

SRC COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 20th FEBRUARY 2023 TIME: 18H30 VENUE:RA ROOM

AGENDA

2023.13.01. Welcome and Attendance

2023.13.02. Leave of Absences

2023.13.03. Confirmation of Minutes

2023.13.04. Declaration of Conflict

2023.13.05 Matters Arising

2023.13.06. University Committee Allocation

2023.13.07. Report

7.1. IEC Meeting

2023.13.08. Motsepe Foundation Donation

2023.13.09. Thuma Mina Project

2023.13.10. Other Matters Arising.

2023.13.11. Closure

2023.13.12. Date of next meeting TBA

MINUTES

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone present and extended the welcome to the new minute-taker.

The chair then distributed the SRC Oath that got read out loud by Council members.

Attendance

President: Ms. Avuxeni Tyala

Vice-President: Ms. Putuma Balintulo

Secretary-General: Mr. Lazarus Kgageng

Treasurer-General: Mr. Siyanda Nolala

Community Engagement: Mr. Lihle Manene

Media: Ms. Nqobile Makamu

Activism and Transformation: Mr. Ibabale Sobekwa

Environmental: Mr. James Njoloza

International Affairs: Ms. Tsidzo Hove

Oppidan: Mr. Adrian February

Projects Manager: M.r Varshan Pillay

Residence: Mr. Simphiwe Mnyande

Sports and Societies: Mr. Buhle Luthuli

Student Benefits and Sponsorship: Mr. Indiphile Ralo

Student Development and Support Officer: Mr Eric Ofei (Late)

ABSENT

Academics: Ms. Tshepo Malebana

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed with amendments by Mr Activism and Transformation, and Ms International Affairs seconded them.

3. Declaration of Conflict

There was no conflict declared.

4. Matters Arising

Redbull & Purple Thursday

Mr Projects Manager (hereinafter Mr Projects) requested approval from the council to have a doodle competition in collaboration with Redbull. This would take place on Purple Thursday, and students will go to Union Lawns to draw and stand a chance to win a Redbull. The time he proposed was 14h00 till 17h00. A consensus was reached for Vice President to send to Council an email she had received from Tinashe that pertains to a Redbull collaboration. Ms International Affairs (hereinafter Ms International) put forward that permission is needed from Registrar to have companies on campus.

Feedback from Faculty Boards Meeting

Mr Community Engagement (hereinafter Mr Community) came with feedback that the Vice Chancellor said that the SRC must actively look for funds for students to register. He further stated that the Department of Higher Education and Training responded that the SRC could seek funds from the Department of

Education. The Chair allowed two hands from the Council, and Mr Secretary-General (hereinafter Mr Secretary), asked the Council if they had a consensus on partnership fundraising. The Council reached an agreement on this.

Mr Community was approached by sis Nosi from the Rhodes University Community Engagement (hereinafter RUCE) offices. Sis Nosi is yet to send the SRC an official invite to a Representative Council of Learners (RCL) training for Nombulelo Secondary School. Mr Community inquired from the Council if they would be interested in attending the training. Ms Vice President told the Council that Mr Ofei once said the SRC was part of this initiative. Ms Vice President asked Mr Community to inquire if Nosi has the documents to carry over the initiative so that the RUCE office takes only part credit for the initiative as it is an SRC initiative. Ms President then asked everyone to check their availability, and Mr Student Sponsorships and Benefits suggested that they do not have the training too far from induction, as the induction would take place this coming Friday. Ms President asked if Council is interested in attending, and the Council agreed. Mr Ofei, however, got concerned about consistency from the Council before they agreed that they were interested.

Ms Vice President spoke about her attendance at the pharmacy faculty board meeting. She returned with the report that the SRC must find a way of getting more prospective postgraduate students to apply to Rhodes University, especially in the Pharmacy faculty. The other matter she reported back on is that students that fail their June examinations will write supplementary examinations in November instead of in August. She further highlighted that students would be discontent upon hearing this change.

The Vice President also reported back that postgraduate students are isolated as there are no social spaces for them to be together. The issue of load-

shedding and water-off days impacts the students negatively. In the pharmacy faculty, the postgraduates complain that load-shedding disrupts their progress on their research papers. Mr Sports & Societies (hereinafter Mr Sports) raised his hand to volunteer to assist Ms Vice President on postgraduate issues as there is no Postgraduate Affairs Councillor yet. The President concurred with Mr Sports on his point.

On the issue of water scarcity that Ms Vice President brought up, Ms International stated that lecture venues are not conducive for learning as water off days mean that there is no running water to flush toilets. Mr Environment directly responded to Ms International that the toilets not working in the Barratt lecture venue were brought to his attention, and he took the matter to the relevant structures and maintenance. He has therefore received feedback with purchase orders sent to maintenance to fix the unworking toilets in Barratt. The President then asked for the paper trail so that she could put pressure on maintenance.

Committee Emailing List

Ms International pointed out that only some Council members are part of the committee emailing list. Mr Ofei then explained that the first email got sent to some other Council members and that Council members get a notice a month in advance.

Health Hazard at Dingemans House

Both Mr Residence and Ms Media mentioned that pipe bursting had become a norm in Dingemans House. Recently, a pipe burst in a student's room and sewerage spilt all over their things and damaged her belongings. Letters have

been sent to the Vice Chancellor, but nothing has been done about this. Mr Residence has met with Mam' Noma with a proposal on the way forward regarding the dire situation of Dingemans.

Mr Activism stated that on the 1st of March, there is a meeting on institutional planning. He will bring up the Dingemans matter there so that Dingemans can be prioritised for renovation. The Vice President spoke on following formal procedures for getting this done. The council has to bring up the Dingemans matter to the relevant people before they take it to the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice President stated that back in 2019, a similar occurrence happened at Dingemans, whereby plumbers used to fix the house every two weeks. She, therefore, will consult with the 2019 SRC to get the report. Ms President said she would follow up with Mr Ofei to get those minutes on the Dingemans plumbing issue. Mr Residence suggested that the plumbing issue at Dingemans be fixed during the first vacation.

Mr Sports put his hand up and said that students came to Rhodes thinking that the residences are perfect, whereas they are not. Ms President suggested that to put a sense of urgency to management, then students could take pictures as evidence to show the real state the residences are in.

Mr Projects asked if the student at Dingemans would be compensated. Ms Vice President responded that she had gone to a Higher Education Department meeting whereby she got information about a grant for infrastructure. This grant can be used as a proposal and evidence to get the student compensated for the loss of their belongings.

Meeting with IEC

Mr Projects and Mr Activism had a meeting with IEC earlier this day. The feedback on this meeting will be attached to the agenda of the next Council meeting.

Importance of communication

Ms President stated that she wants more structured feedback from Council members, and for Ms Media to provide detailed feedback in future.

Report back on Mina Cup

Ms President complimented that the event was good, although she was disappointed with the SRC and student turnout. On the other hand, Mr Ofei said the launch was not good and he felt that the oppidans did more than the SRC did. He complimented Ms President for the stellar performance as the Master of Ceremonies of the launch.

Ms President highlighted the importance of prior communication from council members if they cannot attend an event. The Vice President concurred with the President but also expressed that she understood why some council members did not attend, as communication to attend the launch came on short notice. Mr Activism stated that he could not go as he was not wearing uniform and had a meeting around that time. Mr Residence apologised for doing up and down during the launch as he had a crisis to deal with. He further requested that whenever the Council must attend something, at least two Council members must be in the office to attend to students. Ms Media also apologised for her absence and stated that she realised she did not put in effort in creating awareness for the launch; thus, that contributed to the low number of people attending. Ms President reiterated the importance of making noise about the things that the SRC are doing by having them posted on the SRC social media pages continuously, such as the launch of the Mina Cup.

5. University Committee Allocation

Mr Community expressed dissatisfaction with being allocated to multiple committees, while some Council members are not allocated. Mr Secretary apologised for this and explained that he had consulted with Mr Ofei, and they did the allocations based on each Councillor's strength. Mr Ofei, however, complained that the Council sends allocations too late; hence he understands why Mr Secretary consulted with him. Mr Ofei stated, though, that he understands if people want to change the people already allocated as it won't make much of a difference. He further clarified why Bonolo Moche would sit in University meetings as this was an enquiry from Ms Vice President. Mr Ofei explained that it is due to Mr Moche's activeness in student governance; hence he opted to have Bonolo to be a part of the meetings.

6. Thuma Mina Project

Ms President had a problem with the Thuma Mina Project sitting on a meeting day before its commencement. The Vice President replied that the executive did not respond to the Thuma Mina Project when it was sent to them, so she ticked the project's viability to have it in the meeting. Upon discussing the project, Ms President complimented Mr Residence for his hard work but stated that she felt the proposal was lazy. She pointed out that the project was not elaborated enough as it did not provide the turnaround time for the project and the inspection logistics. Mr Treasurer- General (hereinafter Mr Treasurer) suggested that Mr Residence goes to do the inspections with people who specialise in safety and could give a qualified inspection. Mr Residence, however, disagreed with Mr Treasurer's suggestion as Mr Residence feels that these people would justify themselves for the damages happening in residences. He further commented that he wants to go by himself to these inspections and revert to the stakeholders with hardcore evidence.

There is then a debate amongst the Council as to whether to postpone the Project so that the executive can go through it before it commences. Mr Ofei said the executive must be held accountable for not attending to the project beforehand. Mr Residence agrees with Mr Ofei and further postulates that postponing the project would taint his reputation. Mr Secretary apologises and takes full accountability for the executive not sitting for the Project as he did not call for an executive meeting. He states that a lot was happening, as this was during registration time. It is then pointed out that the next executive meeting is on Wednesday, so the executive would discuss the project then. Mr Residence is disappointed as he will be the one to appear incompetent and lacking diligence. He further points out that he wanted the project to be early before formal academic assessments started. Ms President asks the Council whether, as the executive, they should postpone the project or sit on it after the meeting ends. Mr Sports said that if the project is postponed, the executive must take full accountability to the Wardens. Mr Environment seeks clarity on when the project will be if it is postponed. Mr Student Benefits and Sponsorships (hereinafter Mr Benefits) said it would be better to postpone so that the executive can sit on the project. Some Council members agree with this postponement, but Ms Vice President and Mr Residence disagree with this decision. Ms Vice President stated that this project was brought up in advance and postponing will mess with the planning.

Mr Treasurer suggested that the executive has a special meeting tomorrow to do what was meant to be done so that the project is not a week late, but a day late. Ms President then said the executive would stay behind to do due diligence on Mr Residence. She further asked Mr Residence if he agreed with a day postponement, and Mr Residence asked Mr Ofei to punish the executive. Mr Ofei stated that Ms President must take accountability for not engaging with Mr Residence's Thuma Mina Project well in advance.

Mr Residence asked for permission from Council to go with some Council members and check on the crisis at Dingemans this evening. Ms President expressed her uneasiness as it is at night and the time may not be appropriate. Mr Residence insisted on going tonight as he has commitments tomorrow.

7. Motsepe Foundation donation

Ms President asked what the money would be used for, and Ms Vice President asked for clarification as Ms President had said the money would be used to aid with student registration. Ms Vice President then expressed her confusion as in a meeting, the Vice-Chancellor had said that the money would be used for student debts and wellness, amongst other things. This though goes against what the Council had initially agreed on. Mr Benefits told the Council that Mr Vika told him that he (Mr Vika) would have wished for the money to be used for mental health, amenities for the differently abled, and student funding.

Ms President clarified that she had been approached by Mr Vika and he asked her to have fifty thousand Rands of the donation to be used for transportation for differently abled students. Ms President said she did not fully agree to Mr Vika, but she is not against it. Mr Environment put his hand up to express that he is against Mr Vika's wishes and that he does not understand why the university accepted differently abled students if they are unable to cater for them. He further expressed that the university must be held accountable for accepting these students without proper structures in place for them. Mr Ofei also asked from the Council what is the criteria to aid students with registration, how much money will be allocated to this, and are they going to top up for people or pay for everything.

Mr Ofei told Council that he likes the fact that they are considering donating some money to the 3 structures: Mental health, amenities for differently abled students, and student funding. He then gave an example that they can give ten thousand

Rands towards the disability structure, or even do a disability-friendly thing in the SRC offices. Mr Projects inquired if the ten thousand is before tax or after tax deduction. He also asked that that the decision of the money must be made on its percentage and not amounts.

Ms President posed the question to the Council on whether to use the donation money solely on registration or divide it amongst the aforementioned three structures. Mr Residence said that the SRC must stick to their initial plan of paying for registration. He concurred with Mr Ofei and Mr Environment's point that the SRC should be autonomous.

Ms President suggested that the bulk of the money be used for registration and some of it be used for things that they as the Council want. Mr Sports states that they need to be careful of students that get their registration paid for, and then they cannot pay for the rest of their school fees. Vice President then suggested that an Ad Hoc committee be formalised that will decide on the criteria of the students that would get their registration paid for. Ms Media acknowledged that not every student would get helped with their registration as the donation money would not be able to cover every unregistered student. Mr Community suggested that six hundred thousand Rands should go towards registration. Ms International on the other hand, suggested that the money should go to all the three structures previously mentioned. Ms Vice President concurs with Ms International and opposes Mr Community's suggestion. Ms Vice President stated that the donor had stipulated on what the money should be used for. She then proposed that the money gets divided. The Council reached a consensus on this.

Since the Council agreed on an Ad Hoc committee, Ms President said Ms Vice President must lead the committee. The following Councillors got put in the committee: Ms President, Ms Vice President, Mr Treasurer, Mr Benefits, Mr Projects, and Ms Academics.

Ms President said that after the Ad Hoc committee meets, they must release a statement to address the people concerned. Mr Community inquired when an email for stakeholders would be released. Ms President said she will send Mr Vika an email and cc Mr Secretary. Ms President also said that the Ad Hoc committee would circulate the document of the decisions they make to the Council. Mr Treasurer stated that a Councillor to lead the committee is needed and to also table the report made by the committee. Ms President replied that Ms Vice President would do that.

Mr Ofei relayed that there was a request for Council to give gratitude for the donation. Mr Secretary said that he would get that done by tomorrow at 17h00.

8. Other matters arising

Ms President was approached by a student who was referred to her by the Division of Student Affairs (hereinafter DSA) with regards to the student 's friend passing on. This student asked for transportation to go to Johannesburg to his friend's funeral. Mr Ofei commented that when a student passes on, the SRC goes to the funeral, hence he understood why the DSA directed the student to the SRC. Mr Environment inquired if it is the whole of SRC that will be going. Mr Ofei answered that when the student was not in SRC, then only one bus goes and only one SRC member goes. Mr Projects volunteers on attending the funeral as the deceased student was in his tutorial group. The Council agreed on this.

9. Housekeeping

President addressed that the Council must refrain from using vulgar language while they are in their offices. She then suggested that Council members take walks when they need to cool down.

Ms President spoke on meeting etiquette, that people must put their phones in front of them during meetings, as to limit people getting distracted by their phones.

Ms Vice President asked Mr Secretary about the bathroom keys and Mr Secretary responded that he was waiting for Mr Ofei to get back to him.

Ms President spoke about sustainability and addressed Mr Ofei that he always preaches sustainability, but the lights in his office are always on. Mr Ofei apologised for leaving his lights on.

Mr Secretary told Council and Mr Ofei that he did get the flowers delivered on Friday.

Ms Vice President addressed Mr Sports that he does not communicate properly.

Mr Oppidan called upon the Council members to keep the Purple room always tidy, as there is no space and so it makes the room to not be visually appealing. He further requested that Councillors store their things away. Ms President commented that the Purple room is always an issue, and so she asked for names of people who leave the room in an untidy state.

Mr Ofei asked what the role of the SRC during sports events was, and further asked if the Council saw the floor plan and the roster of duties, as he has not seen them. Mr Sports replied that after the Sports Extravaganza, he cleaned up Union Lawns by himself and had not delegated people for duties. He apologised for not informing the Council.

Ms President spoke on the chaos during the Sports Extravaganza. Ms Media said she felt out of place as there was no floor plan, which she requests. Ms President for the floor plan by tomorrow 17h00.

Mr Environment said there is storage in the lecture venue, therefore, Council members could put their belongings there instead of putting them in the Purple room.

Mr Treasurer complained that the Secretariat office is not tidy as when each Councillor leaves the office, they leave it in an untidy state. He asked for the Council members who do this to be held accountable.

Ms President asked that a sign up for using the secretariat telephone got put up as Councillors left their consultation notes on her desk.

Mr Community asked for dustbins to be put up in every corner so that the Council do not go all the way down to throw away rubbish. He also asked for brooms to be made available. Ms Media commented that she saw a terrifying sight of a bra, stained with what looks like blood in the office dustbin, and asked that it does not happen again. Mr Treasurer responded that he had been confused as he had found the bra on top of his table, which he then took out to dispose of the bra. He rebutted that he thought the stain is not blood but a juice of a plum or a fruit of that sort.

10. Items not in the agenda but came up with Mr Ofei

Mam' Noma's farewell

Mamu Noma is no longer leaving at the end of term, but earlier than intended as the new person to fill the position will be arriving on the 1st of March and Mamu Noma said she would be leaving on the 3rd of March.

The SRC retreat

Everyone must submit strengths that they deem each Councillor has. These submissions are confidential and are to be sent to Mr Ofei. Mr Ofei's strengths & weaknesses are to be sent to Mr Secretary. The strengths would be picked based on the common strength of a person that comes from at least nine members or more. On the day of announcement, Mr Secretary will announce Mr Ofei's strengths and Mr Ofei will announce the rest of the Council member's strengths.

Mr Treasurer asked Mr Ofei if the Council was the one paying for the retreat. Mr Ofei replied that all leadership programmes fell on him and he did not need to consult with SRC. Mr Ofei further stated that the SRC informed him seven days in advance on what they wanted.

SRC Mentor

Mr Ofei asked the Council to send him their alumni and university mentors by Wednesday via Mr Secretary.

Societies sign-up evening

The last sign-up day is the 23rd of February, 2023, at 21h00.

SRC remuneration

Mr Residence asked for the list of deductions so that Council members could start to appeal.

Mr Ofei informed the Council that this month they get paid on Friday. He then asked that in future, he needs the list of deductions by the 20th. For the month of February's payment, the Council will receive their full payment, but in March, he will make deductions.

Closure

The President adjourned the meeting.