**Minutes: Rhodes University SRC General Meeting held on the 7th of June 2021**

**Time Started**: 18:01

**Venue**: Board Room 02

**2021.03.01. Present**

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

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

- Ms. G. Mngeni - Ms. M. Mathabatha

- Ms. Z. Gcumisa - Mr. N. Mkhulisa

- Mr. L. Cezula - Ms. V. Moyo

- Ms. T. Hlako - Ms. C. Mude

- Mr. M. Khopeli

**2021.03.02. Leave of Absence**

- Madam Secretary General took a leave of absence.

- Madam Academics attended virtually.

- Madam Activism was excused.

- Madam Student Benefits was late and arrived at 18:55.

**2021.03.03. Other matters arising**

**3.1. Secretariat Meeting**

**3.2. Oppidan bus**

**2021.03.04. Confirmation of previous minutes (31 May 2021)**

* Madam Projects corrected Agenda 8.1 and said bullet number 6 should read the IEB and not their, Agenda 8.2 bullet number 2 should read will be combined with Purple Thursday and not will not be combined, the topic in Agenda 9.1 is Vuka Makana not Makhanda, and Agenda 9.3 should read Madam Environmental not Environment.
* Community Engagement Councillor corrected on Agenda 9.1, the program that was launched was Siyakhana @ Makana, the spelling of the name Di Hornby, and the bullet point about the vegetable garden should read that Community Engagement Councillor and Madam Environmental will look for a date when they can go to the school, to assess the state of their vegetable garden.
* Community Engagement Councillor made a correction on the Xhosa short course leader’s surname to Nosilela, and correction of Mr Cezula’s name from Ms. to Mr.
* Madam Post Graduate Affairs mentioned that the councillors’ names were not in sync, mainly Ms. V. Moyo.
* Residence Councillor corrected the spelling in Agenda 8.1 to Mr. J. Hellerman.
* Madam President said that in Agenda 9.1, it’s not that students could not get a SWOT week but the SWOT week was shorter than they would have preferred.
* Madam President corrected Agenda 11 saying that FEENIX must be in capitals and the time the meeting is adjourned should be written at the bottom.
* Minutes were adopted by Community Engagement Councillor and seconded by Madam Projects.

**2021.03.05. Conflict Declaration**

- No declaration of conflict.

**2021.03.06. Matters Arising**

**6.1. Academic Talks**

**6.2. Society’s chairperson debate**

**6.3. Transformation Reps Training**

**2021.03.07. Matter Arising from the SRC Executive**

**2021.03.08. Upcoming Events**

**2021.03.09. Report Backs**

**9.1. Water Task Team Feedback**

**9.2. Recycling Initiative Feedback**

**2021.03.10. Date and time of next meeting**

To be confirmed in term 3.

**Agenda 3.1. Secretariat Meeting**

Madam President stated the following:

* Council will release a statement to emphasize that students should not cheat or plagiarise and to wish the students well in the upcoming exams.
* Media Councillor and Secretary General will make the templates that have been requested so that it is much faster to react when there are cases around Gender Based Violence or passing of a student.
* Lumka is leaving and the Sports Societies Councillor was delegated to get a gift and certificate of appreciation.
* Madam International sought clarity saying that 2 weeks ago, there was a demand for a public apology from Senior management and council hasn’t had feedback on if and when Senior management will bring the apology.
* Madam President stated that council members should raise these concerns in meetings. She concluded that the Residence Councillor may send an email to the authorities with regards to that.

**Agenda 3.2.** **Oppidan bus**

* Madam Oppidan stated that the Registrar was supposed to sign the contract on Friday but there were questions about NSFAS funding so Oppidan team has discussed with them that NSFAS funded students will be funded with the funds that were remaining from last year. Thus, the bus will be ready to move afterwards.
* Madam President agreed and said that at this point, council has to wait for the Registrar to sign.
* Madam Projects asked if council could get a response from the registrar as to when the issue will be finalised and when they will send communication to students because it is now exam time and Oppidan students do not get data so they need to access the library. She said maybe there could be feedback from SRC to the people about what registrar said.
* Madam President said the Registrar is in the email and there has not been a response yet except for the query of funding. Madam President was not sure how to mitigate.
* Madam Projects suggested that sending a follow up email as to when the buses will be ready for Oppidans.
* Madam International believed that council should not make the announcements of the Oppidan bus to students and that if the SRC does that, it would be doing the university’s job. She said the SRC had been communicating about the bus to the students from the get go but the university hadn’t said anything about it.
* Madam Vice President agreed with Madam International and suggested that the Registrar sends a message to students as to when they can anticipate the bus.
* Madam President asked Madam Oppidan to make a follow up on when the bus will be moving. She expressed that since the SRC started talking about the bus, council should just carry on communicating with students about it as a means of transparency and consistency.
* Madam Oppidan stated that she would try to speak to the Warden.

**Agenda 6.1. Academic talks**

Madam Academics mentioned that the talks were now underway and asked if there were any questions:

* Community Engagement Councillor asked if Madam Academics needed any technical assistance or help from council. He also expressed that he was not aware that the Talks were underway.
* Madam Academics asked if Madam President was in the meeting. Madam Academics mentioned that she worked with the date she was given by the Warden and she has been managing the program with the help of the Secretary General.
* Sports and Societies Councillor stated that a proposal from him was recently approved and sat in council on the 7th of June 2021. He asked Madam Vice President if she approved the Academic Talks before they began.
* Madam Vice President said she was not aware about the Talks, however Madam Academics had stated that the Talks were already underway. She suggested that the agenda be discussed in the council meeting.
* Sports and Societies Councillor asked if the situation was a breach of protocol to which Madam Vice President answered yes.
* Madam Post Graduate Affairs suggested that council be informed on time about a councillor’s event and that councillors ask for assistance with their event.
* Madam President stated that it was established that the situation was a breach of protocol which had to be addressed accordingly. She added that councillors expressed their dissatisfaction with not being aware of the Talks and she understood that the dates were already established however, Madam Academics could have even sent a message to council saying that the Talks have begun.
* Madam Academics stated that there was miscommunication regarding protocol, the Academic Talks agenda was supposed to sit on a council meeting first and happen on a later date. She said Madam Vice President was aware that it was supposed to happen on a later date but due to the unavailability of the Hall, it had to happen prior. Madam Academics said that she understood where the dissatisfaction was coming from.
* Community Engagement Councillor stated that he thought that council should not take this matter lightly, a lot of agenda items have not sat in council meetings because councillors would not have followed procedure. He said if council took this matter lightly, it would seem as though other councillors were being favoured. Community Engagement Councillor stated that proper disciplinary procedures should be followed. He was concerned about the ripple effect that council seemed to lack participation and engagement in Academic matters and said it seemed as if the Academics Councillor was the only SRC member concerned with the academics agendas.
* Community Engagement Councillor proposed a motion that the Academic Talks be halted until a later date as council discusses the details of the Academic Talks such as the speakers for the talk.
* Sports and Societies Councillor amended motion saying that the agenda should not sit in the current meeting and should only sit in a council meeting after being approved by the Vice President.
* Madam International seconded the motion.
* Madam Treasurer General agrees with measures to be taken, but she was worried about how it would look to the Speakers, that the SRC would postpone this event. She was worried that it would tarnish the SRC brand. The Treasurer General stated that it was not necessary to disregard students by halting the Talks that they need as the Academics Councillor receives her disciplinary action. She opposed the motion.
* Madam Post Graduate Affairs opposed the motion as well, seeing as she did not want cancelling the Talks to reflect badly on SRC, she suggested that the Academics Councillor should face disciplinary action as the Talks continue.
* Madam Treasurer General raised a motion that Madam Academics should be disciplined alone and the Academic Talks should carry on.
* Madam Oppidan seconded the motion.
* Madam Academics did not understand which protocol was breached as she submitted the agenda to the Secretary General on time and she forwarded the proposal to Madam Vice President. She said that Madam Vice President could not attend to the proposal as yet as she was caught up with her academics.
* Madam President asked Madam Academics to access the exact dates for when she sent the proposal to Madam Vice President and Madam Secretary General. She also asked who approved for the talks to continue.
* Madam Academics stated that Madam Vice President approved for the talks to continue.
* Motions raised were put to a vote.
* Motion: Disciplinary action and halting Academic Talks – 7 in favour, 4 not in favour.
* Madam Academics had to put a halt to the Talks until the agenda sits in council.

**Agenda 6.2. Societies chairperson debate**

Sports and Societies Councillor had the following to say:

* He was glad that the debate had come to an end.
* It was a matter of hand over.
* He discovered a policy that he did not know about.
* Policy stipulates that the Treasurer General and Sports and Societies Councillor sit on that council and cannot hold positions. Previously, it was the Projects Manager and not the Treasurer General.
* He stated the names of the Executive.
* Madam President asked if the policy was made in 2007.
* Sports and Societies Councillor answered yes and he noticed that the councils were still combined and the Treasurer General is still named Treasurer in the document. He suggests that the policy be updated and amended.
* Madam President agreed that the document needs to be updated and it would be great for Sports and Societies Councillor to run with the idea, the 2021 council might not benefit from it but the future councils should and it will be something that Sports and Societies Councillor of 2021 would have started.
* Madam Projects said that the document that the Sports and Societies Councillor submitted mentioned giving funds to societies that prove that they are worthy to be funded and asked if the document will be updated with regards to that as well.
* Sports and Societies Councillor stated that the document he sent should be read along with the Societies policy. The Societies policy states that the SRC is to provide funds for a society that is in need for funds for a project but the Societies council should find out if there is need for these funds. Therefore, the funds will come from the SRC but as a recommendation from the Societies council, because they will deliberate on which project should receive funds.

**Agenda 6.3. Transformation Reps Training**

Madam Activism was not feeling well and could not bring feedback. The agenda will remain standing.

**Agenda 9.1. Water Task Team Feedback**

Madam Environmental stated the following:

* There was a meeting with the people in charge of university resources and water availability on campus. There will be another meeting because most issues were left with question marks in the meeting.
* There was a discussion about boreholes, rain water and grey water.
* The team is working on fixing the boreholes.
* There are boreholes situated in Vynek (stands to be corrected) and boreholes donated by Gift of the givers. All 3 boreholes are working as one since the other 2 stop working when one is pumping water. They are currently trying to get it fixed and to get new boreholes to become the new water source so that they can switch off the other 2 that block the one borehole that works.
* Davi will bring feedback by Wednesday on the borehole information he has outsourced.
* The Team said they will not bring back the grey water system in residences until the pandemic is over because having people store the water they have used gives room for cross contamination. They also urged students not to store their bathing water (used) because of the presence of COVID-19.
* The Team might increase the number of rain water tanks they have because there has been a lot more rain so at least they can collect more water.
* The Team wants to connect the tanks with drinking water to the lower level residence bathrooms so that whenever there is no water, the water from the tanks can provide students with bathing water and flushing water whilst having drinking water as well.
* There was a discussion on the monetary implications in relation to the number of boreholes that can be installed in order to increase water availability
* Community Engagement Councillor suggested that the drinking water tanks idea should sit at the next board of residence meeting. So that they can decide whether or not to consider all residence houses at first or to choose specific residence houses for implementation of the pilot idea.
* Madam Student Benefits asked if there was any mention of the borehole Task Team working with the municipality to supply water to the university since the water and piping that the university uses comes from municipality at the moment.
* Madam Environmental clarified that the boreholes that were connected at Vynek were donated by municipality and they pump water for the whole city. The water is first pumped to Hilltop and then the rest of the city. The boreholes from the Gift of the givers pump water for the campus.

**Agenda 9.2. Recycling Initiative**

Madam Environmental summarized the meeting into the following points:

* Sat with housekeeping about the recycling initiative.
* The team was given sister residences in order to consider having them join the pilot project.
* There was a challenge in trying to get the housekeepers on board as they felt that the recycling project would add tasks to their current work duties.
* Having the students take their waste to the collection points would really help to instil the recycling culture in people and to avoid housekeepers from feeling like it is extra work.
* There will be another meeting mid-June with the cleaners and their supervisor as the team plans how the project will work.
* Community Engagement Councillor will sit in the meeting. The pilot project should start beginning of July
* Community Engagement Councillor asked that the details of the meeting be sent to him by Madam Environmental.
* Madam Projects suggested that council starts working on the infographics so that the SRC can inform students and encourage them.
* Madam President suggested that council starts a recycling culture in the offices and the spaces council is in.
* Community Engagement Councillor suggested that when Societies advertise their event, they should keep the advertisement online. He believed that there would be no need to get the advertisements printed but council to rather post advertisements online and encouraged council to do the same.
* Sports and Societies Councillor responded that the SRC Hall Rep elections were using paper so it would be contradictory to let the elections use paper and deny advertisements the same privilege.
* Madam President stated that the SRC has to have their printed posters on noticeboards and suggested that as a measure moving forward, council could implement not having societies printing posters.

**Agenda 10. Date and time of next meeting**

To be confirmed in term 3.

**Time Adjourned**: 19:26