The 17th SRC MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL, 15th AT 18h30 IN THE RA ROOM.

**MINUTES**

2024.17.01. APOLOGIES

1.1 Madam Environment

1.2 Madam Community Engagement

1.3 Mr. Vice President

2024.17.02. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1 No leave of absence.

2024.17.03. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3.1 No conflict of interest declared.

2024.17.04. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Madam Sports and Societies

4.2 Mr. President

2024.17.05. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Leadership Week and VP’s Waiver

-Vice President (hereinafter VP) updated council on the progress of LW. There have been no reported changes since the last update and reminded council member of individual duties and deadlines.

-It was noted that there was a clash of the proposed date on the 25th with a Student Parliament seating and event with Alumni LW meeting, VP is to discuss a way forward with the SRC Student Development and Support Officer (hereinafter Mr. Ofei).

-Madame Post Graduate Affairs (hereinafter Madame PGA) requested responsible councilors to compile a sponsorship list they have made thus far of successful sponsors.

-Councilors to submit the list by the deadline of Wednesday, 17th of April 2024 at midnight.

-Madame Projects extended assistance to Council members in creating the list.

-Point of privilege called by Madame Residence

-The Chair announced council will be briefed and a decision will be taken in the next sitting to report to the Alumni Board on the 25th.

5.2 Learn2Drive decision

-Arising concerns over the price and regarding the SRC logo in the continued advertising by the company. The chair requested tabulation of this item until confirmation.

-Mr. Transformation and Activism (hereinafter Mr. Activism) opposed tabulation and has requested a decision be made immediately.

-A concern was expressed by Mr. Media over the lack of communication from the providers and a claimed contradiction in social media postings that didn’t correspond with the agreement.

-The Chair introduced a motion to make a decision now or tabulate and further deliberate on prices charged.

-Mr. VP raised a motion to reject the proposal outright, seconded by Mr. International. A general consensus on the rejection of this proposal was reached.

2024.17.06. BUSINESS OF THE DAY

6.1 Budget Report

-Due to Mrs. K being unable to attend, this matter and clarity on it will be on hold until a rescheduled meeting that accommodates her time is made.

6.2 Amazwi Museum event

-The VP acknowledged documents as read and discussed collaboration with the Museum and their liaison Mr. Bhengu, for an event, including the involvement of performers and societies. It was noted that the document was approved by the Council exec.

-Clarity was sought regarding previously discussed roles and communication channels for posters and delegations.

-Posters are to be created by the Museum and distributed by SRC to the student body through online platforms and interactive advertising. SRC can also make its own posters for collaboration. Madame Projects suggested applying compensation policies for media teams to external stakeholders using SRC resources.

-The VP expressed uncertainty about available funds, quoting that Mr. Bhengu had said there may be incentives for performers after the concept document was submitted and the emphasized event considers the benefit of the student body. Full information will be for asked for from the organizers. No delegations have been made on any roles at present.

-Mr. VP to hand over to the relevant councilors and a meeting is to be scheduled with Mr. Bhengu, Mr. Media, Madame Projects, and Madame Sports. A request was made for Madame Projects to spearhead the event on behalf of the Council.

-Madame Residence raised concerns over the approval of the project without the Council’s vote. Madame SG clarified that the decision was made during the vacation period and the council exec holds the power of privilege to make decisions for the council when councilors aren’t present, further concurred by the Chair who quoted a segment in the constitution about exec powers. An argument was heard that the privilege extended only to individual portfolios and not to the whole of the council.

-Item was tabulated for consultation with the constitution. Upon re-opening, it was raised by TG that the council votes for the project while awaiting confirmation of exec powers.

-SG raised concerns over precedent on how functions will be affected in future vacs when the council is not available but exec is available. A suggestion was made by Mr. SBS that availability be requested when decisions are needed during vacation periods.

-SG directly responded by providing an example of the September SRC Activation, where the 2023 council exec. decided to adopt Zakes Bantwini as part of the event between council meetings. The council doesn’t work during exams or vac, the exec cannot wait for council to return to make decisions.

-The Chair announced that the council will vote on the matter.

A motion was raised by Mr. TG to accept the proposal, seconded by Mr. International.

The council voted and the Chair announced a consensus through the vote.

-Matter of council exec. Constitutional powers tabulated for further confirmation.

6.3 ECLB Fun Run

-The SRC was requested to assist in promoting an event and creating excitement within the student body, with Mr. Mthunzi as the organizer liaison providing most of the posters.

-Supporting arguments were presented by Madam Environment and Mr. Activism, emphasizing the event's importance in addressing alcohol abuse on campus.

-The Chair expressed concern over some council members' lack of interaction and stressed the need for engagement with documents and discussions.

-The status of the Oppidan Hall Committee as a critical stakeholder, whereas the residence house committees were not, was questioned by Madame Environment, which was justified by Mr. Oppidan using their historical involvement in the event prior to SRC involvement.

-Mr. TG raised concerns about collaborating with the liquor board conflicting with the university's "dry campus" mandate, while the Chair highlighted the event's potential to address responsible drinking without infringing on others' rights and may assist in the deconstruction of the university’s mandate.

-Mr. International argued that there was insufficient time to prepare for the event.

-The Chair opened the floor for motions to decide the way forward.

-Motion 1, to accept the proposal, was raised by Mr. SBS and seconded by Madam Environment. Motion 2, to reject the proposal, was raised by Mr. TG and seconded by Mr. International. Council voted, with Madame SG announcing that Motion 1 passed.

-A suggestion from Mr. Media to link the event to Sexual Assault Awareness Month was heard, with the VP tasked to request the adoption of this additional theme the next day (16/04/24).

6.4 Letter of Concern

-The SRC Student Development and Support Officer, Mr. Ofei, introduced the item. Mr. Ofei, after confirming the letter was a product of the Council, expressed disappointment as to the approach taken by the Council in dealing with their concerns, reminding the Council of previous discussions on strengths and weaknesses that only Council exec submitted.

-Concerns were raised about the malicious intent behind the handling of the matter by involving the Director and a lack of connection between Council members.

-Honorarium deductions were discussed as performance-based measures and most deductions came from the council using a modified operational model like that of UWC UCT, SU, and UP, with Mr. Ofei highlighting past instances where deductions were not made when previous Councils functioned well.

-Mr. Ofei noted Mr President requested an extension for submitting documents but it was not met. Mr. Ofei took responsibility for completing the reports needed by the Motsepe Foundation.

-Mr. Ofei announced his exit from the group but will continue to support through emails and appointments, attending Council meetings only upon request.

-Leadership Week was emphasized as important, with a call for commitment from Council members.

-The Chair declared the letter sent to Mr. Ofei was approved by the Council, but the involvement of the Director was a mistake on his part and excused Council.

-Mr. Ofei to provide a written response to the concerns raised.

-Madame Residence clarified misconceptions regarding allegations of the budget use.

-The VP emphasized the need for transparency regarding honorarium deductions and requested a report on their allocation.

-Mr. Ofei explained the rationale behind deductions and the appeal process, acknowledging mistakes in handling threats of deductions.

-Ms. Projects expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. Ofei’s responses and inconsistencies in deduction application, that went outside of the operational model. Claimed not purely performance-based but also punitive.

-The Chair requested formal policies regarding honorarium deductions and denounced having a strict timetable for his downtime including when taking meals.

-Mr. Ofei acknowledged mistakes and apologized for unintended intimidation, explaining his discretionary powers.

-Discussions ensued about changing the deduction system and alternative policies, with concerns about malicious intentions and the impact on trust.

-Mr. Pres addressed malicious accusations and reiterated done unintentionally.

-Mr. Ofei expressed his feelings and emphasized the importance of trust and effective SRC business management.

6.5 Student Development and Support Officer

-Upcoming policy conference for policy review. Concern expressed over exams and plan to use deduction funds for a retreat before exams where review will be discussed, task teams delegations, and involvement of alumni.

-Wednesday was proposed for an IEB policy discussion, with suggestions requested and a printer complaint addressed regarding personal use.

-Examinations were noted as criteria for determining which councilors continue their roles.

-Madame CE raised concerns about policy review and the absence of policies in certain areas, seeking clarity on whether to send or continue without policies.

-Councilors were told not to worry if policy documents were not previously existent and to continue working on them and were invited to seek assistance from Mr. Ofei if assistance is needed in preparing the policy.

-The VP requested a meeting on Thursday to discuss policy review before SWOT week.

-The Secretary-General is to send council minutes to Mr Ofei and hereinafter act as liaison for his agenda items.

2024.17.07. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2024.17.08. OTHER MATTERS OF THE AGENDA

8.1 The Constitution

-Constitution of Student Parliament under review. The content was accepted by the Senate but returned to parliament due to poor standards. An Ad-hoc committee was formed with the Speaker of the Student Parliament, the Chairs of the SDB and SDC, amongst other parliamentarians.

-Ad-hoc com to delegate council members to sections of the progress constitution to fix. No amendments are to be made.

7.2 AVEV Youth Conference

-Madame PG introduced the item as approved. Councilors invited to be South African envoys to the conference in Italy on the 17th of April.

-Motivations are required to be submitted for consideration. 4 spaces are available, 1 for the SRC Student Development and Support Officer, 1 for Mr. Media, and 2 open spaces for interested councilors.

-No questions were asked; it was for noting purposes.

7.3 Dysfunctional societies, RU Sports Day

-Madame Sports provided the Council with a list of inactive societies that failed to reach the 20+ member requirement. Requested input from Council on the way forward.

-Council heard an argument that despite policy dictating the deconstruction of the listed societies, some of the societies worked with the university’s IDP goals which should take precedence.

-Madame CE agreed, arguing societies with 15+ members should be made functional as societies also experienced technical difficulties during sign-ups, while VP argued that policy should not be ignored, and dysfunctional societies will have another opportunity to be active in the 2nd semester.

-The Chair explained why cash payments to join societies had a problematic rippling effect which is why Mrs. Kivitts is rejecting cash payments. There was a question as to why the money from dysfunctional societies could not be used to supplement the listed societies.

-The floor was opened for motions:

Motion 1, to put all societies with less than 20 members on probation for 1st semester and reopen for half subscription price in 2nd semester, was raised by Mr. SBS and seconded by Madame CE.

Motion 2, for all societies with less than 20 members to be dysfunctional, was raised by Mr. TG and seconded by Mr. VP.

Motion 3, for all societies with 15+ members to be put on probation and those with less than 15 made dysfunctional till 2nd semester, was raised by Madame Sports and seconded by Madame SG.

-The motions were motivated by their seconders and the council went to a vote.

Motion 1 received 3 votes, Motion 2 received 8 votes, Motion 3 received 3 votes and there were 2 abstainers. SG announced majority was not reached and therefore no motion passed and the existing policy [societies with less than 20 members dysfunctional] stands.

7.4 RU Sports Day & RU Con

-RU Open day on the 22nd of April, and there has been a request for SRC visibility.

-It was noted there was a tendency of Madame Sports to submit agenda items late and questions as to when the documents were received. Madame Sports later confirmed she received approval late and it was finalized at 16:03 the previous day.

-SRC involvement included assisting with the event and general visibility on the day.

-Complaints were shared over the document not reaching the council in time to interact with before meeting. Argument that preexisting precedent must stand of not considering events in meetings when concept documents are received late.

-The floor was opened to motions:

Motion 1, SRC council does not go to the event and Madame Sports and Societies send an apology with an explanation for absence to Sports Council, was raised by the Chair and seconded by Mr. International.

-It was noted that there was no formal request for SRC involvement and Madame Sports retracted the statement.

2024.17.09. HOUSEKEEPING

9.1 Year Plans

-Link available on agenda to schedule plans for the 3rd and 4th terms. Councilors invited to interact with link.

-Reminder from Madame Projects that Motsepe Foundation funds were still available to be used- which councilors should consider when setting events.

9.2 General

-Councilors are to take minutes of each meeting attended from an SRC perspective.

-It was noted that only 1 report is compiled on behalf of the SRC by Madame SG and delivered by Mr. VP to parliament.

-Student Parliament requests documents 10 days prior to seating, councilors requested to keep that in mind when submitting to SG to allow time to compile. Deadline to be communicated.

-Mr. International reported the general state of cleanliness in the offices. SG to enquire.

-Madame Sports asked for an update on keys from Madame SG, who committed to reporting the requisition by the next day.

-High theft around the office was noted and reported to the council. The Chair appealed to the council to refrain from theft, taking office items outside of the office, and to use edible office supplies within reason. An office inventory check will be conducted. Madame PGA declared her heater and Mr. SBS declared his food items kept in the office.

-Update was heard on tags by TG who said 18 had arrived instead of the expected 19.

-The general conduct at meetings was raised as a matter of concern by the Chair, who invited suggestions on how to combat it. It was concluded that meetings were long and more efforts would be placed in moving through agenda items swiftly without compromising on responsibilities.

-The Chair adjourned the meeting at 22:55

2024.17.10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 **22 April 2024, 18h30 in the RA Room**.