**Minutes for Student Representative Council Meeting held on the 12th of April 2021 in the RA room**

**Time Started**: 18:00

**Time Adjourned**: 20:47

**2021.04.01. Present**

1.01. Ms. L Nkambule 1.09. Ms. M Matariro

1.02. Ms. H Mpiti 1.10. Ms. I Ngutyana

1.03. Ms. T Phiri 1.11. Ms. T Hlako

1.04. Mr. L Cezula 1.12. Ms. V Moyo

1.05. Ms. L Leboho 1.13. Mr N Mkhulisa

1.06. Ms. N Mwenye

1.07. Ms. Z Gcumisa

1.08. Mr M Khopeli

**2021.04.02. Leave of Absence**

The following councillors submitted apologies: Ms. M Makokove

Ms. L Gqamana-Mngeni

Ms. C Mude

**2021.04.03. Confirmation of minutes**

There were amendments to the previous meeting’s minutes which will be confirmed at the next council meeting.

**2021.04.04. Matters arising:**

4.1. #KnowYourRights Campaign

4.2. State of the University Address

* 1. Environmental Councillor Projects
  2. Health and Safety Meeting Updates
  3. Feenix Feedback
  4. Year Plan Report (Discarded)
  5. Term Report Review (Discarded)

**2021.04.05. Other matters arising:**

5.1. Gender Action Forum feedback

5.2. Council photoshoot

5.3. Student debt relief fund and Studentpreneur

5.4. Graduation proposal feedback

**2021.04.06. Conflict Declaration**

* No councillor declared conflict of interest.

**Discussions**

* The President started the meeting by stating that agenda items which deal specifically with proposals must be given the formality of being discussed in a council meeting and the proposal must be submitted well in advance so that council has time to engage. We cannot engage on the WhatsApp group regarding proposals.

**#KnowYourRights Campaign**

* The President:
  + - Stated that the Rhodes University Economic Student Society (RUESS) was requested to organize the guest speaker and the SRC would be responsible for organising panellists.
    - A document was submitted by the President to RUESS and there was no engagement or amendment from RUESS.
    - The Chairperson of RUESS proposed an alternative format to the discussion where there would breakaway rooms and stated that the SRC can continue with the current format without RUESS or we can collaborate on their proposed format.
    - Proposed that we continue without them.
    - Spoke to RMR regarding booking equipment for the discussion.
* The Vice President:
  + - Requested feedback from the Projects Manager who was tasked to invite Sanele kaNtshingana as a speaker.
    - Requested feedback from the Treasurer-General (*in absentia*) regarding a quotation.
    - Stated that she had sent an email to Zuko Cawe and stated that they would respond before the end of the day.
* The President:
  + - Stated that she had communicated with Mlamuli Hlatshwayo and she was awaiting a response.
    - Communicated with Malaika Mahlatsi via Facebook to request for her email address.
    - Stated that infographics could not be made because speakers had not yet been confirmed except for Nhlakanipho Mahlangu but rather suggested to send an invite to the event.
* The Vice President requested that the brief for the invite had to be submitted to the Media Team through the Media Councillor.
* The Projects Manager:
  + - Stated that she had requested access to the #KnowYourRights Campaign document submitted by the President and that access had only been granted on the day of the council meeting and that she will schedule the emails to be sent out the following morning.
* The President:
  + - stated that she had acquired a joint quotation from RMR for the State of the University address and the #KnowYourRights campaign.
* The Vice President enquired with regards to whether or not there was a cap for remuneration of speakers because she had already communicated with some speakers that there will be remuneration.
* The President stated that the remuneration of speakers would be in the discretion of the President and the Treasurer-General.
* The International Affairs Councillor enquired about when the deadline will be for submitting the brief regarding the invitation.
  + - She suggested that we start advertising informing students of the #KnowYourRights Campaign on Friday 16 April and then at a later stage, another poster will be sent out once the speakers have been confirmed.
* The Postgraduate Affairs Councillor:
  + - Enquired about whether the President had portfolio funds that would cater for the remuneration of the speakers.
    - Asked whether we had enquired if the speakers would work pro bono to which the President then replied to say that the cost would be deducted from SRC funds because it is an closing event from the SRC and that some speakers said that they did not want to be paid for their services but did encourage that we pay them because it is their intellectual property that we’ll be using.
* The Sports and Societies Councillor:
  + - Asked how long in advance we need to submit briefs to the Media councillor.
    - Secondly, he said he had informed the EFFSC of our request to deploy someone for the event but has not received any feedback. He was then advised to reach out to the chairperson and vice-chairperson to request them to please draw their attention to the request from the SRC.
* The Media Councillor said that a brief would need to be submitted at least two weeks before and exceptions would only be made in case of emergencies.
* The Vice-President enquired from the Media Councillor how the traction would be built for the #KnowYourRightsCampaign, but there was no official answer that was given because of the preparation for the State of the University Address.
* The Residence Councillor requested that we submit a proposal so that the Media Team is able to return in order to assist the SRC.
* The Postgraduate Affairs Councillor suggested that the Media Councillor “delegate” the duty to other councillors to mitigate her workload.
* The Academic Councillor had a counter-submission because it would be difficult to hold people accountable in that regard. She suggested however that we have a virtual Media Team to assist with posters and other online content.
* The Vice-President rejected the suggestion saying that everyone has to submit their briefs in time so that the Media Councillor has enough time to do as expected.
* Sports and Societies made an amendment to the Postgraduate Affairs suggestion and said that it would not be delegation per se but rather that the Media Councillor would guide the specific councillor on how to make a poster. (This would only be the case the when Councillor had submitted a brief late).

**State of the University Address**

* The President spoke to people from RMR and they agreed to assist in streaming the session live. She further went to say that the aesthetic to be used is similar to the one of the virtual graduation.
* Ray from RMR suggested that we have it in the RA for convenience for him to set up but a final decision had to not been made because there needed to be a comparison of lighting.
* The Media Councillor requested to send the poster out now because waiting for 21:00 would be too late which the President in her capacity as chairperson granted.
* The Vice-President explained that the executive wanted to have countdown posters down for the SOTUA. She further went on to say that she would draft the difference between the SOTUA and a student body meeting then send it to the Media Councillor to create an infographic or a post so that students are informed.

**Environmental Councillor Projects**

The Environmental Councillor requested:

* that Council maintain momentum with the recycling competition as a way to encourage people to keep making their eco-bricks.
* She, the Media Councillor and the Vice-President are working on an article that will sent to council next week to discuss.

**Feedback and Updates**

**Health and Safety Meeting**

* The Environmental Councillor sat in the meeting on the 12th of April.
  + She enquired about the water refilling and the filtration of the water tanks to which they replied and said it was not their duty. She was however assured that the water is disinfected.
  + She spoke to Dawie about the issue and they are continuously in discussion on the issue.
  + The Residence Councillor will collaborate with the Environmental Councillor.

**Gender Action Forum**

* + The Activism and Transformation Councillor attended a meeting in the previous week and:
    - She noted that attendance was poor as only 4 people attended.
    - There will be an Instagram page created to raise awareness on gender issues on campus.
    - She encouraged Council to enrol to the GenAct page on RUConnected and she will send the link for this.
  + The International Affairs Councillor suggested that the Activism and Transformation Councillor speak to her sub-structures to gain numbers for enrolment.
  + The President then encouraged all other Councillors to have their sub-structures enrol.

**Council Photoshoot**

* The Media Councillor said we need to reschedule the date when we can do the shoot so we don’t inconvenience the Head of Photography.
* The President raised questions on the uniform of the new Oppidan Councillor and then there was a suggestion that we ask alumni for a blazer and get temporary uniform for her from other councillors.
* There was a request for a change in photographer.
* No make-up will be done in the venue.
* The confirmed time was Sunday 14:00 and priority will be given to people with commitments.

**Liquor Board Meeting**

The President and International Affairs Councillor attended the meeting;

* The aim was to raise awareness on substance abuse.
* They want us to initiate a project together and the President suggested to focus on it at one of the Purple Thursday Events.
* We will have a meeting with the relevant stakeholders at a later stage.

**Oppidan Bus**

* The President explained how the delay with this was because Ma’am Noma was on leave.
* The executive wanted to avail a bus but was advised against it because of the overall cost but we can rather have the DSA cater for the cost.

**NSFAS Book Allowance**

* The President received a letter from the CFO explaining how book allowances were going to work considering that purchases were made for learning material.
* The Postgraduate Affairs Councillor said that in speaking with management we need to prioritise students who are most needy of the book allowance.
* The Community Engagement councillor asked what our overall stance is on the issue of book allowances.
* The Vice President says firstly students need to be accountable for the laptops that they bought, but we can try and have payment plans. If the university remains adamant then we can ask what measures they have in place to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by the fact that they don’t have their full allowance.
* The President said she would request to have a meeting with the CFO to discuss the issue of book allowances.
* The Postgraduate Affairs Councillor suggested that we use accounting pass rate statistics to support our point.

**The meeting was adjourned and the next meeting is to be held on the 19th of April in the RA Room at 18:00!!**