RHODES UNIVERSITY

students’ representative council

**MINUTES OF a MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 14TH march 2011**

**AT 18:30 IN THE R.A ROOM**

**2011. M11.1 PRESENT**

* President *Chair*
* Vice President: External
* Benefits & Sponsorship, Media
* Societies, Community Engagement
* Academic
* Projects Manager
* International Affairs
* Residence
* Oppidan
* Environmental
* Treasurer

**In attendance:** SRC Liaison

# 2011. M11.2 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Vice President Internal and Activism & Transformation.

**2011. M11.3 OTHER MATTERS FOR THE AGENDA**

**There were no other matters for the agenda.**

**2011. M11.4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Council confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2011 (M.10), subject to the correction of minor typographical errors and the following substantive amendments:

**4.1** **Item 2011.M10.4:** Other matters for the agenda, to include the following as a new item (excised from Item 2011.M12.14):

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT BACK**

**•** Community Engagement Meeting scheduled for Thursday the 10th March 2011, thus councillors who can make it for this meeting should attend;

•the CSD is having Jazz in the park, the Community Engagement Councillor will give further details about that at a later stage;

•Drostdy is hosting Little Flower pre-primary on Friday, 11 March, on the Drostdy Lawns;

•Community Engagement week is going to be from the 15th – 19th August 2011.

**4.2 Item 2011.M10.8:** Student Services, to read as follows:

It was AGREED that the Exec would meet and finalise the agenda items for Student Services Council, on behalf of Council. Council members were invited to make submissions to the Exec, as soon as possible.

**4.3 Item 2011.M10.10:** SDB & PAYD, the invitation would be extended to Student Defence Cousellors and not to the members of the Constitution Reform Committee.

**4.4 Item 2011.M10.13:** “Viv’s Variety Show”,

* third bullet-point to read as follows: The Media Clr expressed dissatisfaction with the response of the DoS to the issue raised by Mr Hendricks during Orientation Week, and the show;
* fifth bullet-point to be excised;
* twelfth bullet-point to be excised.

**4.5 Item 2011.M10.17:** SRC Hall Reps,item to read as follows: Mr Grant Bisset (608B0176) had been elected as the Founders’ Hall SRC Hall Representative for 2010 / 2011. It was agreed that he would be invited to have tea with the relevant SRC structures in due course.

**4.6 Item 2011.M10.18:** Societies, item to read as follows:

It was agreed that the item would not be a standing item on the agenda going forward, and that the Societies Clr would place the item on the agenda if need be.

**4.7 Item 2011.M10.19:** Report Back,

* second bullet-point, the last sentence to read as follows: The Board of Residences recommended that the SRC publish its O-Week programme in December before the summer recess;
* third bullet-point, the second sentence to read as follows: The Clrs expressed their dissatisfaction with the service provided by the security company which the University, via the Safety/Events Committee, had endorsed;
* fourth bullet-point, to be excised;
* ninth bullet-point, “COVEC” to read as ‘COVAC’ (Conference / Vacation Accommodation Committee);
* tenth bullet-point, last sentence: to include the Media Clr’s appointment to the task team.

**2011. M11.5 MATTERS ARISING**

**5.1 “Level O”, Learning Kaif and Office Space** *(Item 2011.M11.6)*

The Media Clr requested for clarification from the EXEC, regarding an e-mail which dealt with the way forward in respect of the “Level O” project, the Learning Kaif and office space for SRC Councillors. The President and Chair of Exec extended an apology on behalf of Exec to Clrs who felt aggrieved by the tone of the communication. The projects were on track (“Level O” would be developed for postgraduates, and the Bantu Stephen Biko Student Union Building would be refurbished for undergraduates), and an update would serve before Council, with a plan and breakdown of costs, in due course. On the issue of “Office Space” in particular, the President reiterated his call for patience until such time as the Boardroom and the RA Room had been refurbished, as part of the SRC’s internal refurbishment plans, to serve as office space.

**5.2** **There were no other matters arising from the previous minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**

# 2011. M11.6 TRANSPORT PRESENTATION

The former SRC President 2009/2010, led a delegation of four students who were interested in partnering with the SRC, in order to provide a shuttle service (similar to the one used on a trial basis in 2010), for students who lived on “The Hill”, and now also in Hilltop Hall. Council supported the proposal, in principle, and requested more information regarding final costing, and what would be expected of the SRC. A task team comprising of the following members of Council: Residence, Benfits & Sponsorship, Oppidan, the Vice President Internal and Treasurer, would meet later in the week and discuss the matter further.

**2011. M11.7 SWAZILAND**

The SRC President informed members of Council about a potential political crisis in Swaziland, and that there were reports that it was already affecting students at UNISWA. The President of Swazi Soc at Rhodes would be investigating whether or not it was affecting students on Swazi government bursaries at Rhodes. The Council agreed that should there be a need, any and all manner of reasonable assistance would be given to any students affected in that country or at Rhodes.

**2011. M11.8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Community Clr reported that the CSD was celebrating its 30th birthday in 2011. A “Jazz in the Park”event would be held on Sunday, 20th March, and each Council member and Hall Reps would be expected to sell five tickets as part of the SRC’s contribution to the event.

**2011. M11.9 OFFICE SPACE**

See item2011.M13.5.1above.

**2011. M11.10 BUDGET**

**10.1** The SRC Treasurer confirmed portfolio budgets in 2011, as follows:

Residence: R5 000; Academic R4 500; Environmental R12 000;

Activism R12 000; International R8 750; Community R12 000;

Presidents R12 000; Media R12 500; Projects R9 700;

Societies R8 500; Benefits R3 000; Oppidan R3 000

**10.2** The Treasurer reiterated that SRC societies would not be permitted to have private bank accounts for society monies, as per the Constitution of the Students (see Schedule 1).

**2011. M11.11 SRC EXECUTIVE**

The Exec convened and it was agreed that the following matters would be highlighted to Council:

* Student Services Council agenda items were fixed;
* Open letter to the VC, with a copy to the Dean of Students/organisers of the event “Viv’s Variety Show”, informing the VC about the complaints received from the Students about the performance which offended the religious views held by some Student members of the audience, and the subsequent follow-up with the Dean of Students, after the event.

**2011. M11.12 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

**There were no matters arising that needed to be brought to the attention of Council at this time.**

**2011. M11.13 SRC HALL REPS**

The Residence Clr confirmed that the note books for Hall’s to forward feedback/input to the SRC had arrived, and the Residence Clr would ensure that each hall received one.

**2011. M11.14 UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES REPORT BACK**

* The Environmental Clr reported on a consultation meeting at the Library about the Library’s ‘Code of Conduct’ which will serve before the Student Services Council on 16 March, and Senate on 1 April;
* The International Clr reported on an Orientation Committee working group meeting and highlighted the following changes to the programme which the new SRC should be made aware of: the SRC would not make any financial contributions for the Hall Reception in future; more teams should enter the ‘Amazing Race’; the picnic on the Saturday should be excised from the programme; serenading would still be reconsidered;
* The Oppidan Clr reported that the Oppidan Hall Constitution served before the Board of Residences, and that it would serve before Senate on 1 April;
* The Academic Clr reported that he had attended two Faculty Boards and that increasing the number of postgraduates at the University had been discussed; elections for academic deans in the faculties of Law, Science and Pharmacy were underway;
* The International Clr reported on the Institutional Forum (IF) meeting that took place on Friday, 11 March and highlighted the following: a University-wide *imbizo* on institutional culture would be held soon; a working group was established to revisit the terms of reference of the IF, and the International Clr would represent the SRC;
* The Vice President External (VPE) reported on the SAUS NEC meeting which took place at University of Johannesburg, 11-12 March; a number of important decisions were made, including a vote of no confidence against a senior role player in the Ministry of HE was tabled, and any progress would be reported in due course; discussions about a “SAUS bank” were also ongoing.

**2011. M11.15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 28 March 2011, at 18:30 in the RA Room.

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