

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DROSTDY HALL COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 25 JULY 2018 AT 18:30 IN BARRATT LECTURE THEATRE 3, BARRATT
LECTURE COMPLEX**

2018.03.01 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

Present: Catherine Deiner (Chair, *Hall Warden & PA Warden*), Adv. Shuaib Rahim (*Hall Fellow*), Lewis Komu (*SRC Hall Rep*), Sylvester Jeffries (*Celeste Warden*), Tlanelo Mothudi (*AG Warden*), Dr Albert Chakona (*Graham Warden*). Gladys Francis (*AG Sub-Warden*), Simphiwe Tshabalala (*AG Sub-Warden*), Sinazo Tshongweni (*AG Sub-Warden*), Zama Luthuli (*Celeste Sub-Warden*), Tadiwa Mutizwa (*Celeste Sub-Warden*), Rapula Diale (*Graham Sub-Warden*), Sheldan Dolf (*Graham Sub-Warden*), Tariro Mbiba (*PA Sub-Warden*), Namhla Tukulu (*PA Sub-Warden*), Siphwo Mthonti (*AG Head Student*), Natasha Bezuidenhout (*Celeste Head Student*), Fungai Musesengwa (*Graham Head Student*), Dimakatso Pitja (*PA Head Student*).

In attendance: Candice Webber (*Drostdy Hall Administrator*).

Apologies: Mr Edward Horn (*Drostdy Hall Fellow*), Mr Evert Knoesen (*Drostdy Hall Fellow*), Adam Butler (*Hall Senior Student*).

2018.03.02 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Hall Committee Meeting held on 16 April 2018 were confirmed by Sinazo and Siphwo.

2018.03.03 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

2018.03.04 OTHER MATTERS FOR THE AGENDA

2018.03.12 Feedback from DSA/Hall Wardens Meeting

2018.03.05 REPORTS ON RESIDENCES BY HEAD STUDENTS

Celeste

- Natasha was congratulated for exhibiting at Festival.
- Housekeeping are still placing mats over the drain leakage at Celeste. Candice will follow up with the Housekeeper yet again.
- Need a light that shines onto the bridge for security reasons. Candice will follow up with the Electrical Manager yet again.
- Their Community Engagement Rep took part in the Drostdy Pick n Pay collection this past Friday.
- They are trying to raise awareness and encourage participation for the Consent Talk.

Allan Gray

- Upcoming events:
 - 3 Aug: for community engagement, they will have an Albany Museum visit for the Noncedo kids. On Sunday, they will fundraise for this by having a brownie sale, so they can buy snacks for the kids.
 - Top Academic Achievers Breakfast – date to be confirmed.
 - 9 Aug: Women's Day Res Event
 - 12 Aug: Consent Talk
- They have opened up nominations for their vacant Food & Entertainment Rep portfolio.

Prince Alfred

- Their last term braai with Robert Sobukwe House was successful.
- They will have a res braai on Saturday, 28 July.

- They held two academic events last term:
 - Academic event for first years, and the speaker was Kudzie, former Prince Alfred Sub-Warden.
 - Motivational talk for the entire res just before exams. The speaker was Thina Maqubela.

Dee and the Academic Rep sold brownies to raise funds in order to have these two events.

- Three PA students performed in productions during the Festival.
- Academic Breakfast date to be confirmed.
- As their rainwater tank water is not safe to drink, they will empty the tank and use the water for a car wash. They will then clean the tank and start using it again when it fills up with rainwater.

Allan Gray asked if they could do the same with the small water tank by the old Hall veg garden in Tlamelo's garden, as this water is not filtered and not being used for anything. It was noted that they need to ask Nikki first. Unfortunately, Grounds and Gardens will not move this tank again. Tlamelo confirmed she is happy for the Environmental Reps to have access to her garden to collect water from this tank for the planned veg garden at Prince Alfred House, however they will need to put up with her dog.

- They will purchase a Res banner using tuckshop profits.

Graham

- They won inter-res pool last term.
- Graham is in the inter-res debate quarterfinals this evening.
- They reached the inter-res archery finals last term.
- Last term they started exam preparation early, e.g. study commons, exam treats, library runs, etc., and this clearly worked, as for the June exams Graham House came 4th out of all the residences on campus. To acknowledge this, there will be a Top Achievers Dinner next term.
- First Years Party is coming up. Date still to be decided.

2018.03.06 HALL SENIOR STUDENT REPORT BACK

Adam was not in attendance due to another commitment, and submitted his apologies.

2018.03.07 SRC HALL REP REPORT BACK

- SRC election nominations have opened. They will have a lunchtime promotion in the dining hall on Friday.
- Tonight there is an Extraordinary Student Parliament Meeting, and on the 2 August is a Student Body Meeting. The SRC want to put a new constitution forward.
- Cath reported that at a DSA/Hall Wardens Meeting, the Hall Wardens did not approve of a proposal from the SRC, that SRC Councillors should be given their room of choice in res before Sub-Wardens, and this is to be placed in their constitution. This proposal is concerning seeing that there is a meeting tonight, and that students also need to know about this. Lewis was asked to convey this to the SRC, and to find out more.

2018.03.08 HALL COMM PORTFOLIO POSITIONS

Community Engagement – Internal – Simphiwe

- For fundraising last term for Noncedo, they had a clothing lawn sale, and sold cupcakes and brownies, and made R830, however there is still money to be collected.
- Leftover clothes will be taken to the SRC for the Ubuntu Fund.
- This past Friday there was a Drostdy collection for Noncedo at Pick n Pay.

- Simphiwe reported that the Res Community Engagement Reps are not communicating information to their residences. It was suggested that they use the Hall Facebook group to communicate, and then someone from each res can share to their res group as well.

Community Engagement – External – Namhla

- They made R1472.20 at the Pick n Pay collection. This money, together with the clothing sale money, will be used for painting and school readiness packs for Noncedo.
- We need to decide on a date to paint Noncedo. They want us to paint decorations on the outside of the building from where we stopped last year. It was suggested to get the drawing on paper, and decide, and get costs in advance. It was also suggested to get measurements and an estimation from a professional of how much paint we will need and the resources needed, in advance. It also needs to be determined if re-painting is needed first, as we can't just paint on old peeling paint, etc.

Environmental – Tadiwa

The Enviro Reps are very keen on a garden, possibly a herb garden, or an eco-water-friendly garden. They need a long-term plan and this will be resolved by the end of the week. This garden will most likely be in the Prince Alfred drying yard, and the Enviro Reps would like to have a function to launch it.

Catherine would like us to take up the initiative to stop having plastic water bottles on campus, as they are single use plastics. People must bring their own non-plastic bottles. Cath suggested we put in a proposal to Residential Operations, to get a cost analysis for plastic water bottles they purchase for use on campus, e.g. for the dining halls during water outages, for functions and conferences, etc. Adv Rahim stated that his Law group are trying to work out their carbon footprint per person, as they want to give back to the environment, after using so much paper for their project, and this could be a collaboration with Drostdy. Adv Rahim wants to get hold of a former RU lecturer who could help, but he does not know the person's name. Cath knows whom he is talking about, so she will be able to find out the name. Albert suggested that we need to work on mind-sets and educating people.

Albert suggested that the Enviro Reps could possibly come up with innovated ideas for the following, to be looked at on a small scale, and then expanded to rest of campus:

- Quantify amount of food that is wasted each day from the dining hall.
- Using greywater at RU to use on RU gardens and lawns, instead of using the borehole water.
- RU pollution of Kowie River. There are species of fish only found in the Kowie River that could be extinct soon. Students need to start thinking out of the box.

Rapula suggested using gas for the kitchens made from decomposed food wastage from the kitchens.

It was noted that when Drostdy had a worm farm in the past, the worms were fed with salad veg that was thrown away from the Drostdy Kitchen.

Students would like to know why un-plated leftover food from the dining hall kitchens is thrown out, and not given to the poor. Cath explained that this is because of various legal, health, etc. laws and reasons. Candice was asked to e-mail Jay Pillay for the full explanation in writing. Currently the food wastage goes to local non-wealthy pig farmers as a community engagement initiative. Female students are hesitant to go for seconds, as when they do the catering staff tell them they are not supposed to get seconds, as they must watch their figure. This will be reported to the Caterers, as well as the fact that certain students get larger portions, e.g. Xhosa male student.

Sports – Sipiwo

- This coming Friday there is a meeting with the Oppidans to decide on a date for Round the Block. Possible dates are the 18 August or 8 September. Sipiwo was asked to inform us of this date as soon as possible, once finalised.

- There has been good participation from the undergrad residences for inter-res. This coming Saturday is volleyball.

Academics – Adam

Adam was not in attendance due to another commitment, and submitted his apologies.

It was noted that currently Drostdy is 2nd out of all the Halls for the June exam results. This could change, as there are still students with withheld results. Graham House was congratulated on their huge improvement, they came 4th out of all the residences on campus.

International – Tariro

- The International Parade on 19 May was a success. There was not a lot of Drostdy attendance, mostly Allan Gray, and those who attended enjoyed it.
- There is a new SRC International Councillor.
- There are three new exchange students in our Hall this semester.
- Cath asked that we make international exchange students more integrated in the Hall.
- Tlamelo suggested that Tariro start communicating info for visa renewals, the documents needed etc., and that police clearance is now done in Port Elizabeth at VFS.

Communications – Zama

- If anyone's cell phone number has changed, for the Hall Comm WhatsApp group, please inform Zama.
- Candice reminded everyone she needs content for the Drostdy website. Head Students were asked to remind their house comm members. We need to keep the website updated and current.

Activism/Transformation/Awareness Raising - Sheldon

This term the focus will be on disability, and there will be a talk for the Hall. Sheldon and the SRC Transformation Councillor are busy arranging a speaker, possibly for the 17 or 24 August. It was suggested to have a student with a disability as the speaker. It was also suggested not to have the talk in the dining hall because of the bad acoustics, but to rather have it in a residence space, an actual area that might need changes or improvements, to meet disability needs.

The consent talk for Allan Gray and Celeste will be on the 12 August. Prince Alfred and Graham have already had theirs. This talk is given by the Nkoli-Fassie Student Society in conjunction with the SRC, to the entire campus. This talk is not compulsory, but students must be encouraged to attend. A concern was raised regarding the talk held in the dining hall for Graham and Prince Alfred. There were conflicting messages and the facilitation was not good. Lewis was asked to give this feedback to the SRC. We will ask the Counselling Centre if one of their psychologists is available to attend the Celeste and Allan Gray talk.

Each Drostdy undergrad Res is to host a transformation movie night.

The winning team, from the first term first years Drostdy transformation workshops, will receive their prize this evening. Sheldon thanked Allan Gray and Prince Alfred for helping with the prize.

Sheldon asked what procedures he must follow, and who to get permission from, to paint the Drostdy stairs, for those with visual impairments. It was noted that he needs to get permission from Noluxolo, Veronica and Cath.

To raise awareness in the Hall for the Silent Protest, Vince has come up with an idea to make a video, using Head Students etc., and circulate within the Hall.

Tlamelo asked that RU include disability needs when they start revamping the residences. Apparently, Rhodes has received 38 million towards maintenance, for all campus buildings, and they will be going according to the alphabet and starting with "A".

2018.03.09 RECRUITMENT & SELECTION OF SUB-WARDENS FOR 2019

The short-listing meeting was scheduled for Monday 30 July at 18h30.

The interview meetings were scheduled as follows:

- 2 Aug – Prince Alfred
- 6 Aug – Allan Gray
- 7 Aug – Celeste
- 8 Aug – Graham

The following student members will serve on each residence selection committee:

- Prince Alfred: Gladys, Tariro, and a member of the house to be confirmed
- Allan Gray: Tariro, Sinazo & Gladys
- Celeste: Sheldan, Zama, and a house comm member to be confirmed
- Graham: Sinazo, Sheldan & Rapula

2018.03.10 CLAUSE FOR NON-PERFORMANCE OF HOUSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR HALL CONSTITUTION

- Each Res to decide whether or not to adopt this.
- Each Res to give out well-done certificates to their house comm members.
- Tlamelo to send out clause to everyone again, with a second call for comments, with a deadline. Comments to be sent to everyone.

2018.03.11 HALL FINANCIAL BUDGET – 2ND SEMESTER 2018

The budget was e-mailed to each committee member with the agenda. We usually have more money to carry over to the next year to tide us over until we are paid our Hall Grant, however, this year there will not be much money left due to the decreased Hall Grant we received last year. No objections were received to purchase two new microphones from the Hall Capital Equipment amount, to replace the two dining hall microphones that went missing.

2018.03.12 FEEDBACK FROM DSA/HALL WARDENS MEETING

- Too many microwaves in residences are being damaged and written off, because of burnt popcorn etc., and RU needs to find a way to curb this. Any ideas to be e-mailed to Cath.
- A Vac Sub-Warden's contract will be terminated if the res they are employed to work in is no longer being used over the vac. It is stated in their contract.
- Each Res must try to have a debrief session for the Silent Protest in their res.
- The Quality of Res Life Survey will be rolled out next week, and will be online. We must encourage students to complete it. There will be a prize for the Res with the most responses.
- There will be a crime wise campaign. However, there are still thefts that can be avoided, e.g. laptop stolen through open window. Students need to be responsible.
- They are looking at restructuring Orientation leadership training. e.g. one of the many ideas, is to rather have it at the end of the year so leadership students don't have to return early in the new year. Any thoughts and ideas to be e-mailed to Cath by Monday.