

**Rhodes University**

**Students' Representative Council**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on Monday 11 April 2016 at**

**19h00 in the**

**RA ROOM**

**2016. M11.1**

**PRESENT**

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

The Treasurer requested to leave the meeting early.

**2016. M11.2**

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

No leave of absence, all Councillors were present.

**2016. M11.3**

**OTHER MATTERS FOR THE AGENDA**

Matters arising from the event that took place Monday 11 April (this matter will be addressed after item no.13 Media Policy)

**2016. M11.4**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Vice President confirmed; seconded by Residence Councillor.

**2016. M11.5**

**CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE MINUTES**

No executive minutes because there were no meeting/ agenda items.

**2016. M11.6**

**OFFICE SPACE** *Vice President*

The Vice President addressed that some students have expressed not being comfortable with having Council members present when they speak to Mrs Kivitts in her office.

Mr. Ofei requested that when a student comes into Mrs Kivitts' office or any other office, Council members present at that moment should excuse themselves and allow for privacy between Mrs Kivitts and the particular student. He also highlighted that there are also some Societies Chairs who

also did not feel comfortable last year about having SRC members present when they were there to speak to Mrs Kivitts.

Residence Councillor requested that this message to be passed to SRC alumna as they are also very often in Mrs Kivitts office when students come to seek assistance from Mrs Kivitts.

The President explained that one of the office spaces needs to be used by Ms Shelle. He asked the Secretary General to look into the issue of making the office space ready for Ms Shelle. Secretary General requested Mr. Ofei to provide some form of official documentation she can take when she approaches the DSA to get the office space ready.

The Vice President advised that Council members refrain from concluding agreements when in meetings with other structures such as the DSA without consulting the Council first for a collective agreement.

The President reminded that Council members should feel free to use the Purple Room.

**2016. M11.7**

**CLUSTER MEETINGS** *Vice President*

The Vice President explained that he has sent an email about cluster meetings that he will be having with Council starting Tuesday 12 April.

Wednesday 13 April he will be meeting the (External cluster); Friday 15 April (Financial cluster) and Sunday 17 April (Presidential cluster)

The President advised that if Councillors have problems with the meeting days and times of their cluster, should communicate on their WhatsApp group and rearrange.

**2016. M11.8**

**SRC SUBSTRUCTURES** *President*

President suggested that sub-structures (i.e. Hall Reps, Faculty Reps) should introduce themselves to Council just so they form a close relationship. He also plans to have Hall Reps come in as observers for Council Meetings.

Mr. Ofei emphasised that these sub-structures make the SRC duties easier and that the SRC needs to work more with their sub-structures. He advised that the SRC have meetings with the sub-structures before every student parliament. He concluded that he will be co-ordinating the communication between the sub-structures and the SRC.

**2016. M11.9**

**PLEDGE A PAD THURSDAY** *Student Benefits*

Student Benefits Councillor will be launching the 'Pledge a Pad Thursday' on Thursday 14 April 2016. She will run this from the Kaif and requests Council members be available. She suggests they have this drive every Thursday. She is still working with MethSoc in the collection of sanitary pads, and will keep sending an email to sanitary pad companies requesting

sponsorships. She plans to hand over the collected pads to the Residents Councillor to distribute accordingly.

Activism Councillor, suggested that this drive runs once a month and that residences have their own internal drives to boost this campus drive. She feels it would also feel more personal for the students requiring the sanitary pads.

Residence Councillor, suggested that they also adopt donating roll-ons.

Media Councillor, suggested that the Student Benefits Councillor contacts Johnson & Johnson which is based in East London to seek further donations.

Oppidan Councillor, suggested that Student Benefits Councillor needs to show that this is an SRC Drive because it would be a way of them taking ownership of the project.

Secretary General, highlighted that she sent an email to Benita to inform Community Engagement Reps to run the initiative but to have wardens distribute the sanitary pads.

Student Benefits Councillor, requested that the SRC to avoid bureaucracy and have it be a student run initiative because there is support from the students.

Residence Councillor, suggested that House Comm members get educated on these issues pertaining to the need of sanitary pads.

President requested that the Student Benefits Councillor to email Council of the conclusion and final plans of this project. The President also challenged all the males in Council including the minute taker to contribute to this initiative.

#### **2016. M11.10**

##### **STUDENTS REMAIN CENTRAL** *Student Benefits*

Student Benefits Councillor explained that Council needs to decide on a date on when to launch this project. She has started on drafting a document with the Vice President and she requests that they re-look at it and share it with the Vice Chancellor. In promoting the idea that Students Remain Central, Student Benefits wants to have fundraising every single week. She suggested that the project be run by the President, Vice President, Secretary General, and Treasurer and have them to speak to the different media companies.

Council agreed to have item 11 moved to 14.

#### **2016. M11.11**

##### **THE ROAST OF THE SRC** *Student Benefits*

Student Benefits Councillor shared an idea that the SRC should host something like 'Comedy Central' as a form of fundraising.

Residence Councillor, suggests that they sensor certain stuff that could be sensitive in this event.

Activism Councillor, feels they would be putting themselves as the SRC in a vulnerable position of being personally attacked by the students who just don't want the SRC.

Environmental Councillor, suggested that this should be on a voluntary basis and Council members should be able to choose whether to participate or not – he suggests having an opt-out option.

Oppidan Councillor, suggests that they rename the event for example to 'Comedy Hour with SRC' – and not opening it up to everyone but to the different comedians around campus and have them sign a particular 'terms and conditions' form which guides them to the way they may conduct the event.

Academic Councillor, suggested that they be 'roasted' as a group and not individuals.

The President concluded that the Student Benefits Councillor should go back to the drawing board with the ideas from the Councillors.

#### **2016. M11.12**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK** *Environmental Councillor*

Environmental Councillor explained that the university has a new Environmental policy. There are events he plans to run for the 5 days of Environmental Week. On Wednesday he chaired a meeting with various stakeholders in preparation for Enviro Week.

He shared that on Monday there will be a Food and Clothing collection and an environmental and sustainability talk at 17h00. Environmental Reps will be helping each day.

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>, he wants to have the theme of the day to be 'Green Thursday' instead of 'Purple Thursday' in which there will be events on water tasting, worm farms, planting trees with Children of The Soil, etc.

Friday (from 9h00am to 17h00pm) He plans to host registration for the Makana Fun Run. This is where the environmental reps will come in and help.

Environmental Councillor also shared that he needs to paint the wall by the library to advertise this event.

He will email his plans to the Council and what he requires from Council.

#### **2016. M11.13**

#### **MEDIA POLICY** *Media*

The Media Councillor explained that she had asked the Secretary General to circulate the Media Policy to Council members before the Council meeting. She requested that Council reads this document and that they email any feedback to her as this is a document that applies to them.

Mr. Ofei emphasised the importance of Council members reading policy documents. He also advised that if it's a policy, they should have it printed for Council meetings as it requires lots of engagement.

Community Engagement, explained that she read the policy and feels that the information is put in a language that is not accessible to the reader. She suggested that they also consider the workshop they still have about Social Media when drafting this Media Policy.

## **2016. M11.14**

### **FUNDRAISING**

The President, suggested that the SRC should have a task team that will look into this fundraising. With a task team, this means that Council members would have to send fundraising proposals to the task team, these proposals would then be presented to other structures of the university – this is to have one voice or a central body that presents all the ideas of all Council members. He suggests they have one umbrella such as the Ubuntu Fund that the task team can work under.

Academic Councillor, felt that because Fundraising involves creativity – it then needs to be centralised.

Oppidan Councillor, felt that having someone else representing your idea, that person would not represent it wholeheartedly. She shared that this would make her not to feel involved. She does not see the need to have a task team that submits proposals to other structures.

Media Councillor, suggested that they use the skills they gained at camp about trust in terms of trusting the task team to represent each Council member's idea. She feels it will be a flexible idea, and that it doesn't look professional having every council member reporting to the Alumna House every time each Councillor has a fundraising proposal.

Secretary General, felt that it is important to have consistency of people who would be working with alumina House, she feels that this idea does not remove autonomy as Council members can still lead the idea with the task team.

Mr. Ofei explained that this is a practical thing that happens in the work world where employees cannot represent themselves directly in some structures of the company but have representatives. He emphasised that they should trust each other. He suggests that they guide whoever heads the project. He requests that they give the idea a chance to see if it works before voting against it.

The President, emphasised that this is not to take away an idea from an individual. He also requested that the Treasure and Student Benefits Councillor run the Fundraising.

Environmental Councillor, suggested having people pledge R5 over a period of time – he also suggested that the SRC attach onto the initiative that is yet to be started by the Vice Chancellor 'IsiVivane'.

#### **2016. M11.15**

#### **TRANSFORMATION**

The President, highlighted that students have been asking and questioning about transformation and name change. He requested that the SRC start planning ahead concerning this. He said the SRC needs to start addressing transformation issues with their sub-structures so these issues get addressed at all levels.

Environmental Councillor, suggested that they release a statement on how far they are with the name change.

Oppidan Councillor, requested that the Activism Councillor/–Transformation Councillor put down in writing what transformation reps are responsible for.

Activism Councillor/–Transformation Councillor in direct response to the Oppidan Councillor, will follow up with the Equity Office – however the university is still trying to find external people to be in the task team of the name change committee.

#### **2016. M11.16**

#### **REPORT BACKS**

Vice President: had nothing to report on

Oppidan Councillor: had meetings

Residence Councillor: Attended to the resignation of the Jan Smuts Hall Rep, vacant post for Hall rep at Drostdy Hall, he had a meeting with Hall Reps, decided to have meetings every second Sunday with Hall Reps, he gathered that Hall Reps would like to sit in Council Meetings and they have also asked to be informed before the SRC releases any statement in case they have something to add to that statement as Hall Reps.

Student Benefits Councillor: RMR interviews,

Environmental Councillor: Working on Environmental Week

Community Engagement: had a meeting with all Community Engagement Reps, she is planning on having days dedicated to Give5 in 3<sup>rd</sup> term, she's had meetings with Dr Vassiliou,

Media Councillor: organising events with Community Engagement Councillor, covered FlavourFest

Academic Councillor: He is working on the Academic awards, and liaising with the Career Centre. He is also waiting on Mr. Offei to look into the tutoring programme for Council members.

Societies Councillor: has been dealing with complaints about the sports admin concerning the money given to the players, she is finalising accounts for societies,

International Councillor: working toward the international week, looking into creating a certain structure for international students

Activism Councillor: Is running the rape culture campaign,

Projects Councillor: Completed FlavourFest event, she is planning for Purple Thursday and she is planning to Cinema under the Stars,

Secretary General: nothing to report on

President:

Mr. Ofei: He explained that he was concerned about body language of the Councillors during council meetings when another Councillor speaks. He advised that Councillors should not intimidate other members. Furthermore, that Councillors should inform each other in advance if they need assistance of each other unless it's an emergency. He also reminded the SRC to be mindful of clique. He has noticed consistency.

**2016. M11.17**

**SRC ADVISOR**

**2016. M11.18**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**2016. M11.19**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Environmental Week (18 April – 22 April 2016)

Student Parliament elections (time and date TBC)

**2016. M11.20**

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

18 April 2016 (7pm)

**Meeting Adjournment**

**00h06**