**Minutes: Rhodes University SRC General Meeting held on the 19th of April 2021**

**Time Started**: 18:00

**Time Adjourned**: 22:15

**Venue**: RA Room, Steve Biko Building

**2021.03.01. Present**

- Ms. L Nkambule - Ms M Matariro

- Ms. H Mpiti - Ms. T Phiri

- Ms. M Makokove - Ms I Ngutyana

- Ms. L Mngeni - Ms. C Mude

- Ms. L Leboho - Ms. T Hlako

- Ms. N Mwenye - Ms. V Moyo

- Ms. Z Gcumisa - Mr N Mkhulisa

- Ms. L Cezula - Mr M Khopeli

**2021.03.02. Leave of Absence**

- All councillors were present for the meeting.

2021.03.03. Other matters arising

2021.03.04. Confirmation of previous minutes

**2021.03.05. Conflict Declaration**

No councillor declared conflict of interest.

**2021.03.06. Matters Arising**

                        6.1.  Graduation first Draft amendments and additions

                        6.2. Skills Support Mentorship Programme

                        6.3. Motivate Me Monday Proposal

                        6.4. Institutional Planning Committee

**2021.03.07. Matter Arising from the SRC Executive**

7.1. Learning Material and Allowance

7.2. Phased in Approach

7.3. Oppidan Bus

7.4. Vacation

7.5. Laptops

7.6. SRC Brand Ambassadors

7.7. Senior Management Meet and Greet

7.8. Academic Concessions

7.9. Council Bomber Jackets

**2021.03.08. Upcoming Events**

                      8.1 Know Your Rights Campaign

                     8.2 O week CE Extravaganza

                      8.3. SRC Community Interaction Programme

**2021.03.09. Report Backs**

                     9.1. Humanities Faculty Board Meeting

**2021.03.10. Date and time of next meeting**

                     03 May 2021 at 18:00 in the RA room

**Agenda 6.1: Graduation First Draft Amendments and Additions**

* Academics Councillor reported that she had a meeting with Professor Moodley last week Friday (16 April 2021) regarding the communication document pertaining to an in-person graduation along with the Vice Chancellor and Covid-19 task team. She expressed that she is to continue with the proposal but create no expectations with the student body.
* It was also mentioned that the following bodies will be sitting on these dates:

SENEX on 25 May, SENATE on 04 June and the University Council on 10 June.

* The Secretary General stated that the communication document contains grammatical and titles errors and requires corrections e.g. page 3 (Kula Tech).
* The Vice President also noted grammatical corrections should be done before the 5th of May.
* Madam President suggested that the communication document be made into a Google document for easy access and contribution from the rest of council. She also noted that contributions and corrections should be done at least a week before the 25th of May before the document is presented to SANEX.
* The Media Councillor stated that the monument does not have internet and should be removed as an option and rather find an alternative venue like the Great Field.
* Projects Manager stated that the Great Field will require tents for the weather and other additions for the graduation set-up.
* Sports and Societies Councillor stated that Prospect Field has Wi-Fi.
* Treasurer-General suggested getting quotes for tents that will be used in the field.
* Madam President highlighted that the SRC is not responsible for graduation finances.
* The Vice President asked Academics Councillor to meet and update the relevant stakeholders.
* Madam President highlighted that in the proposal for contact graduation: any inconsistencies should be fixed and motivation from the students can be included. She also raised a concern about the healthcare and infrastructure of Makhanda (water shortage) impacting the phasing in of students, the benchmarking wasn’t comprehensive, statistics should be included and now that the rollout of the vaccine has been halted, where do we find ourselves now?
* Sports and Societies Councillor asked that the amended document should be run past council and additions in the Google document should be made in color and not changes of the actual content.
* The Vice President expressed that a date is to be given to the Secretary General for the date and agenda with SANEX.
* The Academic Councillor stated that she will be having a meeting this week with Ms Nomgi, Ms Flanagan and Ms Wicks and will provide feedback next week.

**Agenda 6.2 Skills Support Programme**

Academic Councillor raised the following points:

* The Ncedani Programme is only for first year students, students need academic mentors and that pairing will begin in the second term. The advert for this program will go out in the next four days.
* Madam President asked the Academic Councillor to clarify the purpose of the programme and that residents should be utilised for advertising programme.
* The Vice President asked that the difference between the discussion groups and mentoring be highlighted.
* The Media Councillor asked how the issue of more mentees and less mentors will be mitigated.
* The Community Engagement Councillor suggested that the matter be moved to the faculty board and that faculty representatives can spearhead the programme. He also asked what the main goal and key indicators to measure success of the programme were and that training for mentors be organised.
* The Residence Councillor suggested copying fundraising strategies from other departments for the programme.
* The Post-Graduate Affairs Councillor said she was willing to work with the Academic Councillor by incorporating postgraduate students in mentoring and “remove the gap” that exists between undergraduates and postgraduates.
* The International Affairs Councillor suggested peer mentoring between students in the same years or a “top-down” approach where students in senior years mentor those in years below theirs.
* The Secretary General suggested that posters and virtual links be made for those who are not on campus. She also asked the Academic Councillor what is the feasibility of facilitating personality tests.
* The Treasurer-General expressed her support for certification for mentoring, suggested that departments should head mentoring to avoid discrepancy and to be careful of side-lining or separating people based on personality.
* The Students Benefits and Sponsorships Councillor asked the Activism Councillor how this program was different from existing mentoring in faculty e.g. TAI mentoring programme
* The Residence Councillor in response to Student Benefits Councillor stated that this would be departmental mentoring and not from the faculty.
* The Academics Councillor stated that mentoring can be collaborated with discussion groups and expressed concern that departments sometimes do not respond on time but she will contact the class representatives to try to get students on board.
* Madam President asked that the objectives of the skills programme be made clear, that the issue of some departments not having class representatives should be brought to the fore and that Madam Activism can inquire Mr Ofei of different avenues.

**Agenda 6.3 Motivate Me Monday**

* The Academic Councillor suggested the use of motivational quotes.
* The International Affairs Councillor stated that the emails are too long and suggested that to prevent it from being monotonous, it should be every fortnight.
* Community Engagement Councillor stated that instead of using just quotes, videos can also be made by councillors.
* Madam President suggested that the posts be context specific.
* Media Councillor said the posts will be shared as stories and not on the feed and will be saved as highlights.
* Treasurer-General proposed that students can also share motivations in order to create engagement.
* Post-Graduate Affairs Councillor added that well-known people among the students as well as high academic achievers can also share motivations.
* Sports and Societies Councillor added that lecturers and wardens may also be included and that the posts should be inclusive of the student body.
* The Vice President suggested that “phenomenal” people who have experienced academic challenges can also be included.
* The Academic Councillor suggested having a Q & A for engagement and interaction with the student body.

**Lead Meeting with Mr Ofei 19:00pm-19:25pm**

* Mr Ofei stated that the meeting is to be held in two sessions for Lead Presentations. He suggested a day either Friday evening or Saturday afternoon/evening.
* Council reached a consensus of one Friday per month from 18:00pm to 20:00pm.

Mr Ofei also raised the following matters:

* Requested meeting with councillors to discuss their year plans
* To link overall ideas and plans to the university and DSA’s goals
* Ms Veronica’s visit to discuss strategic dates
* Approval of IEB members by council
* Madam President raised a query of representation of SRC Alumni in the IEB as well as the decision to have the IEB vs IEC at Rhodes.
* The Vice President also requested clarity on why the people in the IEB were selected.
* Mr Ofei explained that once in previous years, the university spent almost R100 000 on the IEC, election budgets are low and that the current IEB is not getting paid.
* Madam President requested for the policy.
* Mr Ofei stated that the council can nominate next year’s members and that policy will be drafted that gives council members two weeks of leave with pay without deductions.

**15-minute recess from 19:25pm-19:40pm**

**Agenda 6.4: Institutional Planning Committee** 

Activism Councillor stated that there was no agenda only minutes as follows from meeting with the Institutional Planning Committee:

* Plans to make Intetho Zobomi a prerequisite for some subjects
* Wants to know if this should be moved to Class A Matter with Senate
* There is a proposal for a new diploma in sustainability in learning for post-graduates.
* The COVID task team communicates to student’s decision however it is not responsible for inter-level movements
* The next meeting is on the 3rd of May.
* Madam President encouraged Activism Councillor to prepare for the meeting with the Institutional Planning Committee and add on the agenda what to discuss.
* International Affairs Councillor asked why Intetho Zobomi will be a prerequisite.
* Sports and Societies Councillor expressed dissatisfaction with COVID task team and that they should have been altered earlier regarding who is responsible for moving the university between levels 3 and 1.
* The Vice President mentioned that herself and Madam Activism sit in on the Institutional Planning Committee (IPC), that the Covid task team acts as an advisor to the university and put out the call for any agenda items to be submitted by the 23rd of April for the meeting on the 3rd of May.
* Sport and Societies Councillor asked that societies events be added to that IPC agenda and also requested to be present in the meeting. He also mentioned that he would like to meet with society chairs before the agenda is submitted.
* The Vice President replied by saying any documentation that will be included in that meeting should be sent by Friday, 23 April by midday.
* Post-Graduate Affairs Councillor asked if there are any plans to fund/ provide incentives for post-graduate students who will be pioneering the diploma
* Madam Academics raised a concern of representation in course materials and made an example of how there are fewer illnesses represented on black people than people of other races.
* The President responded to this concern by stating that representation issues in academia are handled by the Equity Committee.

**2021.03.07. Matter Arising from the SRC Executive**

Madam President reported the following matters:

* 1. **Learning material and allowance**
* The meeting with the CFO went well however there are concerns that some students did not receive their full allowance and asked for a way to mitigate this situation.
  1. **Phased in Approach**
* Some students are returning through the social justice approach
* Students should send emails to the return query to receive permits from the DVC
  1. **Oppi bus**
* No service providers have been found yet but hopeful that the tender phase will begin next term
  1. **Vacation**
* Vacation stay is charged on the student’s account for both NSFAS and self-funded students and any incurred debt will lead to withheld June results.
  1. **Laptops**
* Laptops to be courier to students at home.
  1. **SRC brand ambassadors**
* University will collaborate with SRC as brand ambassadors in hopes of bringing back Rhodes brand. Council will be given hoodies, tracksuits etc.
  1. **Meet and greet with senior management**
* Due to Covid regulations, the meet and greet will be conducted virtually on Friday 23 April at 18:00pm.
  1. The Secretary General reported on academic concessions and stated that councillors cannot miss meetings for academic schedules and that all councillors should check emails and follow due procedure.
  2. The Treasurer General requested for council’s bomber jacket size before 8am on Friday 23 April.

**2021.03.08. Upcoming Events**

**Agenda 8.1: KnowYourRights**

* Madam President stated that the #KnowYour RightsCampaign was to launch on 22 April 2021. This campaign will discuss Free Education from an economic and political point of view, with each speaker presenting for 10 minutes with a 5-minute Q & A. Madam President also asked for the council to volunteer/ step up to host the event.
* The Vice President asked that a brief be sent to the speakers regarding dress code and time and also what the quotes are for payments.
* The President stated that any quote higher than R1500 may be too high and the event will be online as no face to face has been organised.
* Student Benefits Councillor asked for clarity on portfolio funds asking from which portfolio the payments would come from.
* President clarified that this is an SRC committee program.
* Student Benefits Councillor suggested they use the feedback from the State of the University Address.
* The Treasurer-General suggested using stories for the Q & A for guests and that for uniformity all speakers must be virtual.
* Sports and Societies Councillor proposed for face to face contact should be organised for the event.
* Madam International Affairs disagreed with the Q & A citing that getting questions from the student body beforehand is not viable since they do not know what the speakers will address.
* The President motioned to move the #KnowYourRights campaign to different day and that speakers should pre-record their discussion in preparation for flu season.
* Council reached consensus to move the campaign
* Student Benefits Councillor suggested that the first Thursday of the term be used for the campaign and that new content is prepared for 22 April to fill that slot.
* Projects Manager requested communication regarding changes be sent to the speakers.

**Agenda 8.2: Community Engagement Extravaganza**

* Community Engagement Councillor stated that the extravaganza will be over two days
* Wednesday from 13:30-15:00 talking about ‘Who is the community?’ and Thursday from 13:30- 14:30 talking about ‘Volunteering’. Both days will have a Q & A of 10 minutes. The social innovation hub is booked for both days.

**Scavenger Hunt**

Community Engagement Councillor stated the following

* The scavenger hunt is continuing from orientation week and only first years will be eligible for the prizes although everyone can attend. The same link will be opened Thursday from 15:00- 19:00pm.
* The posters for marketing will be ready tomorrow for approval
* RUCE will also be sharing it on their pages.

Madam International Affairs suggested that community engagement representatives can help with advertising to students in residents.

Sports and Societies Councillor suggested that the prizes be split for the extravaganza (20 on Wednesday and 20 on Thursday).

**Agenda 8.3: Community Interaction Program**

* Community Engagement Councillor reported the following:
* The SRC mentorship program is with Ntsika High School and each councillor will have two mentees
* Training for mentors will be on ethical leadership
* The SRC will also be working with Fikizolo primary school in their food garden along with the Environmental Councillor to address food security
* T-Shirt sizes to be worn for community engagement are requested as soon as possible
* Requested suggestions for a suitable day to attend programs
* Mentors will meet mentees once a month for two hours and continue on virtual platforms
* The Vice President requested that orientation be mandatory.
* President suggested that the council also log in engagement hours for Vuka Makana and that the council should wear SRC T-shirts for community engagements.
* Community Engagement Councillor said he will consult Sis Nosi to find out about the NGF certificate accreditation for mentoring

**2021.03.09. Report Backs**

* 1. Humanities Higher Grade Committee
* Academic Councillor reported that the no SRC member is meant to sit in the Higher Degrees committee.
* Environmental Councillor suggested having term articles published, she had a meeting with the director of Grocotts Mail and that the article is due on the 4th of May.
* The Vice President suggested using a google document so council may engage with the article.
* Projects Manager reported on meeting with alumni and stakeholders with interest to work with the SRC on Purple Thursday and also to have an interactive website to show what they do. The document will be sent to the Secretary General.
* The Post-Graduate Councillor expressed that the green bag engagement from councillors was disappointing however engagement from the postgraduate student populace has been great.
* Student Benefits Councillor reported that the meeting with Alzan is moved up and that councillors also did not engage.

**Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 22:15pm.