held by President and SG with EFFSC

- a) Madame President and Madame Secretary General met with the EFFSC on the 19th of February 2020.
- b) The EFFSC had requested clarity on the following issues:
 - i) The book allowances voucher rumor. Following a post published on which the SRC had received no communication and that turned out not to be true.
 - ii) The Vice Chancellor's guarantee.
 - iii) The late registration fees. Madame Secretary-General had confirmed that the last date for registration had been this last Friday, however she received communication from the Registrar that it was this last Monday.
 - iv) There were rumors that there were NSFAS students who had been excluded.
 - i. Madame Secretary General asked the EFFSC to avail them of the exact number of students who they say were excluded. They sent details of 6 students.
 - ii. Madame Secretary General confirmed that of the 6, 4 of the appeals were successful and 2 were unsuccessful.
- c) Madame Transformation and Activism proposed that in relation to publications that derive or should derive from certain departments or stakeholders, those bodies should be held accountable, to avoid a situation where the council issues one statement and that body another.
- d) Madame Transformation and Activism explained further that specific departments deal with specific issues that affect the student body, for example bursaries and related information should be communicated through the financial aid office. Can this body do so and be held accountable for that information, to avoid a he said/she said situation as that with the NSFAS miscommunication.
- e) Madame Secretary General agreed with Madame Transformation and Activism. Furthermore, she proposed that for example as with the Vice Chancellor's guarantee the SRC should share a statement with the student body. She acknowledged that it is protocol that information especially sensitive information is not shared before meeting minutes are made available. However, she proposed that council could share merely the resolutions taken up in

relevant committee meetings to the student body. In this way council can avoid the situation that arose as a result of the EFFSC erroneous account of the meeting they had with Madame President and Madame Secretary General.

- f) Madame International pointed out that they had discussed the issue of minutes last week. Council members do take minutes at all the committee meetings they are requested to attend. Madame International agreed that minutes should be shared particularly on matters affecting the student body, to avoid a he/she said situation.
- g) Madame President added that she was personally disadvantaged by lack of clarity on whether council could communicate information to students from committees after her meeting with the Deputy Vice Chancellor, she was not sure if this information should be shared or not. Madame President ultimately agreed that information affecting students arising from committee meetings should be shared with the student body.
- h) Madame President proposed that going forward the resolution should be that feedback from committee meetings should be a standing agenda item. As an example, the Institutional Equity meeting feedback could not be shared as it was not an agenda item.
- i) Madame Secretary General agreed that it can be a standing agenda item but asks that those council members responsible for giving feedback to add it when agenda items are called so as not to undermine the call for agenda items, and for it to be clearly outlined.
- j) The resolution adopted was that whoever has a duty to give feedback must email Madame Secretary General when agenda items are called for, and if the feedback is accompanied by a document, this should be sent in also.

Prior to discussing agenda item 6.6, Madame Oppidan requested a point of order for new members to be introduced if this was not done in the last meeting.

Council members confirmed that this in fact had been done.

Madame President requested that council ensure they have read the minutes of the previous meeting before attending the next one.

2020.M3.7 SRC EXECUTIVE**7.1. Allocations of societies and appeals from societies**

- a) Madame Secretary-General informed council that two societies sought to appeal the executive council's decision to refuse their approval.
- b) The executive had initially resolved to allow for the appeal, reject it once more and then advise the two aspiring societies on the proper protocols they should follow at the end of the year.
- c) The two societies were YPG and Mental Health.
- d) The Mental Health said they could work through the counselling center and sought documentation from there after the vote took place.
- e) However, the executive could not allow aspiring societies to conduct themselves in this matter, bringing in new evidence as it would set a precedent that would undermine the council's approval or rejection process.
- f) Madame Transformation and activism suggested that the Mental Health group apply to be wellness leaders.

7.2. Committee Meeting Allocations

- a) A student approached Madame Secretary General requesting to be part of the Institutional Forum Committee meeting.
- b) The SRC had prior to this resolved that they would inform the student body of the committee meetings they were attending and call for submissions from the students. This would therefore be the way forward, and they declined to allow the student to sit in the Institutional Forum Committee meeting.
 - The concern behind this was that it would be difficult to ascertain whose interests the student was representing.
- c) Mr. Vice President clarified that only the SRC sits in committee meetings and should a member or members of the student body have any issues they wish to raise they should submit these to the council, and council will raise it at those meetings.

8.3. Type of content we approve on the SRC FB page

- a) Madame Media was concerned with posts relating to adverts by businesses and other third parties, textbook sales on the SRC Facebook page.

- b) It was discussed that posts that assist students should be accepted on the page, but the council should not allow companies to advertise their business if they did not benefit the student body.
- c) Sponsors for the SRC could post on the Facebook page.
- d) Madame Media requested a list of the SRC sponsors, to ease the process when she went through requests.
- e) It was decided that academic benefits should take priority over business ventures even by students. The council agreed that the students should be informed of the policy in terms of posting on the Facebook page.

2020.M3.8 MATTERS ARISING FROM EXECUTIVE FEEDBACK

- a) As council had opportunity to ask for clarity and offer additions, or suggestions, when Madame Secretary-General delivered the executive feedback this agenda item has already passed.
- b) Madame Community Engagement asked for clarity whether matters arising urgently cannot be called for.
- c) Madame International responded that it is done at the end of the meeting.
- d) Madame President clarified that this is done at the beginning of the meeting and had already been done. Council members confirmed so.
- e) Madame Secretary General that matters arising urgently are only for those which one would not have known when agenda items were called for. She urged council to please respect the call for agenda items as raising non-urgent matters in the meeting would undermine the purpose of the call for agenda items.

2020.M3.9 UPCOMING EVENTS

- a) This agenda item had already been discussed since Purple Thursday had already been discussed unless there were other upcoming events already discussed.
- b) Mr. Vice President confirmed that the Grazzle would take place at 18:00 in GLT. Student Parliament would take place at 19:00 in Council Chambers.
- c) Madame President reminded councilors that full uniform is required for Student Parliament.

- d) Madame Environmental proposed that minutes be taken on a computer not paper to avoid the wastage of paper.
- e) Madame Secretary General requested that it be at the discretion of the Minute Taker and Madame Secretary General, the Minute Taker had already indicated to Madame Secretary General that for safety reasons, as she lives off-campus carrying her laptop would be a risk.

2020.M3.10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2nd March 2020 at 18:30 in the RA Room, Steve Biko Building.

2020.M3.11 ADJOURNMENT

Madame President adjourned the meeting at 19:52 and asked Madame International to close in prayer.

Minutes recorded and submitted by SRC Minute Writer: Kundai Jimu

Minutes edited and approved by: Shanti Khosa (SRC Secretary-General)