

CONSTITUTION FOR STUDENT GOVERNANCE

The full text of this Constitution and its associated Schedules is available from the SRC Offices and from the University Library.

Preamble

We, the students of Rhodes University (hereinafter called “the University”) herenfirm the supreme and inalienable right of all students at the University to join in the acquisition and advancement of knowledge. We determine that the University Student Representatives’ Council (hereinafter called “the SRC”) be our primary governing body in matters falling within its jurisdiction, which will ensure the conveyance of the student voice to the administration, the University Senate and Council in matters of institutional policies. We will promote the welfare and progress of the University community and enforce our rights and uphold our responsibilities; establish an effective, efficient, responsible, and responsive form of co-operative student government; encourage discussion, investigation, and expedient resolution of student problems, concerns, and ideas; support and help implement the desires of the Student Body; provide leadership; recognize student accomplishments so that the role of the student is rewarding and meaningful; retain the authority to appoint and remove student representation on University standing committees and advisory boards to which the SRC normally makes appointments. We task the SRC to report to us through our broadly elected leadership contained in the Student Forum. We, the students of the University, with full confidence in this constitution, do hereby ratify and agree to follow and implement it.

Objectives

This constitution is founded by the students, for the students, with a developmental consideration of the functional needs of the University student population. We, as the active voice of the Student Body, acknowledge our duty to maintain a key responsibility in the workings of the Institution.

This document is intentionally flexible, and simple to accurately represent the unique dynamics of the University.

Chapter 1 Introduction

Article 1.1. Status

This constitution is the supreme authority when dealing with student matters within the competence of the Student Body. All other constitutions and/

or documents within the Student Body, which fall under the SRC, are subject to the provision of, and derive their authority and jurisdiction from this constitution.

Article 1.2. Name

The name of the body hereinafter referred to as the SRC is the “Students’ Representative Council, Rhodes University”.

Article 1.3. Powers and Duties

Subject to the provisions of this constitution the SRC shall be empowered to:

1.3.1. Make representations on behalf of the students of the University to the Council, Senate and other bodies and officers of the University.

1.3.2. Administer the funds placed at its disposal by the University Council for the promotion of student activities as well as such other funds as it may, with permission of the University authorities, raise by subscription or levy or otherwise.

1.3.3. Be responsible for the recognition of student societies and organisations and for the control of such recognised societies and organisations.

1.3.4. Organise social functions and schemes for the benefit of students, and be responsible for the control and administration of such activities.

1.3.5. Affiliate to bodies and organisations outside the university.

1.3.6. Constitute an SRC Disciplinary Board in order to exercise the powers conferred on it by the Student Disciplinary Code.

1.3.7. Summon and conduct general meetings of students and other meetings of the student body.

1.3.8. Represent the student body both on campus and externally.

1.3.9. Do all such other things as bodies of this nature may lawfully do.

Article 1.4. Logo of the SRC

1.4.1. The logo of the SRC shall include Rhodes University’s Coat of Arms with the word “SRC” on the right- hand side alongside the Coat of Arms, and beneath that, the words “Representing Leaders”. The numerals of the substantive year for which the SRC is in office shall be superimposed above and between the two statements described above.

Chapter 2 The Student Body

Article 2.1. Membership and Voting Rights

2.1.1. All registered students, including full-time, part-time, occasional and continuing education students, shall be voting members of the Student Body.

2.1.2. All students registered with the University that fall outside of the limits set in 2.1.1 are nonvoting members of the Student Body who shall not be counted in determining a quorum, but shall be entitled to request the SRC to represent their interests from time to time should they so desire.

2.1.3. Members of the Student Body shall be entitled to attend and participate in discussions during general meetings, meetings of student governance sub-structures, organisations and student political organisations of which they are members, in accordance with the respective standing rules of order of the relevant meeting.

2.1.4. Voting in terms of Student Governance sub-structures shall be limited to those members who are entitled to vote.

Article 2.2. General Meetings

2.2.1. A General Meeting of the Student Body members shall be held as and when is necessary and only if:

1. the SRC President or 50% of the SRC call such a meeting, or

2. written request therefor is made by at least 20 members to the student body, accompanied by a written motion for consideration by the meeting.

2.2.2. The SRC shall give at least 5 working days notice of the date, time and venue of such a meeting, with disclosure of an agenda.

2.2.3. Student Body members shall be granted a reasonable opportunity to put additional matters on the agenda of such a meeting.

2.2.4. The SRC President or in his/her absence any person appointed by the SRC, shall act as chairperson of a general meeting and shall have an ordinary and casting vote.

2.2.5. The generally accepted rules pertaining to meetings of the SRC, as contained Schedule 8, shall apply at all general meetings.

2.2.6. Quorum

1. Quorum for a general meeting shall be 5% of students qualified to vote.

2. Quorum for an extraordinary meeting, summoned by the SRC or requisitioned by members shall be 5% of students qualified to vote.

3. In the event of there not being a quorum at any meeting, the meeting may elect to continue with those members present and the draft minutes shall be circulated to all members of the Student Forum who will be given the opportunity to object to decisions taken by those present, whereafter they would be taken as confirmed.

4. Once a meeting has been declared quorate, it remains quorate even if members leave during the course of business, thereby resulting in a lack of a quorum as defined above.

2.2.7. Motions of No-Confidence

1. A motion of no confidence shall not be tabled unless such a motion has been published as part of the agenda for the meeting;

2. A motion of no-confidence may be instituted against an individual member of a student governance substructure or against a student governance substructure as a whole.

3. A motion of no-confidence as detailed 2.2.7.2 above shall not:

3.1 be considered unless at least 5% of the student body are present at the meeting;

3.2 take effect unless a resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of the Student Body present at the meeting.

4. A motion of no confidence may be instituted against an individual member of the SRC.

5. A motion of no-confidence as detailed in 2.2.7.4 in respect of:

5.1 A member of the executive shall not be considered unless at least 10% of the student body is present at the meeting and the resolution is adopted by two-thirds of those present at the meeting.

5.2 A non-executive member of the SRC shall not be considered unless at least two-thirds of the member's constituency is present at a meeting of the relevant constituency and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of the member's constituency.

Article 2.3. Minutes of Meetings

The SRC shall ensure that a designated person shall keep minutes of the proceedings of each general meeting.

Article 2.4. Resolutions

2.4.1. Resolutions may only be adopted in respect of matters disclosed by the agenda, provided that other matters may be added to the agenda if there is no objection thereto by any member present.

2.4.2. A resolution shall be adopted by a simple majority of the members present at a meeting, except in the case of motions of no- confidence where the provisions of section 2.2.7 shall apply.

2.4.3. A resolution adopted at a general meeting shall take immediate effect unless otherwise stipulated in the resolution.

Article 2.5. Finance

2.5.1. The different student governance sub-structures who rely on the SRC for funding shall annually submit a budget in prescribed form to the SRC before the specified time.

2.5.2. All funds made available by the university for student governance shall only be applied in accordance with an approved budget.

2.5.3. The Finances of the SRC shall be administered according to Schedules 1 and 2 of the Constitution.

Chapter 3 The SRC

Article 3.1. Composition of the SRC

3.1.1. The SRC shall comprise of a President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Academic-, Activism & Transformation-, Community Engagement-, Environmental-, International-, Media-, Oppidan-, Projects Manager, Residence-, Societies-, & Student Benefits- Councillor.

3.1.2. Each member shall have only one vote and in the case of a deadlock, the President (or alternative Chairperson) shall have a casting vote.

3.1.3. The SRC Executive shall comprise of the President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Treasurer and two further positions filled by the eleven non-executive council members.

3.1.3.1 The two open Executive positions shall be filled through an internal SRC vote.

3.1.3.2 The eleven non-Executive Council members shall comprise of the eleven openly contested positions.

3.1.4. The Oppidan Councillor and the Residence Councillor shall be elected from within their respective constituencies.

3.1.5. Each hall shall elect one hall representative to the SRC Residence Representative Committee, and the elected Residence Councillor shall be the Chair of that Committee.

3.1.6. The fifteen openly contested Executive and non-Executive positions shall be campaigned for on a portfolio-specific basis subject to 3.1.7., 3.1.9. and Schedule 6.

3.1.7. An individual running for an openly contested position may run for one additional openly contested

position in one election.

3.1.8. If in terms of 3.1.7. an individual receives the highest number of votes in two positions then s/he must select one of those positions and the runner-up in the other position will assume that portfolio.

3.1.9 Candidates contesting the positions of President and Vice- President shall all run for the position of President and may run for an additional portfolio as envisaged in 3.1.7.

3.1.9.1 The candidate with the highest number of votes shall assume the presidency, unless s/he chooses to waive this privilege, in which event the position shall be offered to the candidate with the next highest number of votes.

3.1.9.2 The candidate with the second highest number of votes shall assume the position of Vice-President. Should any candidate decline either of these positions, that position shall be offered to the candidate with the next highest number of votes.

3.1.10 The SRC may establish committees, task groups (SRC members only) and working groups (SRC members and non- SRC members) as it sees fit.

Article 3.2. The Executive Committee

3.2.1 The SRC Executive shall consist of six members, namely the President, Vice-President, Secretary-General (Chairperson), the Treasurer and two other members elected from amongst its members.

3.2.2 In the event of a tied vote within the executive, the Secretary-General shall have the casting vote.

3.2.1. The duties of the Executive:

3.2.1.1. To deal with urgent matters which affect the interest of students and which arise between SRC meetings.

3.2.1.2. To generally act for and represent the SRC in the period between SRC meetings, in terms of the Constitution.

3.2.1.3. To deal with such matters as the SRC shall from time to time direct.

3.2.1.4. To develop proposals or define the parameters for debate on issues so as to streamline the deliberations and functioning of the SRC.

3.2.1.5. To deal with matters that are required to be dealt with in the period between the last meeting of the outgoing SRC and the election of the new SRC.

3.2.1.6. To assume overall responsibility for ensuring that resolutions of the SRC are executed, and to implement decisions of the Executive where such decisions do not arise from resolutions of the SRC, until such decisions are ratified by the SRC.

3.2.1.7. To ensure that the new SRC is fully

instructed in its role and capabilities prior to handing over responsibility.

3.2.2. Meetings of the Executive

1. The Executive shall meet at least once per fortnight.
2. The Secretary-General shall take the chair at all meetings, and in his / her absence the Chair shall be taken by the President or Vice-President (see schedule 6).
4. The minutes of each Executive meeting shall be considered, corrected if necessary, and then confirmed by the SRC at its next meeting.

Article 3.3. Meetings of the SRC

3.3.1. The SRC shall meet at least once a week while the University is in session during the undergraduate term time.

3.3.2. All meetings shall be convened by both the President and/or the Vice-President and/or the Secretary-General

3.3.3. Special meetings shall be convened:

1. on request of the President, and during his / her absence, by either the Vice-President or the Secretary-General.
2. when a resolution to this effect is passed by the SRC.
3. when a written request, signed by not less than three members stating the business to be considered, is made to the Secretary-General.

3.3.4. The President shall take the chair at all meetings, and in his / her absence the Chair shall be taken by the Vice-President or Secretary-General, or failing that, by any SRC member mandated by the SRC to do so.

3.3.5. 50% of the members of the SRC shall constitute a quorum, at any given point. In the event of there not being a quorum at any meeting, the meeting shall continue with those members present and the draft minutes shall be circulated to all members of the SRC who will be given the opportunity to object to decisions taken by those present, whereafter they would be taken as confirmed by the SRC.

3.3.6. All questions shall be decided by a consensus or failing this the majority of the members present and voting, except that in the following cases the majority shall be at least two thirds (2/3):

1. Finance;
2. Recognition of Societies;
3. Special Permission for the use of the name of the University by a recognised
4. Rules for the elections;
5. The amendment of any Schedules to this Constitution;

6. The institution of any disciplinary action against an SRC member.

Article 3.4. Forfeiture of Office on the SRC

3.4.1. In keeping with emphasising the right of all students to come to the University to join in the acquisition and advancement of knowledge, and recognising that the leadership of the Student Body should act as examples and be held to the very highest standards in terms of their behaviour, any duly- elected SRC member shall, subject to the provisions of the Student Disciplinary Code, forfeit his or her place on the SRC if he/she is:

1. Subsequently placed on academic probation and/ or academically excluded from the University, or
2. Found guilty during his or her term of office of a University disciplinary offence before a Proctor of the University and sentenced to a fine in excess of 25% of the maximum fine that a Proctor may impose or to any form of exclusion or to community service in excess of 75 hours.

2. If a vote of no confidence against a member of the SRC as detailed in 2.2.7 has been passed.

3.4.2 In the event that an SRC member has forfeited or has been deprived of his/her place on the SRC:

1. Where the forfeited portfolio is that of the SRC President:

1.1 The SRC Vice-President shall assume the portfolio of President

1.2 The SRC Executive shall re -assign executive portfolios by consensus from among themselves, failing which consensus from the SRC

1.3 The SRC shall elect one of its non- executive members to the SRC Executive

1.4 If the runner- up in the vacated constituency is available and willing to take the forfeited place, the SRC shall co- opt the runner- up according to the results of the previous election.

1.5 In the event that no runner- up is willing to be co-opted, the SRC shall convene another election for that Constituency.

2. In the case where the forfeited portfolio is a member of the SRC Executive:

2.1 The procedure outlined in 3.4.2.1.2 – 3.4.2.1.5 shall apply.

3. In the case where the forfeited portfolio is not a member of the SRC Executive:

3.1 The procedure outlined in 3.4.2.1.4 – 3.4.2.1.5 shall apply.

Article 3.5. Privileges of the SRC

3.5.1. Members of the SRC shall receive certain privileges, in return for their service to the Student Body and the University, specifically:

1. A financial incentive that will be determined by the Director of Student Affairs in conjunction with the SRC President soon after the election of the SRC.
2. Members of the SRC living in residence shall not be expected to pack up their rooms during the vacation, except the December /February vacation, in the same manner as Sub-Wardens and Senior/ Head Students.

Article 3.6. Continuity and handing- over

3.6.1. The previous SRC members shall be responsible for handing- over and familiarising the new SRC with their new portfolios and functions.

3.6.2. At the beginning of the new year the SRC President should arrange for the SRC to meet key staff and students.

3.6.3. Where possible, the old SRC shall shadow the new SRC in the various committees until December of the year in which the new SRC was elected.

3.6.4. The immediate Past President of the SRC shall act as an advisor, in an unpaid capacity, to the new SRC until December of the year he or she was President, and may continue for a mutually agreeable period after that should the new SRC desire.

Chapter 4 Class and Faculty Student Representation

Article 4.1. Class Representatives

4.1.1. Every class shall elect at least one class representative.

4.1.2. The election of the class representative may be conducted by a Head of Department / Lecturer-in-Charge or his/her nominee within the first three weeks of the course.

4.1.3. The election process used should be acceptable to the class concerned.

4.1.4. The Class representative shall act as a liaison between students and staff in the department and should retain regular contact with the students in the class and the course co- ordinator and/or Head of Department /Lecturer- in-Charge.

Article 4.2. Faculty / Academic Board Representatives

4.2.1. Two Faculty/Academic Board Representatives shall be elected from among the Class Representatives. This process shall be facilitated by

the SRC Academic Councillor in conjunction with the Dean/Associate Dean of the Faculty.

4.2.2. The term of office shall be for two years and shall be staggered so that there is an incoming and outgoing Faculty / Academic Board representative for the purposes of continuity.

4.2.3. These two representatives shall be full voting members of their respective Faculty / Academic Boards; The SRC Academic Councillor shall have observer status on every Faculty and Academic Board and as part of the SRC Executive, shall be a full voting member of Senate.

4.2.4. The Faculty / Academic Board Representatives shall be part of the Student Forum.

Article 4.3. Meetings

4.3.1. The SRC Academic Councillor shall coordinate a meeting of all Class and Faculty Representatives at least twice a year; and as and when is necessary.

4.3.2. These meetings may coincide with a meeting of the Student Forum.

Chapter 5 House and Hall Student Representation

Article 5.1. House Representation

5.1.1. Every House shall elect a House Committee who, in accordance with its Hall Constitution, shall be an advisory committee to the House Warden.

5.1.2. The House Senior/Head student shall be a member of the Student Forum.

5.1.3. The exact procedures and portfolios available for election shall be left to the individual House to decide.

Article 5.2. Hall Representation

5.2.1. Every Hall shall elect a Hall Senior/Head Student who, in accordance with its Hall Constitution and with other members of the Hall Committee, shall be an advisory committee to the Hall Warden.

5.2.2. The Hall Senior/Head student shall be a member of the Student Forum.

Article 5.3. Notification of election

5.3.1. The Hall Warden or his/her nominee shall be responsible for informing the SRC Permanent Secretary-General, within one week of election, of the names and contact details of all student members of the Hall and House Committees.

Article 5.4. Meetings

5.4.1. The SRC Residence Councillor shall co-

ordinate a meeting of all House and Hall Senior/ Head Students at least twice a year and as and when is necessary.

5.4.2. These meetings may coincide with a meeting of the Student Forum.

Article 5.5: SRC Residence Representative Committee

5.5.1. Each hall will elect one individual to serve on the SRC Residence Representative Committee.

5.5.2. These elections shall take place at the same time as the SRC general elections, unless a by-election needs to be held.

5.5.3. The Post-Graduate Village and the Oppidan Hall are not considered to be halls for the purposes of this election.

5.5.4. The role of the Committee is to advise the Residence Councillor and to act as a channel between its constituencies and the Residence Councillor.

5.5.5. The Residence Councillor and the Residence Representative Committee shall meet once a fortnight.

5.5.6. Each Hall Representative shall fulfil the functions as outlined in his or her Hall Constitution and any additional function that the Residence Representative Committee may determine.

5.5.7 The Residence Councillor shall chair all Residence Representative Committee meetings, unless unable to do so, in which case the Residence Representative Committee shall elect an alternative chair from among its members.

5.5.8. In the event of a tied vote within the Residence Representative Committee, the Residence Councillor shall have a casting vote.

Chapter 6 SRC Disciplinary Board

The SRC Disciplinary Board (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”) shall at all times be subject to the provisions of the Student Disciplinary Code.

Article 6.1. Composition

6.1.1. The SRC shall invite the third or fourth year LLB students of the Law Faculty to submit applications to sit on the SRC Disciplinary Board.

6.1.2. The applications must include the applicant’s curriculum vitae.

6.1.3. The criteria for being chosen include practical experience at the University Legal Aid Clinic and/or vacation legal practice experience.

6.1.4. The SRC shall elect five persons as permanent members of the Board.

6.1.5. The term of office of a member of the SRC Disciplinary Board shall be from 1st September of each year until 31st August of the following year.

6.1.6. The SRC shall elect one of the five persons as the Chairperson of the SRC Disciplinary Board.

1. The Chairperson will appoint his/her Secretary-General from this team.

2. The Chairperson will chair all proceedings of the hearings and conduct of the Board.

3. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Chairperson’s nominee will convene the proceedings.

6.1.7. The SRC Disciplinary Board cannot convene any proceedings without the presence of a designated SRC Councillor, who shall have observer status only.

6.1.8. A member of the Board may only be removed from office by the SRC in consultation with the Law Student’s Council on grounds of serious misconduct.

6.1.9. In the event of a vacancy on the SRC Disciplinary Board the SRC shall choose a replacement from applications already in its possession.

6.1.10. Subject to the provisions of the Students’ Disciplinary Code, the SRC may summon a student to appear before the Board to answer any disciplinary charge which the Board is competent to try.

Article 6.2. Functions and Powers

6.2.1. General

1. The Board is competent, upon application and within its area of jurisdiction or with regard to substructures that receive funds from the SRC, to:

1.1 review the proceedings, actions and resolutions of:

1.1.1. student governance substructures;

1.1.2. members of student governance substructures;

1.2 settle disputes relating to:

1.2.1. the validity and fairness of Student Governance substructure elections;

1.2.2. the validity of referenda;

1.2.3. the validity of resolutions taken by student governance substructures;

1.3 the interpretation of this constitution as well of student governance substructures;

1.4 the interpretation of the rules of the SRC;

1.5 any other matter for which provision has been made in this constitution.

6.2.2. Discipline

1. The Board is empowered, after convicting a member of the Student Body of misconduct, to impose one or more of the following punishments;

1.1 a fine as provided for in the Student Disciplinary

Code;

1.2 exclusion from participation in SRC functions or facilities for a period not exceeding one month;

1.3 payment of such sum of money as may be required to make good any loss, damage or expense caused to the University or to another person as a result of the offence;

1.4 exclusion from entering the Union Building for a period not exceeding one month;

2. The Board may impose one, two, three or all four of the aforesaid penalties.

Article 6.3. Procedure at Hearings

6.3.1. The model of the proceedings shall be as close as possible to the system allowed for in a hearing before a Proctor or the Disciplinary Board as described in the Student Disciplinary Code.

6.3.2. In the event that a person, who has been served with a notification of a SRC Disciplinary Board hearing, cannot attend such a hearing, she or he shall notify the Chairperson of the SRC Disciplinary Board to that effect.

Article 6.4. Quorum

6.4.1.A quorum shall be three members.

Article 6.5. Case Records

6.5.1. A case record must be written for every hearing before the Board.

6.5.2. The case record shall contain the following information:

1. Disciplinary Board (list of members present)
2. Accused(s): name, address and student number
3. The Charge: in terms of the Student Disciplinary Code
4. The date of hearing
5. Plea: The accused(s) plea to the charge.
6. Verdict
7. Facts found proven
8. Mitigating factors
9. Aggravating factors
10. Penalty: to be enforced within 21 days of receipt of the case record which will be sent to the accused(s).
11. Reasons for penalty
12. The signatures of those listed in 2.1.
13. The date that the case record is signed.

6.5.3. Copies of the case record are to be sent to the accused(s), the SRC office, the Director of Student Affairs and the University Investigating Officer and kept for the Board's own records.

6.5.4. A further copy, in which the names of those involved have been deleted, shall be posted on a notice board(s) designated by the Director of Student Affairs for that purpose.

Article 6.6. Findings

6.6.1. A finding shall be made by a majority of votes of the members present.

6.6.2. Findings as well as the reasons therefor shall be put in writing and signed by all the members who agree therewith.

Article 6.7. Admission to Hearings

6.7.1. SRC Disciplinary Board hearings shall take place in camera.

6.7.2. Members of the Student Body shall be entitled to attend non- disciplinary SRC Disciplinary Board hearings.

6.7.3. A non- member of the Student Body may apply in writing to the Board for permission to attend a non- disciplinary Board hearing.

6.7.4. In the event of the Board ordering, upon application of one of the parties, at a nondisciplinary hearing that the proceedings before them, or part thereof, take place in camera , all spectators shall leave the hearing.

Article 6.8. Reviews

6.8.1. If upon consideration of the record the student decides that he/she wishes the case reviewed, he/she shall furnish a written request to this effect to the Director of Student Affairs within 5 days of receipt of the case record.

6.8.2. The procedure to be followed will, thereafter, be in accordance with rule 19.4 of the Student Disciplinary Code.

Article 6.9. Termination of Membership

6.9.1. A person shall cease to be a member of the Board if:

1. a motivated written resignation of that person as a Board member is not withdrawn within fourteen days after it has been noted by the SRC at the SRC meeting; or
 2. that person's Board membership is terminated as a result of disciplinary action taken by any disciplinary organ of the University, and that person is found guilty;
- or
3. that person ceases to be a member of the Student Body.

Chapter 7 Student Parliament

Article 7.1 Composition

7.1.1 The Student Parliament shall comprise of:

1. the members of the SRC
2. the Chairpersons of Student Disciplinary Board and the Student Defence Council
3. the Chairperson of the Post-graduate Liaison Subcommittee
4. the Hall Senior/Head Students
5. the SRC Hall Representatives
6. four representatives from the Oppidan Union, comprising one sub-warden and three elected representatives excluding the SRC Oppidan Councillor
7. the Faculty Representatives
8. the SRC Societies Council
9. the Students Sports Council.

7.1.2 The Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Secretary of Student Parliament shall be non-SRC members elected by Student Parliament at its first seating of the new academic year. These three members shall form the Executive of Student Parliament;

7.1.3 The SRC Vice-President shall be the convener of Student Parliament.

Article 7.2 Aims and Objectives

Student Parliament,

7.2.1 Shall serve as the collective voice of all student governance substructures on campus;

7.2.2 Shall serve to keep the SRC, its members, and student governance structures accountable, transparent and rooted in the principles and values as laid out in Schedule 5 of this Constitution;

7.2.3 May make recommendations to the SRC and shall receive reports from the SRC and its substructures, ensuring that transparent communication between the various student governance substructures and the SRC is achieved.

Article 7.3 Constituting

7.3.1 In February, the SRC Vice-President shall call a sitting of Student Parliament at a predetermined time and place;

7.3.2 As soon as the members of Student Parliament are summoned, and the Executive of Student Parliament is elected, the IEB Impartial Officer shall declare the first sitting of Student Parliament duly constituted in terms of the provisions of this Constitution and the Student Parliament Policy.

Article 7.4 Term of Office

7.4.1 The term of office of the Student Parliament shall be for the duration of the academic year.

Article 7.5 Functions and Powers

Student Parliament shall:

7.5.1. Make recommendations to the SRC on policy matters;

7.5.2. Facilitate communication between its members;

7.5.3. Exercise all other powers allowed under this constitution.

7.5.4. Monitor the functioning of the SRC on behalf of the Student Body in general by evaluating the progress of the SRC through reports rendered by members of the SRC

Article 7.6 Obligations

Student Parliament shall:

7.6.1 Act in accordance with the rules of the University when exercising its powers;

7.6.2 Behave in a manner in keeping with the Student Code of Ethics contained in Schedule 5 of this Constitution;

7.6.3 Strive for co-operation and communication between the different student governance substructures.

Article 7.7 Obligations of Members

Members shall:

7.7.1 Individually and collectively serve the interests of the Student Body when formulating policy or making decisions on matters concerning the Student Body;

7.7.2 Perform the duties and functions allocated to them by Student Parliament within reasonable deadlines;

7.7.3 Ensure that effective communication, regarding any resolutions adopted by Student Parliament, is established and maintained with their relevant constituencies.

Article 7.8 Sitzings of Student Parliament Ordinary Sitzings

7.8.1 Ordinary sittings of Student Parliament shall be held at least once per term and all members shall attend such meetings;

7.8.2 According to the University calendar, the Speaker shall give at least a week's (7 days) notice of the date, time and venue of such a sitting, with the disclosure of a provisional agenda;

7.8.3 Members shall be granted a reasonable opportunity to put matters on the agenda for a period of not less than five (5) days. The opportunity will close 48 hours before the sitting;

7.8.4 The elected Speaker shall chair the sittings of Student Parliament, and the absence of the Speaker, the elected Deputy Speaker shall chair the sitting of Student Parliament;

7.8.5 The Speaker shall only have a casting vote in the event of a deadlock;

7.8.6 The Speaker shall not possess an ordinary vote unless they form part of Student Parliament as provided for in article 7.1 of this constitution;

7.8.7 The generally accepted rules pertaining to meetings of the SRC, as outlined in Schedule 8 of this constitution, shall apply to all sittings of Student Parliament;

Extra-Ordinary Sittings

7.8.7 An extra-ordinary sitting of Student Parliament shall be held if the SRC Vice-President or the Speaker calls such a sitting, or at least 5 members submit a written request to the Speaker for such a sitting, accompanied by a written motivation for consideration at the sitting of Student Parliament;

7.8.8 Notice of the date, time and venue of an extra-ordinary sitting of Student Parliament with disclosure of the agenda shall be given at least twenty-four hours before such a sitting.

Quorum

7.8.9 Quorum shall constitute 2/3 (two thirds) of all members of Student Parliament.

7.8.10 In the event of quorum not being met, the sitting of Student Parliament shall continue with those members present. Draft minutes of the sitting shall be circulated to all members of Student Parliament who will then be given the opportunity to object any decisions taken by those present within 48 hours, where-after they shall be considered as present by the Executive of Student Parliament.

Article 7.9 Motions of No-Confidence

7.9.1 A motion of no confidence shall not be tabled unless such a motion has been published as part of the agenda for the sitting of Student Parliament;

7.9.2 A motion of no-confidence may only be instituted against a member of the SRC or a member of the Student Parliament Executive on the condition that a member of Student Parliament shall not be considered unless quorum is met and the resolution

is adopted by two thirds majority of Student Parliament; and

7.9.3 Substantial evidence has been provided to the members of Student Parliament detailing the reasons why there should be a Motion of No-Confidence, as guided by the Constitution of Students;

7.9.4. In the event that Student Parliament declares a Motion of No-Confidence against a member of the SRC,

The Executive of Student Parliament shall call a Student Body meeting, with the relevant reason for the meeting being tabled as an agenda item and published to the student body, and Article 2.2.7 of this constitution shall then take effect

7.9.5 In the event that Student Parliament declares a Motion of No-Confidence against a member of the Student Parliament Executive,

That member, shall with immediate effect, be removed from their position on the Student Parliament Executive;

An election shall take place to fill that position on the Student Parliament Executive with immediate effect.

7.9.6 An IEB member is to conduct this election

Article 7.10 Minutes of Student Parliament

7.10.1 The minutes of Student Parliament shall be circulated within three (3) days after the sitting;

7.10.2 The Secretary of Student Parliament shall keep minutes of the proceedings of each Student Parliament sitting;

7.10.3 The minutes for a sitting of Student Parliament shall be submitted at the following ordinary sitting of Student Parliament for approval, and thereafter signed by the Speaker as ratified;

7.10.4 The minutes thus approved and signed shall be the only official account of the proceedings of Student Parliament and shall be available at the reasonable request of any interested party within three days after the approval of the minutes;

7.10.5 A document register shall be kept of all documents considered by Student Parliament and this register, including the documents, shall be available at the reasonable request of any interested party.

Article 7.11 Recommendations to the SRC

7.11.1 Recommendations may only be made in respect of matters disclosed by the agenda, provided that other matters may be added to the agenda if there is no objection thereto by any member present;

7.11.2 A recommendation shall be adopted by a simple majority of the members present;

Article 7.12 Admissions to Student Parliament

7.12.1 Members of the Student Body, who are not members of the Student Parliament, may attend Student Parliament as observers, but do not hold voting rights; subject to 7.12.2

7.12.2 Members of the Student Body may apply in writing to the Speaker of the Student Parliament to speak at a sitting of Student Parliament on a particular matter disclosed on the agenda; such requests may reasonably be granted or refused. All these applications and their outcomes are to be publicised at the sitting in question.

7.12.3 A non-member of the Student Body may apply in writing to the Speaker of Student Parliament for permission to attend a sitting and/or speak at a sitting of Student Parliament;

7.12.4 The Speaker of Student Parliament may at his/her discretion, invite a non-member of the Student Body to attend and/or to speak at Student Parliament.

Article 7.13 Termination of Membership

A person shall cease to be a member of the Student Parliament if:

7.13.1 a written notification from the particular student governance structure to that effect has been noted by Student Parliament; or

7.13.2 that person is absent, without a valid excuse, from two consecutive sittings of Student Parliament; or

7.13.3 that person failed to attend, without a valid excuse, twenty- five (25) percent of scheduled Student Parliament sittings during his/her term of office.

Chapter 8 Constitutional Matters

Article 8.1. Amendments

8.1.1. Any proposed amendment to this Constitution must be discussed and recommended for approval by two- thirds of the Student Forum.

8.1.2. Once an amendment has been recommended for approval, it shall be publicised to the Student Body who may submit comments to the Student Forum regarding the proposed amendment.

8.1.3. The Student Forum shall then discuss the proposed amendment in light of the comments received and recommend a final proposed amendment.

8.1.4. The final proposed amendment shall then be brought before the Senate and Council by the SRC for approval.

Article 8.2. Ratification

8.2.1. Having been approved by two- thirds of the votes cast by the Student Forum, and recommended for approval by the SRC and accepted by Senate and Council, this constitution and all legislation properly enacted thereunder, shall become effective immediately and shall supersede all provisions of student Government.

Article 8.3. Student Liberties

The SRC acknowledges that it is bound to the Student Liberties of:

8.3.1. Freedom of Association

8.3.2. Freedom of Enquiry and Expression

8.3.3. Student Participation in Institutional Government according to the Bill of Rights (Chapter 2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) and as outlined in Schedule 4.

SCHEDULES TO THE CONSTITUTION:

The full text of this Constitution and its associated Schedules is available from the SRC Offices and from the University Library.

Schedule 1. SRC Financial Regulations pertaining to Societies

Schedule 2. Administrative Procedures of the SRC

Schedule 3. SAUSRC Constitution and Rules of Order

Schedule 4. Student Liberties

Schedule 5. Code of Ethics

Schedule 6. List of Portfolios

Schedule 7. Rules governing the elections

Schedule 8. Standing Rules of Order for SRC Meetings

OTHER OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Societies Policy

Rhodes University outlines in its mission statement that it will produce graduates who are innovative, analytical, articulate, balanced and adaptable@. University Societies are an important means of helping students aspire towards these qualities. Students are able to meet each other on a social level and join in an activity or participate in a pursuit with like-minded people, developing inter-personal

relationships and enriching their own characters. In order to facilitate this growth amongst students, the SRC needs to manage Societies in a fair and equitable manner that is known by the members of the University Community. Through the SRC Societies Policy the SRC is able to better manage and control the assets of the Societies, which enable them to function and indirectly contribute to the Vision and Mission of the University.

Minutes of the SRC

The SRC also publishes the Minutes of their weekly meetings and they can be found online at <http://src.ru.ac.za/> or are available upon request from the SRC Advisor at the SRC Office.