

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE DROSTDY HALL COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 18:30 IN BARRATT LECTURE THEATRE 3,
BARRATT LECTURE COMPLEX**

2019.04.01 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

Present: Catherine Parkinson (*Chair, Hall Warden & PA Warden*), Nhlanhla Malisa (*Hall Senior Student*), Sean Nkosi (*Celeste Warden*), Tlamelo Mothudi (*AG Warden*), Surprice Malatji (*AG Sub-Warden*), Thokozani Dladla (*Celeste Sub-Warden*), Ashley Bristow (*Celeste Sub-Warden*), Adam Butler (*Graham Sub-Warden*), Sebe Nondima (*Graham Sub-Warden*), Dimakatso Pitja (*PA Sub-Warden*), Tapiwanashe Zinhumwe (*PA Sub-Warden*), Bennita Benza (*AG Head Student*), Retselisitsoe Ramoriting (*Celeste Head Student*), Tadiwanashe Murahwi (*Graham Head Student*), Keiryn O'Connor (*PA Head Student*).

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

Apologies: Adv. Shuaib Rahim (*Hall Fellow*), Mr Evert Knoesen (*Hall Fellow*), Dr Albert Chakona (*Graham Warden*), Christine Roeber (*AG Sub-Warden*), Lungelo Kubayi (*AG Sub-Warden*).

The meeting started late at 18h36 as we had to wait for members who were late to arrive in order to reach quorum.

2019.04.02 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Hall Committee Meeting held on 22 July 2019 were confirmed by Adam and Dee.

2019.04.03 MATTERS ARISING

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

2019.04.04 OTHER MATTERS FOR THE AGENDA

1. Course for Drostdy Leadership Students **2019.04.14**

2019.04.05 PROPOSAL FROM ZIZWE MQEDLANA OF GRAHAM HOUSE

In light of the tragic news of Nene's murder recently and the spotlight on sexual/gender-based violence in the country, Zizwe suggested the following:

To allow both male and female students to stay in Graham House anytime between the hours of 24h00 and 07h30 when needed, if they do not feel safe, are drunk, etc. There would be a separate visitors sign-in sheet for these special cases, whereby a reason is stated, e.g. a female student did not feel safe to walk to res up the Hill. Graham House want to be given a chance to actively take care of people.

Statements, concerns etc. raised by members of the committee:

- Where would these students stay in Res? In a common room or someone's room, and whose room?
- How will we know when students are abusing this rule?
- What bathrooms/showers will they use?
- CPU can be called at any time to escort students on campus back to res.
- What has happened with the Get Home Safe car, could this not possibly be used?
- How would these students access Graham House?
- This proposal requires research and consultation. Need to find out the different perspectives from females and males.
- How would this be implemented and how would it affect the changing of rules?
- There was no mention of a Graham House student walking these students who felt unsafe home, or calling a friend of theirs to walk the student home.
- Making allowances for drunk people is a concern, as alcohol is a major factor of abuse.
- Be careful of the examples used, sexual assault vs abuse.
- A researched proposal is needed as it has to go through various RU committees.

- There was a concern with the language Zizwe used.

Zizwe responded that CPU cannot always come straight away and may get to the scene too late. Pillows and a blanket can be used to make up a bed on the floor. This would be for friends or anyone who stops at Graham for help.

Zizwe reiterated that this was simply just a suggestion, and felt that he personally had been attacked from the remarks made on the Hall Comm WhatsApp Group. Cath reiterated that it was not an attack on Zizwe, Catherine had responded to the Graham House suggestion, and not to a specific student. Zizwe was then excused from the meeting and Cath asked that in future Graham students need to get their Hall Senior Student to push any issues.

Further concerns, issues, etc., raised by the committee members:

- At these Hall Comm meetings there needs to be caution with the tone, and we do not want to discourage students and make them feel uncomfortable at these meetings, and set-them up for failure.
- We do not want to discourage students but there also needs to be a level of respect, as the messages from Graham House came across as disrespectful. The Graham House students were informed that the Hall Senior Student can address their suggestions at Hall Comm.
- If anyone wants instant changes then they cannot be rule changing.
- Proposals for rule changes have to go to BoR, which then goes to various other Committees before going to Senate.
- Wardens' can't change rules overnight.
- We should have addressed the fact that Zizwe felt his character was attacked, first, but we only found this out after the suggestion.
- The initial WhatsApp message with the Graham House suggestion had no identifying markers.
- There was disrespect from the beginning from the Graham House side.
- Zizwe came to the Hall Comm meeting to defend his character, but not to defend his suggestion.
- We can do more to make students feel comfortable at Hall Comm meetings, but the attitude today was not warranted.
- A sign-in register for afterhours is not going to prevent someone from committing a crime, abuse, etc.
- How is a woman safe in a res of 54 males?
- Also deep concerns with men in female residences.
- Adam asked that it be minuted that as a Sub-Warden of Graham House he finds this suggestion disingenuous and is very embarrassed of Graham.

2019.04.06 REPORTS ON RESIDENCES BY HEAD STUDENTS

Allan Gray

Bennita submitted her report in advance, which was circulated with the Agenda. *See Appendix 1.*

- It was confirmed that Allan Gray may now have their Res braai on the 5 October, as Graham House is no longer having a function on this date.

Celeste

Retselisitsoe submitted her report in advance, which was circulated with the Agenda. *See Appendix 2.*

Graham

Tadiwanashe submitted his report in advance, which was circulated with the agenda. *See Appendix 3.*

Prince Alfred

Keiryn submitted her report in advance, which was circulated with the agenda. *See Appendix 4.*

2019.04.07 HALL SENIOR STUDENT REPORT BACK

The Hall Senior Student did not submit a report.

It was noted that the Leavers' Dinner would be discussed under item 12.

2019.04.08 SRC

Nominations for SRC Hall Rep positions open on the 18 September. Voting in dining halls will take place on the 2 & 3 October. The houses were asked to work together again to find volunteers for the voting process. We need to encourage students to run for the SRC Hall Rep position.

2019.04.09 HALL COMM PORTFOLIO POSITIONS**Community Engagement – Internal**

Bennita submitted her report in advance, which was circulated with the agenda. *See Appendix 5.*

- Unfortunately they could not book a Pick 'n Pay trolley beg slot, as this needed to be done earlier in the year. It was suggested to try Checkers.
- As no other venues close to Noncedo are available for the talent show, it was suggested to try the Nutrition Centre run by the Assumption Sisters. If this is not an option then the talent show will have to be held in the dining hall or a venue nearby, with the extra transport cost factor.

Community Engagement – External

Antonique, Prince Alfred Community Engagement Rep, confirmed that she had nothing further to add from Bennita's report.

Environmental

- Sub-Wardens to please inform Candice tomorrow of how many wee wiser posters they need for their Res to insure that each toilet door has one.
- Anything else that is needed in bathrooms and toilets, e.g. sanitisers, to be requested on the google spreadsheet.
- Faster flowing taps for the grey water tanks have not been installed anywhere on campus yet.
- Our downhill reservoirs on campus have been very low. The laundries were allowed to be opened today, but to be reassessed tomorrow. Laundries have been shut down as the Uni is trying, at least, not to run out of water for showering, as washing machines use a lot of water. We all share the same frustration. Students can hand wash using their water basins or buckets.
- There is a Disciplinary Committee Meeting on the 25 September, where Cath will propose that the breach of the water protocol be made an admission of guilt penalty so that hearings do not have to be held every time.

Sports

Surprice submitted her report in advance, which was circulated as a late agenda item. *See Appendix 6.*

- It was noted that there will be a RU Sports Awards Dinner this year.

Academics

Dee submitted her report in advance, which was circulated with the agenda. *See Appendix 7.*

- Housekeeping staff have their own tearoom and must not use the small common rooms, as these spaces are for students, and used as study venues.

International

Tapiwanashe submitted her report in advance, which was circulated with the agenda. *See Appendix 8.*

- We need to acknowledge Xenophobia, and that the fears of International Students are real.
- It was queried if the University will be doing anything about visa application backlogs, and will they be extending deadlines for international students? Cath will e-mail Orla.

Communications

Tadiwanashe submitted his report in advance, which was circulated with the agenda. *See Appendix 9.*

Activism/Transformation/Awareness Raising

Keiryn submitted her report in advance, which was circulated with the agenda. *See Appendix 10.*

- Last night's Sexual Offences Policy Talk went well. However, the various definitions need to be explained. We can possibly call on Zethu or Shuaib to breakdown the various definitions so all can understand. Zethu has not yet dropped off the policy booklets with Candice. It was confirmed that posters with straightforward instructions have been up in the dining hall and each res since last term.
- It was agreed that a Graham House rape culture talk needs to be initiated by Graham House themselves should they wish to do so, or Keiryn needs to talk to the Graham House leaders to initiate this.

2019.04.10 HALL FELLOW NOMINATIONS

As all three nominations received were for Pharmacy Academics, it was agreed to only appoint one of them as a Hall Fellow. Cath will contact them in order of priority, depending on their availability.

It was agreed to renew Evert & Shuaib's term of office. It was suggested to renew their term for a further year, and Cath will check to see what the constitution says. Cath needs to approach them to assess their willingness to stand for a further term.

2019.04.11 END YEAR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

All House Comm members are to submit a second semester report to Candice by the end of Swot Week. Those that did not submit a first semester report will then have to submit a report for the whole year. Head Students to please monitor this to make sure this gets done. The information from these reports will be used to compile the end of year Hal Report to be submitted to the DSA, and will be used as content for the Drostdy website. Hall Portfolio Reps are to also submit a report summarising the year. These end year reports should not come as a surprise to anyone as this is stated in the Drostdy leadership duties booklet.

2019.04.12 AWARDS & LEAVERS DINNER

Celeste House are to inform Candice of the recipient of the Celeste House student of the year award, as outlined in the rulebook, by no later than Friday 27 September, and a citation also needs to be provided. Candice will be calling for nominations soon for the Hall cultural award and the Hall external sportsperson of the year award, which the Hall Comm will vote on via e-mail once the deadline has passed. Nominations are not called for the Hall internal sports award as this is determined by the Hall's inter-res participation points system.

Leavers Dinner: 8 Oct

- The Caterers have already decided on the menu, as we could not wait any longer.
- Nhlanhla to be in charge of the music, sound, entertainment & deco.
- We need to somehow acknowledge gender based violence at the dinner. This will be left in Nhlanhla's hands. After deliberating on how to do this, it was agreed to have the acknowledgement at the beginning of the dinner by one of the Hall speakers, with words of encouragement and a call to those students leaving the Hall.
- Dr Monnapula-Mapesela and Dr Zethu Mkhize are to be invited. Any ideas for other guests to be invited to be e-mailed to Candice by 8am on Monday.
- Pre-dinner drinks for Hall Comm and guests to be held at Prince Alfred House at 18h00.
- Hall Comm photo to be taken at 18h15 sharp.
- As it would be nice to have a photographer from Drostdy Hall, Candice will check with Zintle Rwaxa if she would be willing to do this, for the Hall Comm photo and the entire dinner.

Nhlanhla confirmed he still has the keys for the dining hall PA system, and the photographer from the welcome dinner will send the welcome dinner photos on Friday.

2019.04.13 RES MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

It was noted that the Hall Committee will have to meet again to consider res merit scholarship applications, once the deadline has passed. We are still waiting for the undergraduate financial aid office to advertise the scholarships.

2019.04.14 COURSE FOR DROSTDY LEADERSHIP STUDENTS

It was queried if there will still be a free accredited training short course qualification for deserving Drostdy leadership students. It was noted that topic ideas for this course had been requested from the Hall Committee earlier this year, but nothing was received. Cath asked if a two day communications short course by the RU Business School would be considered an incentive by students? Cath will send everyone a link of what the course offers for feedback and response by Hall Comm before proceeding further.

The meeting ended at 20h24.

ALLAN GRAY HOUSE REPORT

- Our events from the last term were all a success that is from the sports, academic, community engagement, entertainment and all other portfolios in the house. Even attendance has improved significantly especially in sports and community engagement.
- A resignation was made by the former Sports Rep who was Bridget and the position or the portfolio is under the supervision of Surprice and comm together as we help her too.
- We had our house meeting for this term on Sunday the 8th of September.
- On Sports, we are tally with Rosa Parks and Walker that is on the first position after the tennis match.
- Res Hoodies were collected and members of the house were given their hoodies that is to those who had purchased the hoodies.
- We managed to raise R735.10 for the Give 5 Fund that is a combination of the House Comm Spur Shadow Shift and the donations from the members of the house.
- Notable events for this term is a braai upcoming on the 5th of October and will be combined with the Awards Night Ceremony.
- Looking forward to a great term as well.

Report Compiled by: Bennita T Benza (AG Head Student).

Third Term Report as at 09 September 2019

Portfolios

i. Head Student

All funds raised for the Give5 campaign were given to the recipient (Alumni Office). A design and colour for the hoodie were chosen. However, only one person paid for the hoodie, therefore, all arrangements made for the hoodie were cancelled.

ii. Academics

Three of our students, Advihaho Ramaite, Barnabas Muvhuti, and Mziwonke Qwesha presented their papers at the Rhodes University Postgraduate Conference that was held on the 22 & 23 August 2019. The topics of their papers are as follows: (a) Peacebuilding education in Puntland, Somalia: Understanding clan-based discrimination in NGO and community-based Schools; (b) Destinies Shaped by Geography: Job Kekana in the shadows of Ernest Mancoba and Gerard Sekoto; (c) Poetics: What forces, influences, techniques, if any, make a writer to write?

Barnabas has also written articles for Tufts University, ARTTHROB, and Africanah.org. Follow the links below to read his work;

<https://fic.tufts.edu/publication-item/makhanda-south-africa-a-case-study-of-refugees-in-towns/>

<https://artthrob.co.za/article-author/lifang-zhang-barnabas-ticha-muvhuti/>

<https://africanah.org/author/barnabas-ticha-muvhuti/>

iii. Community Engagement

We have received a proposal from one of Celeste's residents on behalf of The Keep it Locked Project. The project's aim is to ensure sustainable influx of pad in neighboring schools, specifically Nathaniel Nyaluza High School. They would like businesses around Grahamstown to donate Sanitary towels to Nathaniel Nyaluza High School. Celeste will support the initiative by allowing the individual to promote the initiative in res. *Also, Celeste would like Drostdy hall to support the initiative.*

iv. Entertainment

Celeste and Oakden House had a joined braai on the 3rd August 2019 and our last braai will be on the 24th September 2019.

v. Environment: A recycling drive box remains placed in the foyer of the entrance. Weekly water supply from Aquo Pure proceeded as scheduled throughout the term.

Drostdy Hall-Comm Meeting
11 September 2019
Graham House Briefing

1. Mentorship Program (Academic Rep)

We started our Internal Mentorship program for the first years at the end of last year. This is meant to boost the academic performance of our first years and to align with the Hall's strategic thematic area (Academics). The students were grouped according to their programs and a senior student was assigned to assist them

2. Treasurer

Our Treasurer resigned last term. Sabelwe, first year, volunteered to take the post. Due to his efforts we were able to balance our financial records (from term 1 to term 3) and plan for this term's events.

3. Entertainment

We are planning to have a joint Fines and Awards night on 20 September and then our res braai on 21 September. These will be our last events for the year.

4. Other Matters

It was announced in the House meeting held on Sunday 08 September, that permission to attend the next Hall Comm Meeting was granted to all those who have concerns to raise at Hall Comm level, concerns similar to the issue communicated on the Whatsapp group chat.

Compiled by Tadiwanashe Murahwi

Prince Alfred House Report – Term 4

Community Engagement

- ⑩ We participated in trying to raise funds for Give5, although Antonique tried hard by selling brownies to the res, she did not feel that she and house comm as a whole could have done more to contribute to the fund-raising.
- ⑩ This term there is a plan to purchase paint for Noncendo Pre-School and then we will be going to help paint the school.

Academics

- ⑩ Hosted an academic breakfast for our top achievers at Revelations Café on the 10th of August. This was a success.
- ⑩ They are hoping to host another academic talk.
- ⑩ Siziphiwe also is planning on having a 'birthday party' for the res near the end of term and as a pre-exams event. This will likely be the last event we hold for the year.

Entertainment and Food

- ⑩ Our braai was regarded as a success. We had the food ready on time, but we found that most people came and collected food and then left, only to return again for seconds. Would like to think about other ways to encourage socialising among the house. This could also be due to the fact that it was quite cold and so people were reluctant to sit outside.
- ⑩ We have a beach trip planned for the 12th of October. Payments are due by the 1st of October. We are waiting to gauge interest in the trip (was extremely positive, just waiting for sign ups) and then we can find out exactly the amount we are paying per person and can begin to receive the money. As it stands, I believe the estimate cost will be R100 per person.
- ⑩ We are also holding a finger foods and res awards lunch event on the 28th of September. This was moved from the 21st because Catherine is away that weekend. Pamela is away for the actual event and so myself and house comm will be taking over her responsibilities in order to deliver an enjoyable event. We are having a meeting next weekend to discuss and design the awards for this event

Treasurer

- ⑩ We received the money from RUJamming. At the meeting next week, we will discuss what to do with the money exactly. It may go towards the birthday party possibly, but this will be further discussed in said meeting.
- ⑩ There is an issue in tuck shop of people not paying their debts on time. We had the same issue the previous term and said that those who had to be chased after would be blacklisted, but if this continues to happen, I think the credit system should be re-evaluated.

Transformation

- ⑩ We hosted a hall Consent Pillow Case Design Workshop which was done by the Fine Art Department and the Equity and Institutional Culture Office. The participation was some of the best among the halls and I do believe that people enjoyed the event and Prince Alfred had the most people there. We had some brilliant designs come out of it. Now we are waiting on the designs to be chosen and printed, which will then be given out to the hall.
- ⑩ There is also a debate competition happening that we could not participate in due to lack of interest.
- ⑩ There is the upcoming Sexual Offences Policy roadshow on Tuesday, 10 September. All students have been encouraged to attend and first years have been notified that it is compulsory for them.

Sports

- ⑩ We participated in tennis on the 8th of September against Allan Gray, which we lost 5-6.
- ⑩ Last term, we were meant to participate in Dance Sport and tennis, both of which were cancelled.
- ⑩ We are participating in soccer next week Saturday (14 September).
- ⑩ We have an issue with participation in res as a whole. Even when people do sign up, some pull out at the last minute. We have told the res that this is not acceptable but the issue is that there is no punishment for this behaviour that is enforced.

ResNet

- ⑩ Had issues with availability of Tandile to fix issues with the printer. She has said that she will put a sheet of her times when she is available in order to help avoid miscommunication.
- ⑩ It has also been communicated to the house that Candice does not have the key for the printer anymore and so cannot fix issues when Tandile isn't available.

General

- ⑩ The house hoodies are in the process of being designed.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

COMPILED BY BENNITA: CE HALL REP INTERNAL

- Celeste and Graham house have not participating in the Community Engagement Activities of the Hall. That is, Prince Alfred and Allan Gray are the two houses that have been taking part in the community engagement activities.
- Albany Museum trip for the children to take place in the week of 16 September but the date has not yet been finalized (yet to be announced).
- Painting and the Talent Show to be hold on the 12th of October. This will be a combination of the two events on the same day. Painting to take place at Noncedo and a kind request for Drostdy Hall to be booked (used) after lunch or in the morning which is yet to be discussed so as to not disrupt meal slots. Explanation will be given in the meeting on the day (Hall Comm Meeting).
- To ask members of the Hall for packed meal donations for the painting and talent show event which is to take place on the 12th of October.

From: Surprice Malatji <malatjisurprice@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, 09 September 2019 12:47

To: c.webber@ru.ac.za

Subject: Hall sports rep report

Good day Candice.

For Sports log report, last term Allan Gray was still in first place but along with Walker house and Rosa Parks with 24 points. Prince Alfred house is sitting at 10 points and I'm very happy with their participation. Graham house is sitting at 6 points.

Given the outcome of tennis this past week Allan Gray may/has lost it's first place. And Prince Alfred did participate in it, Graham house was MIA (Missing In Action).

But we are determined to make the Hall goal of retaining the inter-res sports championship at all costs.

Thank you ☐.

Kind regards
Malatji Surprice

Hall comm Academic Hall Portfolio Report-Dimakatso Giovinah Pitja

We had top achiever's breakfast for PA at Revelations last term. I had previously asked that the academic reps send details for the dining hall poster but only the Allan Gray Academic rep sent through the information to Candice. As such I made the decision to just make a board for Allan Gray and not make for the dining hall as the reps were given numerous extensions to which most did not respond.

PA will be hosting a motivational talk for the students. I am having a meeting with the reps this weekend and as such I don't have much information regarding events in the other houses.

I plan on making study tips for exams posters to take up the space in the dining hall previously used for students willing to assist. Smaller versions of the posters will be made available for the different houses. The posters should be up in the dining hall by the end of September.

With regards to hall fellow nominations, I nominate Professor Sue Burton.

International REP Hall Comm Report

By Tapiwanashe Zinhumwe

International Students who need new visas are required to apply online using the link below:

www.vfsglobal.com/dha/southafrica.

Students applying are required to pay R2600 and the banking details are on the VFS website

The VFS representatives will be coming on the following dates :19&20 September .Appointments need to be booked before date.

Students are strongly advised to read their emails pertaining to this so that they don't miss out on anything .Head students please kindly remind your houses about this .Thank you

Drostdy Hall-Comm Meeting
11 September 2019
Hall Communication Portfolio Briefing

As hall communication rep, the past weeks have been dedicated to improving communication in the hall. This has been through printing of materials encouraging students to constantly check their emails, and to join the Hall Facebook group. These were distributed to the different residences in the Hall, and also put on the notice boards in the Dining Hall. A few people joined the Facebook group in the past week. Perhaps the incentive of small treats should be used more often.

Compiled by Tadiwanashe Murahwi

Transformation/Activism/Awareness Rep Report – Term 4

- ⑩ We hosted a hall Consent Pillow Case Design Workshop which was done by the Fine Art Department and the Equity and Institutional Culture Office. The participation was some of the best among the halls and I believe that those participating enjoyed it. We had some brilliant designs come out of it. Now we are waiting on the designs to be chosen and printed, which will then be given out to the hall.
- ⑩ There is also a debate competition happening that we could not participate in due to lack of interest. This was on a house and hall level.
- ⑩ There is the upcoming Sexual Offences Policy roadshow on Tuesday, 10 September. All students have been encouraged to attend and first years have been notified that it is compulsory for them.
- ⑩ I have been in communication with the transformation reps from the other houses about holding talks in the various houses about rape culture. I specifically would like Graham House to host their own talk with just themselves before we go into a hall talk about the issue. This is because some of us are concerned that if we just hold a hall talk, the men will 'perform' or will not feel safe enough to speak for fear of being verbally attacked. I would like for them to get an opportunity to also have a safe space to share their thoughts and to be educated on these issues. **The input of the rest of the Hall Committee would be greatly appreciated.** It has been suggested to me that we contact Sheldon (former Graham House Sub-Warden and Hall Transformation Rep) to help with these talks as he has a better insight into the subject matter and the house.