**Minutes: Rhodes University SRC General Meeting held on the 13th of September 2021**

**Time Started:** 18:00

**Venue:** Zoom

**2021.09.01. Present**

- Ms. L. Nkambule - Ms. L. Leboho

- Ms. H. Mpiti - Ms. M. Matariro

- Ms. T. Phiri - Ms. M. Mathabatha

- Ms. G. Mngeni - Ms. V. Moyo

- Mr. L. Cezula - Ms. C. Mude

- Ms. Z. Gcumisa - Ms. N. Mwenye

- Mr. M. Khopeli - Mr. M. Pfupa

**2021.09.02. Leave of Absence**

- Madam Projects and Residence councillor were on leave.

- Madam Treasurer General, Sports and Societies councillor and Madam Student Benefits were late to the meeting.

- Madam Vice President chaired the meeting as Madam President’s network was unstable.

**2021.09.03. Confirmation of Previous Minutes (24 August 2021)**

* Madam Student Benefits requested that there be no mention of a pre-celebration on Agenda 7.3. She said that the dates for pre-activation on Agenda 8.1 were 31 August 2021-14 September 2021. The manager is called the RMR manager and he said they would send the quote and not what was previously reported.
* Madam President requested that the whole Agenda 7.3 be excluded from the minutes.
* Madam Vice President moved to confirm the minutes and the Community Engagement councillor seconded the confirmation.

**2021.09.04. Conflict Declaration**

No conflict declaration.

**2021.09.05. Matters Arising**

**5.1. SRC Voice Box**

**5.2. SRC Tik Toks**

**5.3. Studentpreneur**

**5.4. Student bursaries**

**5.5. Eco Brick Bins**

**2021.09.06. Matters Arising from the SRC Executive**

**6.1. Matters arising**

**2021.09.07. Upcoming Events**

**7.1. CHERTL Translanguaging Event**

**7.2. FSCA**

**2021.09.08. Report Backs**

**8.1. Environmental Committee meeting**

**8.2. Recycling Hub meeting**

**8.3. Campus Concepts**

**8.4. Financial Aid Committee**

**2021.09.09. Other Matters Arising**

**2021.09.10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Time Adjourned: 19:06

**Agenda 5.1. SRC Voice Box**

* Community Engagement councillor said that he believed the proposal had set in council before and that it seems to be more integrated into the RUconnected page now as a sort of review for the SRC. He believes it is important to know what suggestions the students have, to know how council has been performing so far and to have a platform open for that communication.
* Community Engagement councillor said it would be great to receive this information now in order to guide the incoming council based on those suggestions as well.
* Madam Student Benefits sought for clarity on the means of communication. She asked if people leave voice recordings of the message they have.
* Madam Media said it is called the Voice Box because council is the voice of the students. The term Voice Box is for naming purposes and the students will answer questions without sending voice recordings.
* Madam Vice President stated that the Community Engagement councillor might have been mistaken when he said the agenda sat on council as it sat on the Executive meeting agendas. She agreed with the Community Engagement councillor that the suggestions would be great to receive at this time. She expressed that she would like this to be a continuous project.
* Madam Media added that she would like this to become a legacy project that is biannual for the SRC so that they can have a way to review their work per semester. She said the incoming SRC would be able to look at that information and work through it.
* Madam Media said that council members may submit any questions to her they would like to ask and thus be posted on the Voice Box, as long as they are questions that may be answered through a rating scale.
* Madam Activism asked if there were moderations in place so that cyber bullying may be avoided.
* Madam Student Benefits asked when the deadline for the questions is.
* Madam Academics asked if the dates in the document are for council or for when the questions will be submitted to RUconnected.
* Madam Media stated that the questions will be on a rating scale and there will be multiple choice answers thus students will not have an option to cyberbully the SRC. The students will only get 2 open ended questions with a word limit. She preferred that councillors submit their questions by 5 October 2021. The Voice Box will open on 11 October 2021 and close on 15 October 2021. The task team will go through the submissions after that.
* Madam Academics stated that there was need for a disclaimer that says no vulgar words or controversial speech. If any action is taken upon people who commit this offence, there will be a document to refer to.
* Madam Vice President said that she hopes the students will give constructive criticism and asked Madam Media to write the dates down and give them to councillors in writing.

**Agenda 5.2. SRC Tik Toks**

Madam Media stated the following:

* Madam Environmental said that she loved the idea Madam media has brought forward and she is available for assistance.
* Community Engagement councillor stated that the proposal is important as it shows how council is using new technology to get through to the people. Hopefully the following councils can use it. He made an example of a WhatsApp status having a lot of impact in trying to communicate with students and so the Tik Toks would be another step in that direction.
* Madam Student Benefits expressed that she was not too confident about using Tik Tok as a platform for information. She said council could use Tik Tok to create the videos and not have an account on the application and that the application does not seem too professional for her.
* Madam Academics asked for clarity on whether Madam Media was asking if council agrees with the proposal and should give her the go ahead to do the project. She said she was for the idea.
* Madam President stated that it is so great to have this proposal as it is very relevant to the students. She was also worried about the brand the SRC would be showing through it but it is young, it speaks to the tenacity. Madam President said she is trying to think how best council could use other means of information provision platforms.
* Madam Activism asked what sort of content will be shared as though it is more of a relaxed, easy-going application and SRC is more formal.
* Madam Media stated that in the beginning, other media platforms were not taken as professional spaces however things have changed. Council would not be doing themselves justice by not adapting to the new technology and getting the council known.
* Madam Media asked councillors to imagine themselves as being the first SRC in the country with a Tik Tok account. She said in terms of content, it’s an official Tik Tok account that would be identified as one of SRC’s official means of communication and it would mostly be for PR work and for awareness events that council would be carrying out, just like the water work videos.
* Madam Vice President said embracing the new digital age is what council is aiming towards and believed that council would like to have this project move forward. She said council will monitor what will be posted on the application.

**Agenda 5.3. Studentpreneur**

Madam Student Benefits had the following to say:

* There was a meeting with Rhodes Business School reps, Innectus reps, the student body and other members.
* Rhodes Business School wanted to have a Student Entrepreneur week in September 2021. They wanted to collaborate with the Student Benefits councillor’s idea.
* Innectus also wanted to have a Student Entrepreneur week.
* They said they can move the Rhodes Student Entrepreneur week to October 2021. They do not call it Studentpreneur but rather Student Entrepreneur.
* They have a database of the student entrepreneurs at Rhodes University.
* She is asking council if the event can be moved from 7-14 October 2021 to 14-21 October 2021.
* A lot of things mentioned in the proposal had not been done.
* She has to reach out to the Business school before reaching out to students.
* Feedback on the Vice President’s request on researching about policies on selling on campus. One of the staff members said there was no policy and the team is looking into forming a policy.
* It will not happen overnight so she asked if they could include the 2022 SRC as they will be available by the time it happens. She asked council if Secretariat from the 2022 council could be added to that committee.
* The team is waiting for Innectus and would like to have a round table for the policy dialogue.
* There is an event on Friday 17 September 2021 (Imbizo) that she has been invited to and will attend.
* Madam Vice President said that Student Benefits councillor could get a hold of her when it comes to the policy so that they can discus. It was agreed that council was not going to have the capacity to do the training of studentpreneurship. If Rhodes business school is going to be in charge of most of the event then that should be fine, since it could be a lot of work and also considering the time of the year.
* Madam President said it is paramount to have the 2022 SRC being part of the dialogue and she is impressed that council can leave something tangible to the students.
* Madam Treasurer General said she was impressed with the feedback. She said it is important that council attends the event, more so the Executive committee, as it speaks to why people are in University and will do well for the society and the country.
* Madam Media asked when in September the event will happen and if the possible dates had been discussed.
* Madam Student Benefits expressed that she was glad that she is receiving such positivity. She was happy that there was no policy and that she would be able to help set up a new one as one of her objectives. The proposed dates were 25th to 27th October.
* Madam Student Benefits said the team wanted to have the hackathon on the weekend. September is now out since there is a lot of work to be done. She would appreciate having people to help and she proposed having Residence councillor, Oppidan councillor, Sports and Societies councillor, the Vice President, and anyone else available to help her.
* Madam Vice President agreed with attending the Imbizo event and encouraged councillors to avail themselves in order to attend. She will be part of the task team.

**Agenda 5.4. Student bursaries**

Madam Student Benefits had the following to say:

* Throughout vacation and the last days of vacation she requested to have all bursaries shared with her so that she can share with students.
* They sent about 4 to 5 emails. It might be difficult to share the bursaries as there are also documents in the emails.
* She asked if the media team could share the bursaries so that it can go straight to the students, without bringing it to council first.
* Madam Post Graduate asked which office omitted students when sharing bursaries.
* Madam Student Benefits said she receives emails from the Student Fees office and Financial aid office.
* Madam Vice President asked if the bursaries are postgraduate or undergraduate related.
* Madam Student Benefits said she is not sure but usually they can be related to both undergraduate and postgraduate.
* Madam Vice President asked the Student Benefits councillor to cross check if the bursaries are not for postgraduates and Madam Post Graduate also shares the bursaries as well as the PG funding office.
* Madam Treasurer General agreed with Madam Student Benefits in terms of sharing via email and not waiting for council to approve. She suggested something similar with Madam Media’s email and she came up with an idea on how to share the information. It is important they go via email as all students will receive it as opposed to infographics.
* Madam Vice President said Madam Media can help council with ideas on how to share the information.
* Madam Media believed it is best to share them all at once in bulk. For example, on Friday afternoon, the Media councillor could send them all at once. She would rather have the team forward all the emails on a certain day. She agreed with the Treasurer General that having infographics might not capture a large audience.

**Agenda 5.5. Eco Brick Bins**

Madam Environmental stated the following:

* Not a lot has changed from the document, however she made some edits especially on the policy of placing items on campus.
* She presented the project to the relevant authorities and they agreed on having bins around. She mentioned the places where the bins will be placed including the library.
* The Environmental committee said they want to see the bins.
* Community Engagement councillor said that it is an important proposal and Madam Environmental should include this in the handover to the 2022 SRC. He encouraged her to continue with that collaboration and he is eager to see the bins around campus.
* Madam Oppidan asked if the Environmental reps for Oppidan union will be included and involved.
* Madam Student Benefits said great work and asked when council will begin making the Eco Bricks and where. She asked how council would go about it if there was need for more Eco Bricks and if council would ask for donations.
* Madam Environmental said the response is yes for Madam Oppidan. If council members have a specific place they want a bin then he/she can speak to the Environmental councillor offline.
* Madam Environmental said the date still stands as 18 September 2021 the Environmental councillor wants to get the bin to the committee ASAP. She believes council can still make the Eco Bricks in the RA room however council could try make them in their rooms and bring them to one location.
* Environmental councillor said there are quite a lot of bricks in stock and some are in the RA room. The bins will be different shapes and sizes depending on what was used to make it.
* Madam Vice President said council might need to ask Mr. Ofei for access to the storage room in Steve Biko.
* Madam Student Benefits asked what time the event will be on the 18th and she was not sure if people are allowed in the Steve Biko building.
* Madam Environmental said she will find out the state of Steve Biko tomorrow and let council know.
* Madam Vice President responded saying she should keep council updated and was grateful for all her efforts.

**Agenda 6.1. Matters arising**

* Madam Secretary General said Steve Biko is still functional, the RA room is still fine and the Executive committee will send out a message about having virtual meetings soon. Since the SRC elects have gone through training, they will be shadowing us soon.
* Madam President said there was a request by management to have a meeting with the Executive committee.
* Madam Post Graduate said council members do not have nametags and asked if council were going to receive nametags, whilst socializing with the other alumni it was noticed.
* Madam President said that she and the Treasurer General had spoken about it.

**Agenda 7.1. CHERTL Translanguaging Event**

Community Engagement councillor said the following:

* CHERTL sent the promo for the event webinar happening this Wednesday at 15:30.
* Him and Madam President will be speaking and he encouraged council members who will be available to attend.
* He emphasized that council needs to do its part in promoting the event and creating awareness.
* Madam Vice President said it is an important webinar and she is appreciative of them for including the students and the students’ voices. She looks forward to more collaborations like this.

**Agenda 7.2. FSCA**

Madam Student Benefits had the following to say:

* The team said they will send the pre-activation link and another link for the post will be sent during and before the webinar.
* Prizes will be won by people who fill out the forms before the webinars. There might be challenges if there is a lot of information sent out to student news.
* The infographics idea is a slow process.
* There will be a dry run tomorrow at 1pm with all the speakers.
* She requested the Community Engagement councillor, Madam President, Madam Vice President, the Treasurer General or the Secretary General to chair the sessions for the webinars.
* She attended the meeting with the Sports and Societies councillor and she was unhappy with the effort that the FCSA task team are putting, it might not be enough. It is concerning.
* Madam Vice President said the webinars have hit the ground running. She will be giving opening and closing remarks and she suggested that it could be a mix between council and FCSA in terms of chairing the meeting. She offered her availability to chair the sessions.
* Madam Vice President said that unfortunately, the people on the task team are not available in today but she hoped they will engage and put more effort and respond to messages regarding the project.
* Community Engagement councillor said he was availing himself for chairing and if he is needed to doing anything else in terms of dry runs or posters, etc. He suggested that a program or something be shared so that council could follow on the events.
* Madam Vice President explained that the document is there but is still waiting for approval.
* Madam Treasurer General said she lost touch with the group (task team) during vacation. For the dry run at 18:00 she availed herself and in general for the chairing.
* Madam Secretary General said she is available to chair the meeting.

**Agenda 8.1. Environmental Committee meeting**

Madam Environmental had the following to say:

* The environmental awards may be cancelled this year. They sent emails for people to nominate winners but they only had nominees for one category.
* The committee is looking for a substitute for the polystyrene being used around campus. They will use the Environmental policy to tackle that.
* The committee will add another JoJo tank and more pipes that run in lower campus. They want to make sure that the bottom floors have running water even on water off days.
* Madam Vice President expressed that she was unhappy with the cancellation. She suggested that they give a letter of appreciation to the winner in the category with nominees instead of cancelling the awards idea completely.
* Madam Environmental said she has sent an email requesting something similar.

**Agenda 8.2. Recycling Hub meeting**

Madam Environmental had the following to say:

* The recycling project is a pilot project that they are looking to launch at the Nelson Mandela Hall.
* The residences do not produce the same kind and amount of waste.
* They are looking to fully implement it next year and not November.
* The committee will involve the incoming Environmental councillor to be involved in the project.
* Madam Vice President said it is good to see that projects are being passed on. It shows that council’s work is continuous.

**Agenda 8.3. Campus Concepts**

Madam Media stated the following:

* Mr. Mbeu responded on the 2nd of September.
* There was a question about the lack of grocery stores and she read his exact response: “We have been in contact with the stores in the vicinity of campus and we are still waiting for a response”.
* In terms of sponsored content, the team will need the council and Rhodes to give specifics on what kind of content council would like. The online store has operated under one entity so far.
* Community Engagement councillor asked how council can be in the know of the content that council and student body members are able to have. He asked if council could get the ideas from the website.
* Madam Media answered the Community Engagement councillor saying these are things we can iron out as the project keeps going.
* Madam Post Graduate believed that Mr. Mbeu’s response was not clear. She asked if it was council who would tell him what kind of things council would want from the store. She also asked if Mr. Mbeu wanted council to be ambassadors for his content.
* Madam Media was not sure and said she could give him a call and clarify things there and then CC councillors on email.
* Madam President said that the Comms division has asked what SRC wants as attire from them and they have launched an online shop.
* Madam Vice President added that they reached out to council about bringing some merch to council.
* Community Engagement councillor expressed that as much as they have the same parent company, the SRC cannot support both entities and that it is either Campus concepts or Comms division online shop.
* Madam Vice President said there was a competition opened up to the student body.
* Madam Secretary General said it does not look good to be a brand ambassador for a company that is not from home whilst leaving out the company from home.
* Community Engagement councillor suggested that council moves to be ambassadors of the online store of Rhodes and collaborate with campus concepts but not be their ambassadors.
* Madam Post Graduate suggested that the SRC becomes ambassadors for the store that will be more affordable for students.
* Madam Media said being ambassadors for the Rhodes store is a bit one sided as the SRC would receive merch and students might not be getting the best deal. She feels that council should be ambassadors for Campus Concepts and help bring benefit to the students and not the SRC.
* Madam Vice President asked if the discounts provided by Campus Concepts were dependent on the SRC being ambassadors.
* Madam Media said it is a give and take relationship and the teams would work hand in hand. The Campus Concepts team would give the SRC vouchers in exchange for promoting their business.
* Madam Secretary General added that the Comms division approached us first and she believes that it is important to consider that as councillors decide.
* Madam Treasurer General suggested that council should support different lines of business as co-governors and that council should explore the option of working with Rhodes (Comms division) and not Campus Concepts.
* Madam Vice President asked if the council would be disassociating from Campus Concepts completely.
* Community Engagement councillor stated that Rhodes University is trying to reclaim the brand and wants to be the sole producer of Rhodes merch. In as much as Campus Concepts discounts would be great for students, as the people who know the vision behind the project, there would be a conflict of interest, so council should go ahead with Comms division.
* Madam Academics agreed with the Secretary General in terms of who approached the SRC first.
* Madam Treasurer General reminded council members that as much as they want to support external businesses, they have to start from home, charity begins at home. The SRC showed willingness to engage with the Comms division.
* Madam Vice President facilitated a vote on whether council should be ambassadors for Comms division or Campus Concepts and there were 11 votes for Comms division and 0 votes for campus concepts.
* Madam President was not present for the votes. The Media councillor abstained from voting and said she was torn between the two thus could not cast a vote.

**Agenda 8.4. Financial Aid Committee**

* Madam Vice President concluded that everyone was captured by the document.

**Agenda 9.1. Heritage Day event**

The International councillor had the following to say:

* The idea is to have a thread and dance. It will be centred on the thread part (Fashion and society) and dance (a routine or dance popular among a society).
* He had spoken to some of the councillors during vacation.
* He made some infographics to promote the event.
* There is an idea to have this as a contact event but if that does not work, there may be presentations and documents sent for the event.
* He was hoping council would help to pick judges out for the different criteria.
* He had a suggestion to serve refreshments at the event however the funds might not be enough if there is a resounding attendance as the prizes have to be purchased as well.
* He had planned to call upon students and community members to join.
* He will submit the infographics and appreciate council’s input.
* Madam Academics wanted clarity as to what the judges are doing. She asked if it was a competition for dance and music and volunteered to be a judge.
* Sports and Societies made a case as to why he would be a great candidate (cultured) to be a judge. He asked how the International councillor was going to invite the community to join the project if the University does not want students and other people on campus.
* Madam Secretary General asked if the International councillor had approached the International office for funding and approached them with the proposal if they are open to it and have amendments.
* Madam Treasurer General said the project is very good and brings people together. She said that if council was favourable with the idea, the SRC could find funds to fund his project.
* Madam Media asked if this would be a contact event and if the International councillor would like the media team to be present on the day. She asked what the judging criteria would be.
* Madam Academics said that if council finds enough funding and collaborate with the International office, it would be interesting to reach out to the Makana community and council could get some of the high school and primary school children representatives to come and join the event.
* Madam SG suggested that the International councillor asks the International office to apply for the contact event on behalf of the SRC.
* Sports and Societies councillor said he was not against reaching out to the Makana community but council needs to look at something that is feasible.
* Madam Vice President said it is a wonderful initiative and it is possible to have it as a contact event. She agreed with the Sports and Societies councillor and added that it would be a stretch to invite the Makana community at large.
* Madam Vice President suggested that the International councillor creates a task team and they can help him get an MC and discuss what the judges’ criteria would be. She volunteered to be a judge.
* International councillor said RUconnected will be down on the 24th September 2021 so it will not be possible to have an online event through that portal. He answered yes, the event is a competition for best dance and best dressed group or society. The criteria will be discussed and coordination is one of them.
* International councillor stated that he had spoken to Madam Media about this but they want to make a clip that raises awareness. They do not want the event to be strict or formal. He suggested that someone in council could make a dance and the SRC could dance to bring traction.
* International councillor stated that he had reached out to the International office and he is waiting for feedback. He was grateful for the Treasurer General’s offer. International councillor said he would love for the media team to be present and help with the preparations for the event. He was grateful to the Sports and Societies for offering to be a judge.

**Agenda 9.2. Vaccination Awareness Webinar**

Community Engagement councillor stated the following:

* Beverly Chanaiwa was available to answer questions.
* There were robust discussions of why people should get vaccinated.
* He was grateful to Madam Media for sharing the awareness.
* There were many people who attended the meeting.
* They would like to have more discussions of this nature as they are titled youth chats. They want to make sure that young citizens of Makhanda can be able to make big decisions.

**Agenda 9.3. Community Outreach Event Collaboration**

Community Engagement councillor stated the following:

* The SRC-Elect 2022 want to have an outreach programme on the 24th of September 2021 and a soup kitchen but it is clashing with Heritage event.
* He told the committees that he was not comfortable with creating a system of dependency in that manner. He would rather have the team host a book reading session.
* He explained that it is not Community Engagement to pour out funds to the community. They want to embed Community Engagement as part of their culture.
* They requested about R3000 in funding.
* Madam Vice President said she understood the challenges that the Community Engagement councillor was having. She suggested that the Community Engagement councillor directs them to a Community Engagement event that is in the culture of the SRC where it is a mutually beneficial relationship. She agreed that the event planning is quite haphazard in terms of dates and small time period.
* Madam Treasurer General added that the SRC encourages students and funds them however council cannot fund events that are regressive. She was worried about what it says about the precedence the SRC have set. She encouraged councillors to be cognisant of the events they choose to support and the impact it has on the work council has done so far.
* Sports and Societies suggested that the Community Engagement councillor speak with the 2022 Community Engagement councillor on how the SRC carries out Community Engagement projects.
* Community Engagement councillor noted an action item which is to speak to the President-elect and Community Engagement councillor-elect regarding the Heritage Day Soup-Kitchen Proposal.

**2021.08.10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

* 20 September 2021 at 18:00 on Zoom

**Time adjourned**: 21:09