**Minutes: Rhodes University SRC General Meeting held on the 20th of September 2021**

**Time Started:** 18:00

**Venue:** Zoom

**2021.09.01. Present**

- Ms. L. Nkambule - Mr. M. Khopeli

- Ms. H. Mpiti - Ms. L. Leboho

- Ms. T. Phiri - Ms. M. Matariro

- Ms. G. Mngeni - Mr. N. Mkhulisa

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

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

- Ms. T. Hlako - Mr. M. Pfupa

- Mr. E. Ofei

**2021.09.02. Leave of Absence**

- Madam Media and Madam Post Graduate were on leave.

- Madam Vice President chaired the meeting from 18:23, as Madam President’s network was unstable.

**2021.09.03. Confirmation of Previous Minutes (13 September 2021)**

* Community Engagement councillor moved to confirm the minutes and Madam Environmental seconded the confirmation.

**2021.09.04. Conflict Declaration**

No conflict declaration.

**2021.09.05. Matters Arising**

**5.1. Residence Experience Essay Competition**

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

**2021.09.07. Upcoming Events**

**7.1. Heritage Day**

**2021.09.08. Report Backs**

**8.1. Certify Me**

**8.2. Societies Council Feedback**

**8.3. FSCA Webinars Update**

**8.4. Sports Fun Day**

**2021.09.09. Other Matters Arising**

**9.1. Feedback from the President Elect Community Outreach**

**9.2. Feedback from HIV event**

**9.3. Feedback from accreditation process**

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

Time Adjourned: 19:20

**Agenda 5.1. Residence Experience Essay Competition**

* Residence councillor mentioned that the Residence committee members himself and the Hall reps will be facilitating the meeting. He suggested moving the competition to the 27th of September 2021.
* Community Engagement councillor asked when the competition would end with regards to the amended dates.
* Residence councillor said it was supposed to last a week and he will work on it to remain a week long.
* Madam President granted silence as consensus

**Agenda 7.1. Heritage Day**

International councillor said the following:

* There is feedback from the International office. They moved for an online event.
* Their message expressed that after careful consideration including the increased numbers of COVID-19 in Makhanda, the event could not be a contact event.
* They offered deco and even manpower but the International councillor was conflicted on how his team could use that since it was going to be an online event.
* Madam President said she did not believe that the event becoming an online event would affect the event that much. She added that to be more effective, International councillor could communicate with council about the event on WhatsApp since the event is this Friday.
* International councillor said that him and the Vice President had already started making contingency plans in case there was no approval for the contact event, so it is not affected as much. He said he will share the communication he has with the task team and open the floor for suggestions from council.

**Agenda 8.1. Certify Me**

* Madam Academics said that Madam Media helped her make certificates for each residence and they made 42. She and her task team suggested that wardens submit the list of results from the people.
* The reason why it was stopped before was because the team had to look at the protection of personal information act.
* Some residences had their wardens give them the results but that was prior to Ms. Vee saying that they have to look at the restrictions from the protection of personal information act.

**Agenda 8.2. Societies Council Feedback**

Sports and Societies councillor had the following to say:

* There was a lengthy meeting last week Wednesday.
* A lot of things were discussed.
* Anything decided at the meetings does not come as binding but as a suggestion and then council can make a final decision. May members make submissions to the Secretary General or him and then they can compile them.
* He said when the deadline is for the elections and council would need to know when the policy comes out.
* There was a vote of no confidence for Abiodun Afolabi, the Chairperson of Deeper Life on Campus Fellowship and two thirds of the council voted.
* The council will be voting in 3 more chairpersons.
* The acting chair, Mr. Mjali was then voted to become the chairperson.
* The AGMs, the societies use this time to vote for the new Comm for the following year. The Societies council wants to recommend that there be AGMs and not BGMs, having 5 members being elected. This will be the Community Engagement councillor, the Vice President, the Treasurer General, the Chairperson and the last portfolio.
* The Societies council will stick to 5 minimum members.
* The Societies council recommends having an online running of the event for 2 weeks. It could be a google document that will be used to vote for the members. At least one third of the council should vote. They have 3 members but only one member needs to vote.
* Madam Student Benefits asked what the SRC can do to try and challenge the decision that has already been made since people are opting to have AGMs online. The society she is in, Igwetshu Society, cannot have a physical event anymore.
* Community Engagement councillor asked if data will be provided for virtual AGMs seeing as the data provided by Rhodes University is for academic purposes.
* Sports and Societies councillor said the societies do not usually have big numbers, they would be around 20 people. What can be done is to liaise with the COVID-19 task team as to how council can go about it as there needs to be a plan.
* Sports answered Community Engagement councillor saying it becomes an issue for societies that they have to deal with. It is only filling in a form and a lot of people are back on campus as well. He believed it would not take a lot of data to complete the document.
* Madam Environmental agreed with Sports and Societies councillor. She said council should push to have it as virtual event because if council tries to have a contact event, there might be delays. She encouraged councillors to support as much as we can.
* Madam Student Benefits asked if it was possible to have Madam Activism to give council feedback from the COVID-19 task team. She encouraged councillors to provide motivations as to why they would want contact events in case the meeting hasn’t occurred.
* Madam Vice President said the meeting was moved and once the meeting occurs, the attendees can give feedback.
* Madam Vice President mentioned the deadlines for the policy.

**Agenda 8.3. FSCA Webinars Update**

Madam Student Benefits stated the following:

* Apologised for the delayed responses to students for the prizes.
* The people who attended the seminars were about 100.
* She noticed that the courier was ordered on the 8th of September 2021 and it arrived on the 20th of September 2021 so there was a delay in terms of delivery.
* She encouraged council to apply for the learnership internships.
* The slow approach of informing people, she will change that.
* She is not sure if people will get their items in bits and pieces.
* She suggested that she could give away the goodies as she sees fit however the mask which was part of the package has not yet arrived.
* She apologised to Madam Treasurer General for the delay on distributing the goodies.
* Council will be receiving an addition.
* She will first distribute to students then council.
* Madam Vice President said there was a high turnout, they were high impact webinars and was grateful to Madam Student Benefits for the collaboration.
* Madam Projects suggested that the team waits for all the prizes to come then they can be distributed once.
* Madam Treasurer General said the councillors can offer help and then suggested that the team communicates with the people that have won and let them know that the prize will arrive after some time. People will be asking about the prizes.
* Madam Treasurer General suggested delegating as to who will do what and when so that councillors do not burn out and end up tired. She asked that councillors work together and watch how they speak to each other. She congratulated Madam Student Benefits as she carried that project and she pushed the team. Madam Treasurer General expressed gratitude to all councillors, the chairs, the moderators and the rest of the team.
* Madam Vice President stated that there needs to be a consolidation email that will be sent out in order to apologise to the people who are waiting for prizes.

**Agenda 8.4. Sports Fun Day**

Sports and Societies councillor said:

* His team’s res was number 3 in the tournament and they do not have a reward just yet.
* He had a conversation with the Ward councillor of Ward 12, he spoke about funds challenges.
* He wanted to introduce a tournament for soccer (for males) and netball (for females).
* He suggested having soccer for girls as well as he communicated with some people and quite a lot of people want to participate.
* If the soccer idea does not follow through and the girls’ numbers are not enough, the teams could play netball.
* People need to remember that cricket season is coming soon so people may not be able to use Prospect Stadium and will have to use the smaller stadium.
* He requested having the event approved to be a contact event through the Sports office and the Ward councillor even though the DSA might not approve of the Sports Fun Day.

**Agenda 9.1. Feedback from the President Elect Community Outreach**

Community Engagement councillor stated the following:

* He explained to them that council appreciated them wanting to work with council.
* He told the team that the SRC has an event on the 24th of September thus they need to collaborate on this project on a different day.
* He also explained the difference between the Community Outreach and Community Engagement. He told the President Elect to make a task team among the Community Engagement Elect, President Elect, Secretary General Elect, himself and others.
* There will be a meeting on Wednesday at 16:00. He will bring feedback from the meeting regarding the community outreach project as this is an action item.
* Madam Vice President stated that if it is a project then it will have to be a proposed through a document. She also commended the 2022 SRC for being proactive.
* Community Engagement councillor asked for clarity in terms of how to move forward. If he would have to spearhead it as the incumbent Community Engagement councillor or maybe it is them as the Elected council and he asked what the correct protocol is in terms of that.
* Madam Environmental said she is excited about the initiative and she felt that the Community Engagement Elect should spearhead the project but under the supervision of the 2021 Community Engagement councillor. She explained this by adding that the team has the vision for the project and know how they would want it to occur.
* Madam Vice President said the Elected council they do not have any power as yet, in terms of acting as a 2022 council. So, it would be similar to a group of students who come with a proposal and present it to the SRC to collaborate.
* Madam Vice President looked at the dates and was not sure about the time constraints. She said after the document is concluded, the Community Engagement councillor can bring it to council and council can look through it. She added that the team will spearhead the project and not the Community Engagement councillor.

**Agenda 9.2. Feedback from HIV event**

Projects stated the following:

* The organisers wanted to collaborate with the HIV office.
* The organisers are looking into meeting this week so that they can further discuss how the event is going to work out.
* Madam Vice President asked if a task team had been created on the SRC side.
* Madam Projects answered saying not yet.
* Madam Vice President said that if the event is possibly happening next week then the team working on it needs to pick up on the speed of promoting and planning etc.

**Agenda 9.3. Feedback from accreditation process**

Madam Oppidan stated the following:

* The date for accreditation.
* The date for the release of the accreditation list 22 October 2021.
* There will be a webinar on the 30th of September 2021.
* There will be talks about balancing the Oppidan and academic life by the Vice Chairperson and the Oppidan councillor and about destigmatising therapy.
* There will be a psychologist and the SRC transformation councillor.
* She asked if council could attend the webinar on the 30th of September 2021.
* Madam Student Benefits asked if there will be an opportunity for other places to apply for the accreditation process, seeing the stats that Madam Oppidan provided. She requested to be included briefly in the discussion about the Wellness webinar so that she can get assistance from the Wellness committee.
* Madam Vice President encouraged Madam Oppidan to work with the incoming Oppidan councillor with regards to accreditation. She added that when the two discuss the accreditation, they may flag what happened this year (the mistakes with regards to off-campus residences and more), the process wasn’t as smooth so it is in the council’s best interests to avoid that in future.
* Madam Vice President suggested having a contingency plan to make sure what happened in 2021 does not happen again and that the university may engage as well. She said the Wellness webinar is a good idea and it will get the Oppidan students to be involved.
* Madam Oppidan said it is something that never came up in the meeting, they only communicated on the numbers they had and she will have to go to the warden and get clarity.
* Madam Student Benefits asked Madam Oppidan to seek clarity on new applicants and non-compliant people if they can get a chance to comply before the year ends.
* Madam President said she felt that there must be a bit of leniency on allowing others to be afforded the opportunity to be accredited.

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

* 27 September 2021 at 18:00 on Zoom

**Time adjourned**: 19:20