

Rhodes University

Students' Representative Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on Monday 07 March 2016 at

18h00 in the

RA ROOM

2016. M08.1

PRESENT

President, Vice President, Secretary General, Academic, Activism, Treasurer, Community Engagement, International, Projects Manager, Student Benefits, Societies, Oppidan, Media.

2016. M08.2

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Eric Ofei

2016. M08.3

OTHER MATTERS FOR THE AGENDA

Core objectives and year plans; item number 14

Uniform and team buildings; item number 15

Methodist Soc and SRC drive; item number 16

Oppie Buss; item number 17

Working document; item number 18

NEHAWU and SRC; item number 19

Fundraising (shared by Vice President and Student Benefits)

2016. M08.4

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

A number of errors were raised by the Community Engagement Councillor such as spelling errors and an interchange between using 'Mr Ofei and Ofei'.

The Secretary General requested that the Councillors send her these errors identified from the previous minutes for her to speak to the minute taker.

The Community Engagement Councillor confirmed the minutes and the Treasurer seconded the Community Engagement Councillor.

The Vice President confirmed no errors in the minutes.

2016. M08.5

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE MINUTES

The Secretary General explained that she cannot confirm these as she has not yet received the minutes.

2016. M08.6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE EXECUTIVE

No matters arising

2016. M08.7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The President confirmed that these have been confirmed above.

2016. M08.8 BUDGET BREAKDOWN *Treasurer*

The Treasurer presented a breakdown of the different expenditures. She also explained how much Councillors would be getting for their portfolios – Community Engagement, Media, Student Benefits will be getting R4000 and everyone else will be getting R3000.

She explained that there are four accounts in the SRC.

(1) The O/Week Account –

(2) The Committees Account –

(3) The Buss Account –

(4) The Running Account (The finance division pays this account) – this account is administered by the financial administrator and as the Treasurer she has no control over this account.

The Treasurer further referred the Councillors to the Constitution which reflects the duties of the administrator.

She explained that from the Running account they have used R36 640 (this money is for the salaries for SRC and the for 'Mama Maria', bank charges, entertainment, the telephone. She expressed concern with the telephone bill reaching R1500 thus far. She highlights that this is a big problem for her as the bill is high.

She further explained that with the O/week Account – the figures were taken at the end of February. These are actuals (this means that if you have a purchase order, it does not reflect in the current balance she has so these amounts will change).

Discussion on this item –

The Media Councillor raised the questions if they can use the left over funds like from the O/week Account or if these left over funds gets frozen.?

The Treasurer in direct response explained that left over funds do not get frozen. These funds can still be used for the whole year.

The International Councillor requested for the presentation to be sent to him.

The President confirmed that the Treasurer will send an email to everyone with her presentation or breakdown of the funds.

The Treasurer confirmed that she will send a scan of the documents, and will explain some of the terms which they may not understand. She requested that if Council members have any queries on the documents, they should email her. She will not be able to meet them one-by-one as she has a lot to do and that would be a lot of admin.

The Academic Councillor suggested that the person who was responsible for an event explains their portfolio budget breakdown.

The President asked that they look into the O/week Account and breakdown all the costs that were there during their training. The President set Wednesday 09 March 2016 at 18h00 as the deadline for all Council members to submit their O/week report – this should highlight things like the strengths, weaknesses, or whatever comments even if they did not have any events planned for their respective portfolios during O/Week.

The Projects Councillor elaborated that the O/week report is a much more extensive report. It will need input from everyone. This is for purposes of record and improving the O/Week of the following year.

The Oppidan Councillor requested for notes that were shared at their O/Week meeting to be given back to them so they use those to remember what it is they had said then.

2016. M08.9

COMMITTEE MEETINGS *Secretary General*

The Secretary General presented this item. She asked that if Council members send an LOA they need to CC her for consideration in that email. And that they let her know of the changes of the dates and times of the various committees they sit in.

The Projects Councillor requested clarity on the LOA.

The Secretary General in direct response explained that the LOA needs to be specific just like any other LOA. They need to direct it to the committee and CC the Secretary General. They need to submit 24hours earlier.

The Media Councillor suggested that the Council also read the honorarium document for further clarification.

2016. M08.10

FUNDRAISING *Vice President*

The Vice President presented this item. He mentioned that it is important that as Council they speak of fundraising until they develop a working

project about fundraising. He encouraged Council to start thinking critically of creative ways of fundraising. He emphasised that “15 brains are better than one”.

The Secretary General gave a brief explanation of the idea brought about in the Executive meeting that fundraising is beyond the Give 5 initiative.

Student Benefits Councillor presented two ideas for fundraising. She explained that for the month of April she has two fundraising ideas she hopes to initiate. (1) During Graduation, she plans to run a campaign called ‘Pledge R100 and take a selfie’ – She suggested campaign would be to fundraise R100, have the SRC banner and promote a theme of ‘graduates push undergraduates’ (2) Her second idea was that she has seen a market for boot camp after the Field Party. She suggests they form partnership with the particular societies and charge students R50 entrance into this boot camp. Also have RMR broadcast from the field.

Discussion on this idea –

The Activism Councillor cautioned that not all parents or students coming for graduation have that R100 – but rather they should not have a minimum or strict amount of money that they accept.

The Oppidan Councillor expressed that the second idea is a great one. She suggested that rather than charging R50 for one day, they could split the R50 to 3 days.

The Media Councillor also suggested that they break down the R50 for the whole weekend. Instead of just one day.

The Projects Councillor also expressed that she likes the second idea – she also explained that she knows someone who would be willing to assist in making this event successful.

The Vice President encouraged that the Councillors need to read more of what fundraising is about. He feels the first idea and that requesting specifically for R100 hinders the idea of fundraising. He further mentioned that Council members need to make constructive criticism to ideas. He believes they can be creative on how they can make more money from these events.

The Academic Councillor suggested that contributions to these ideas be forwarded to the Student Benefits Councillor so she can set deadlines.

The Student Benefits Councillor mentioned the need for the SRC to approach companies in order to make this fundraising national and they need to have an amount they aim for.

The Media Councillor suggested they talk about this item during the weekend at training and they write down their ideas.

The President in closing acknowledged that these were good ideas and that it is vital that they know how they going to do fundraising.

2016. M08.11

GIVE 5 *Community Engagement*

The Community Engagement Councillor gave this presentation. She explained that for Give 5 Purple Thursday she's drawn up time slots for the SRC to participate in the challenge against students with 30 seconds board games. She suggested they have three board games at the same time and preferably to have Councillor in each game. She is also planning to have the presence of the DSA so they can explain how students can apply for this fund. She further reminded that The Fire Walk on Friday, the SRC would need to be marshals for that or find people who will be responsible for this.

Other issues that she wanted discussed included the Sunday Game, that they need confirmation of people who are going to play. How much they are keen to give to Give 5? The SRC can either chose to donate a lump sum amount or they can choose to do an event at a later point during the year like 'SRC's Got Talent'.

She added that she's been in contact with an interested party that wants to be a mascot (Rhodie). She expressed that this individual is quite short in terms of her height but believes she will make it work.

The Vice President requested that for Sunday game they get a kit.

The Community Engagement Councillor in direct response suggested she could get Give 5 shirts and have that as their kit for the Sunday game.

The Societies Councillor suggested they use SRC Hall Reps to replace the SRC to marshal at the Fire Walk.

The President requested the Vice President to facilitate the Hall Reps as there are 12 Hall Reps and could do shifts.

Community Engagement questioned whether as the SRC they would like to give a lump sum amount or have an event later on in the year for Give 5? They are more likely to raise more money through an event than just giving out money.

The Treasure suggests that they have an event in the year which would make them be active in making the money and in that way it adds more value than just donating a lump sum. It would also be an opportunity for students to get to know the SRC.

The President pointed out that they still have the BUNTU Fund to work towards.

Academics Councillor has a problem if the SRC gives a lump sum of money, as this money already is the student's money. He suggests they rather come up with creative events.

Societies Councillor complained about time and academic issues and that having to host another event on top of the already planned events would be a strain. She suggested that they can use the engagements or projects they

already have to raise money. They can have a collection in the events they are already working on.

The Secretary General suggested that they contribute by giving a lump sum of money and again later in the year host an event which would emphasise that Give 5 is not only limited to 1st semester.

The Treasurer believes there's nothing stopping them from fundraising both ways. She believes they can give some money; and they can raise some money at the same time. She emphasised the need to have something they can call their own initiative that contributes to Give 5.

The President in closing asked that the Secretary General look at how much of a lump sum amount they can give to Give 5 for this week and then report back to Council for discussion. He emphasised that from what the SRC is already doing; they need to expand more.

2016. M08.12

MONTHLY/ OPERATIONAL REPORT *Secretary General*

The Secretary General gave a brief summary of the monthly reports that were submitted by Council members. She also explained the different clusters to which these reports fall under;

(1) External cluster:

Media Councillor worked with various media, painted wall during for O/Week, performed PR tasks in organising the SRC branding, the SRC website, organising a press conference with IFani, organised interviews with the Activism Councillor, Covered Student Body Meeting.

International Councillor working on a project called 'Know Africa', organising a colloquium for International Week, he is formulating working structures to assist students with early applications for visas. He also wants to bring discussions into campus and continue with talks on transformation.

Activism Councillor Chaired all the Lived Experiences talks during O/Week, was in touch with Transformation representatives, she is also working on the Human Rights Week,

Environmental Councillor: helped the environmental reps in reses, hosted a presentation during O/Week, worked with water testing kits (she will hand over a document to Council),

Community Engagement Councillor organised sessions with different halls about early child development, attended first year information session at Barret, working on the Give 5 project. Future plans: wants to assist RUC and she will be working with residences.

(2) Internal Clusters:

The former Secretary General, did minutes and agendas, hosted interviews, chaired executive meetings, in correspondence and dealt with the resignations of the former president and vice president.

Oppidan Councillor, assisted with first year library sign ups, attended two Lived Experiences talks during O/Week, took pics during RUJamming, attended the Amazing Race,

(3) Sub Structures

Oppidan Councillor attended meetings with Oppidan Comm,

the former Residence Councillor, assisting students with enquiries about lack of accommodation during rewrites/supplementary examinations, he had meetings with top management, worked with DSA, assisted with all compulsory events during O/Week

Academic Councillor, He explained that he does not have any statistics to report on academic exclusions, his core objectives were achieved, He informed students with steps on how students can appeal exclusion, had a meeting with all class reps about this, revised an LOA policy and general rules with this.

Sports and Societies, organised sports and society extravaganza, sign up and sports and societies training. Future plans, to organise a meet and greet for society chairs. Still waiting on all societies to submit forms.

(4) Financial Cluster –

Projects Councillor, is currently busy organising Great field party

Student Benefits Councillor, organised packs for O/Week, had financial appeals meetings, compiled stats for appeals

(5) Presidency –

Vice President, chaired student body meeting, raised issues lack of respect and time management from Council, needs to work on SRC hand book, and is working on an SRC alumni reunion,

President, attended all academic exclusions, still working on adjusting from Secretary General to Presidency. Tasks are in progress, wants to create working relationship with top management. Issues:

constitution, transport during the week and weekends. Attendance of student body meetings.

The Secretary General apologised for not including the Treasurer in the Monthly/ Operational Report and will revise the document she was following that instructs that the Treasurer does not have to give a report.

The President made it clear that this report will go to student services and student parliament.

The Secretary General expressed disappointment with the lack of response from councillors when she asked that everyone must follow a template she had emailed. Also that some people submitted their reports late. She emphasised that this was unprofessional conduct. She requested that in future that they submit in time and follow the simple rules she requests like abiding to the template she sends.

The Academic Councillor requested that they be allowed consultations, feels that the academic report template speaks of things that are not inclusive of other things that are done that are outside of the Academic portfolio. He suggests that this needs to be revised – complains that he's had to do it twice, because what he had did not fit into the template. Feels, the template reduces the whole portfolio, *notes that it is not personal* he should be allowed to express this.

SG: direct response: with the operational or monthly reports, it is not opposed to a particular individual. She explained that she did not receive prior reports or complaints about how the template is structured. With regards to having it looked at by a professional, this is something they can speak about. CODE OF CONDUCT – this is something they can bring to council, she did bring a platform for people to talk, emphasises that if anyone is not happy with how the current template is structured, they should feel free to approach her. She has been using the one from last year. It captures what most students would want to know more about a particular portfolio.

The Community Engagement Councillor suggests they have creative rights that they draw a template and have it drawn up for a specific portfolio as one template may not apply the same to all portfolios.

The President concluded that any document used by the SRC is subject to question. If it does not fit your portfolio, you are allowed to say that it does not work for that portfolio giving reasons. They are always welcome to commentary to any document they use as the Council. He emphasised that there are channels to amend.

The Secretary General explained that due to time constraints, amendments will not happen for this report. She is willing to adjust the academic portfolio. She sent some back because in an essay format, it gets hard for students to understand and keep up.

2016. M08.13

MOVING COUNCIL MEETING TO 7PM *Oppidan*

Oppidan Councillor requested that because she plays hockey and it helps her to adjust – she requested that Council move its meeting to 19h00.

The Treasurer expressed that it will not be a problem for her, but encourages that people become punctual, finds it unfair for the Oppidan Councillor to sacrifice playing for the first team for them not to move it.

People should send their agenda items in time, and should get to the venue in time since the meeting will now start an hour later.

The Vice President finds no problem in moving the meeting to 19h00. He said understands that everyone has work and commitments.

The Secretary General cautioned that they need to be cautious that if they allow the move for one council member, it would be unfair for another council member not to allow them to move the times. They should look at it in a broad scope.

The President asked that they be consistent with every decision they take as the SRC as long as it's a special case. He highlighted that consistency is key.

Societies Councillor requested that she be excused at 20h30 to attend academic classes.

Academic Councillor said he supports the Oppidan Councillor and that they are all committed to the success of others but he emphasised that "SRC is something but not everything".

Project Councillor requests that they be cognisant with each other. They must be aware how they say things and how they approach each other. Furthermore, she emphasised that they be aware of how they say things and where they say these things.

The President explained that this is a safe space for Councillors to speak. They all concluded that they are willing to move the meeting to 19h00 with the exception of Societies Councillor leaving at 20h30.

2016. M08.14

REPORT BACKS

CORE OBJECTIVES:

Vice President spoke about Core Objectives. He gave a brief explanation of events that took place around the 3rd of February 2015, and the 29th of February 2015 including that all Councillors were asked to write core objectives. He explained that currently, he has only received four year plans and core objectives, and this makes his job difficult given that he needs to sort these before the commencement of the scheduled camp. He acknowledged that it's his duty to hold Council members to account and he pleaded that Councillors submit those core objectives to him tomorrow (Tuesday 08 March) before mid-night.

The President added that if they don't they have a working document submitted by Councillors before the deadline, they can use the necessary measures to hold Council members accountable.

UNIFORM AND TEAM BUILDING:

Projects asked that Council members leave their ties and blazers after the event. With the team building, they are changing the venue. She requested

that they send the times that their days ends on Friday. She will go to PE to get the textures they wanted, and get new sizes for new Councillors on Thursday.

The President concluded that any other issues relating to Uniform and Team Building should be sent by the Projects Councillor.

ACTIVISM DRIVE:

The Activism Councillor is working with Methodist Society to organise sanitary products. The Secretary General added that she has been in communication with Benita who has suggested that all the Community Engagement representatives should assist in the distribution of sanitary products. She further advised that before administering the funds, they should speak to Mrs Kievit.

The President suggested that they work together in assisting on how they can revive this project.

OPPIE BUS:

Academic Councillor highlighted problems faced by students who use this bus. He explained that students sometimes wait for the bus for more than two hours. He finds this concerning, and described that the bus initiative is operating in a 'dehumanising' way. He requests that it has to be run more efficiently as it is a need. He also requests that more people follow up on this case.

The Oppidan Councillor explained that the university is paying for this service, 'Tracy' gives instructions to bus drivers and she said there will be a meeting with the transport department. She further mentioned that Get Home Safe does not have bus and that Colleen has been working on getting a new car for this to keep running.

The Vice President suggested that they get numbers of people who have buses from the taxis who can be on stand-by. He requests they use funds, as they have had luxury to use last year's funds. They do this until they find a sustainable way.

The Treasure in direct response; objected this idea that they need to have some money on a stand-by, that they can't use all of their money.

The Oppidan Councillor also in direct response explained that it's cheaper to get a bus from the university. She discouraged this suggestion as these funds could go towards getting a new bus.

The Secretary General suggested that if it is possible they should get PDP students to drive on weekends, and look into working with someone who is willing to take the small payment rate.

The Oppidan Councillor in direct response; explained that the university has had problems and will not be willing to have students to be driven by students (PDP).

The President concluded that any suggestions be sent to the President and CC the Oppidan Councillor.

The International Councillor brought a separate item that he does not understand the item about NEHAWU and asked that it be tabled for the next meeting.

Other Report Backs in brief (not every item was captured by the minute taker):

The Vice President suggested that the SRC needs to have transformation agenda for the institutional forum. This week, he has been reading four year plans and making comments on those. He has also advertised and circulated the Constitution to student parliament.

Projects Councillor will be meeting with Insights Store about sponsorships.

Oppidan Councillor is writing a review about dining halls and took pictures during an event.

Student Benefits Councillor played touch rugby, working on possible sponsorships, and is going to be starting a Student Benefits Page.

Treasurer played touch rugby, went to Nelson Mandela Hall's function.

Community Engagement Councillor painted the wall for Give5, showed face at the Student Body training and is preparing for Purple Thursday.

International Councillor is trying to co-ordinate a meeting with stake holders.

Academic Councillor attended the Nelson Mandela Hall event, had meetings with faculty representatives, is dealing with three cases and meeting with Colleen.

Media Councillor attended a non-transformation unit gathering.

Activism Councillor met with a committee planning for the Human Rights Week, she is organising a lecture on black women in a revolution at GLT at 19h00 and is organising guests for this. On Wednesday she will be attending a colloquium.

Secretary General attended an institutional forum, has been working on the operational reports of the SBC and SBD training, she played touch rugby.

The President has been attending Give 5 events, has been having meetings with individual Council members and is planning a meeting with the entire Student Services.

2016. M08.15

SRC ADVISOR

2016. M08.16

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Academic Councillor brought up that he was not happy with the President's conduct during the Council meeting. He explained that his conduct was not exemplary. (the President was having a conversation while Council was speaking).

The President in direct response explained that he did this because he has to consult.

The Secretary General will circulate the list of office hours to the Councillors.

The President also mentioned that they cannot stamp ballot papers as the SRC but only the IEB can do this.

2016. M08.17

UPCOMING EVENTS

Student Forum/ Parliament 10 March 2016

Give 5 7-11 March 2016

Team building 11 – 13 March 2016

2016. M08.18

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

14 March 2016

Meeting Adjourned

21h05