**Minutes: Rhodes University SRC General Meeting held on the 3rd of May 2021**

**Time Started**: 18:00

**Time Adjourned**: 21:22pm

**Venue**: SRC Offices, 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**

* 1. Meeting with Elzaan
  2. Opening of seminar rooms and computer labs
  3. SWOT Week and Class Reps
  4. SRC Fun day and access to the gym

**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. Disability Events (Diverse Ability)

                        6.2 Commencement of the SRC Lalelani Show

                        6.3. Grocotts Mail Letter

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

7.1. Game plan for term 2

**2021.03.08. Upcoming Events**

                      8.1 Know Your Rights Campaign

                     8.2. Disability Events (Diverse Ability)

8.3. Student Parliament

**2021.03.09. Report Backs**

                     9.1. Feedback from graduation meeting

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

                     10 May 2021 at 18:00, venue TBC

**Agenda 3.1 Meeting with Elzaan**

* Madam Student Benefits asked that the council agree on a date and time to meet with Elzaan.
* Consensus was 19th of May at 14:00pm
* Madam Student Benefits said she will send an email to council and Cc Elzaan.

**Agenda 3.2 Opening of seminar rooms and computer labs**

* Oppidan Councillor asked what can the SRC do concerning seminar rooms and computer labs.
* Madam President stated that she will raise the concern with the DSA this week for the purposes of study since it is exam term
* Student Benefits councillor also asked that other venues be open for contact e.g., tutors who want to have face to face.
* Treasurer General stated that it will be difficult to monitor that students adhere to covid-19 regulations in other venues rather they can ask that main library and other labs’ opening hours be extended back to normal.
* Madam President said she will raise these concerns along with the oppi bus.

**Agenda 3.3 SWOT Week and Class Reps**

Madam Academic stated the following:

* Wednesday there will be a zoom meeting for faculty and class representatives
* SWOT week is said to start on the 19- 22nd of June with exams starting on Wednesday
* We would ask the academic reps in residents and class representatives to ask students if SWOT week should be extended however this could mean that this cuts into the vacation days
* Madam Activism stated that some departments have sit down exams
* Madam Student Benefits suggested to move SWOT week from 21-24th June and exams start on June 25 but it should not include the weekend.
* Madam Academics said after the faculty board meeting, she will figure out where and who to contact and consult the Registrar.
* Treasurer General said whatever decision is made must be within the scheduled time so that time is not extended because it may cause issues later in the year.
* Madam Academics suggested that SWOT week start on the 17-22 June excluding the weekend to keep the 4 days of SWOT week while ensuring that exams still start on the 25th of June as planned that means cutting back on the term time for submissions.
* Madam Environmental asked what measures will be put in place to ensure this because some departments may still insist on submissions.
* Madam President said in response that directive from the Deans should be heeded by all departments.

**Agenda 3.4SRC Fun day and access to the gym**

Sports and Societies Councillor shared the following:

* An agenda has been sent to Mr Felix and the sports council and it is approved
* He is investigating how the SRC gym privilege came to be included in the institution and will try reach the 2019 SRC president.
* The current privilege for gym is a bronze membership
* This has been tabled and confirmed on the agenda of his next meeting
* Madam Student Benefits suggests that SRC membership be upgraded to gold and that the reconnected page sign up for gym does not specify which membership you are signing up for.
* Sports and Societies councillor stated that gym is operating at 50% capacity, so everyone is signed up for bronze because everyone must book daily/ weekly.
* Treasurer General asked if councillors would use the gym
* Madam President noted a consensus that membership should be upgraded to gold and that it is not about how many councillors will attend but also to set precedence for upcoming SRC. She asked that motivations be sent to Sports and Societies councillors.

**Agenda 4 Confirmation of previous minutes**

* 16 April: confirmed by the Community Engagement Councillor and seconded by the Vice President.
* 12 April: Student Benefits Councillor pointed out that the feedback made by her before the meeting adjourned was not included in the minutes. Madam Projects Management confirmed the minutes and the Community Engagement Councillor seconded.
* 19 April: Madam Student Benefits asked that Elzaan’s name be correctly spelled and that under Agenda 6.2 the TIA mentorship program is for extended studies in all faculties. Madam Academics confirmed the minutes and Madam Environmental seconded.

**Agenda 6.1 Disability Events (Diverse Ability)**

* The Vice President spoke on diverse ability stating that they are working with the DSA (Veronica) task team and the counselling centre (Christine). The event will have a program similar to the Treasure Hunt and will be online including the speakers address.
* The event will be on Saturday (8th May) from 10:00am to 14:00pm online and during the lunch hour, the council will be at the Kaif to give party pack to Oppidans who will be on campus to encourage them to join the event.
* The SRC banner will also be put up on Thursday for Purple Thursday and this time will be used to encourage students to join the online event Saturday
* Vice President asked support from the council as well as Madam Projects Management to help by forwarding pictures of speakers (for infographics) and Madam Media to take pictures.
* Vice President noted that there were issues securing the speakers, but an email has been sent.
* Madam Media stated that she just needs pictures of the speakers and the infographics will be ready.
* Madam Environmental asked if Madam VP had applied for the event considering that the university may say it’s a physical meeting.
* Madam Vice President stated that it was agreed to be a Zoom meeting.
* Sports and Societies Councillor asked who is paying for the lights and sound for the event and the sound for Purple Thursday.
* Madam Activism replied that the lights and sound were only going to be for a contact event but now that the DSA will help, it will be online.
* Madam Vice President added that the speakers will be in their offices so there will be no need for sound and light and they will use the DSA’s webinar that was used during O-Week for the event and that for Purple Thursday, they will speak to Ray to try secure 2 speakers and connect a phone for an hour and will confirm this tomorrow (4th May).
* Madam Student Benefits asked if the party packs will be quotes or sponsorship and when will the duties for the SRC on Saturday will be made available.
* Madam Projects responded saying the party packs are done in quotes.
* Vice President added that Veronica is only available Wednesday after 16:00pm and the schedule will be made available then.
* Sports and Societies Councillor asked who is paying for the food considering that they are working with the DSA and counselling centre.
* Madam President suggested that they push for the other two stakeholders to cover everything.
* Vice President mentioned that the DSA is already covering the zoom webinar and setup
* Madam President asked that the document is reworked and updated to articulate the current plans and asked the naming of the program.
* Madam Activism explained that the name of the program is meant to be inclusive of all different abilities.

**Agenda 6.2. SRC Lalelani Show**

* Madam Media reported that she spoke to Ray about getting the show started. The Council needs to send a proposal to Ray on why the show is necessary. She also stated that if Ray rejects the proposal, council may appeal via registrar. Furthermore, Madam Media suggested that as part of the content, council can send voice notes with their updates related to their portfolio etc.
* Community Engagement councillor stated that this platform could be used to push the SRC’s visibility and help increase the listenership of RMR by engaging students. He also suggested that in the came of the proposal declined, the council can also look at having an SRC podcast or other creative ways.
* Madam Academic asked if the motivation for the show can also include the next SRC council.
* Sports and Societies councillor asked when does the show start and does the council have a say in which slots, they prefer and who is paying for the show slots.
* Madam Media responded to Madam Academic’s question stating that they cannot include that as the next council’s objectives may not align with the show. She also responded saying that they cannot choose their own slot as the station has shows already running so they will be allocated an available time. She also requested that councillors suggest content ideas and that of the 2 hours of the show, the first hour can be used to address pertinent student issues.
* Madam Activism asked if the show will be weekly.
* President noted a consensus that all councillors agree to go ahead with the show. She suggested that the show be central to student concerns as an engaged and proactive SRC as per the mission and vision.
* Madam Media also stated that Ray also included that the show should include PR of other student and general events. She further expressed that the show may potentially be declined if there is no PR.
* Madam Student Benefits expressed she was against Ray’s idea and that it was not aligned with the SRC’s vision and instead the show can include PR for the SRC, student artists, student-preneurs and university updates. She suggested asking Mr Ofei to push for an appeal should the show be rejected by Ray.
* Madam Academics said the council can use RMR as an additional platform along with the other platforms the council is using to engage students.
* Madam Environmental suggested using RMR to promote the SRC reconnected page and include in the content social ideas that will make them an approachable SRC.
* Vice President suggested that the show should be at 19:00pm during the week (no weekends) and not to use voice notes for the SRC updates because of sound quality and asked if the Lalelani name can be changed. She expressed that the running order can be revised and that the show starts with pertinent issues before the chilled content and promotion of other things including sponsors.
* Community Engagement councillor also disagrees with Ray’s concept and that the show should focus on student concerns.
* President expressed that in as much we will be using the show for PR, but the PR will be aligned with a political agenda and student concerns first and that should be stated in the motivation and proposal. Furthermore, the voice note idea is a good way of keeping accountability and will be continued (the voice notes will be played on air during the show).
* Madam Activism asked that if the council can choose a slot, they can try choosing with Purple Thursday in mind.
* Vice President and Madam Post Graduate Affairs said they disagree with the voice note concept.
* Madam Post Graduate Affairs expressed concerns of bullying on air.
* Madam Media explained that the shows are pre-planned and that the councillors will not call in but send voice notes prior the show so they can be made into a package.

**Agenda 6.3 Grocott’s Mail**

Madam Environmental proposed the following:

* using Grocotts Mail to raise eco-consciousness among students.
* Introduce termly articles on SRC ruconnected and Grocotts Mail for community engagement
* Create awareness on campus issues taken from environmental policy
* Once a term, release an article which builds up on previous articles and a pilot article will be given to Sue. An example could be the theory of Covid-19 and its impact on environmental decay
* Have a progress report and pictures on how programs were conducted etc.
* 2nd and 3rd can include an update of running programs, how to engage those programs and mitigate if there is no engagement.
* 4th term can include the closing remarks and/or reports on projects from dining halls etc. who were environmentally conscious.
* Residence Councillor asked how content will circulate to students and greater community.
* Madam Environmental explained that plans (like beach and city clean ups, eco-brick competitions etc.) will also include the community
* Madam Student Benefits suggested sharing the various links on the SRC pages to create awareness so that at the end of the year they can check the engagement statistics
* President mentioned that the article byline will be the SRC Environmental Councillor’s name.
* Community Engagement suggested the following:
* articles can also include things that people can do at home to be environmentally conscious
* that other people as sources of knowledge should also be credited on the byline
* include collaborations with the community/ PR stunt using SRC events
* Secretary General suggested that the media writing team helps with writing the articles to keep a consistent writing style.
* Madam Media stated that the media writing team research and write the articles. Furthermore, to gain more traction they can involve other media houses like Activate/ Oppidan Press to publish articles as well as on their websites.
* Madam President asked that council make amendments in the environmental article.
* Madam Environmental said that the final edit is tomorrow with the Community Engagement councillor to include the voice of the community and should be ready by 12pm (4th May).

**Agenda 7.1 Game plan for term 2**

Madam President raised the following points:

* Resolutions by secretariate and executive: the SRC council did not recognize the structure and should revisit that these branches do
* Council should consistently revisit the vision and mission for the 2021 SRC.
* Councillors should ask themselves why they ran for council and their capacity
* A general template should be created for general issues e.g. the passing of a student to prevent communication taking long
* Councillors will revisit same groups during SRC monthly visitations as led by the President, Vice President and Secretary General.
* Secretariate will have a meeting once every beginning of the month and Executive every second and last week of the month.
* Councillor’s year plans must have a specific timeline and Treasurer General added that these must also have a specific financial proposal
* Councillors should consult the RU alumni office and Mr Ofei for advice on planning
* Councillors should keep abreast of current issues being aware of the geographical context
* Secretary General asked that all the proposals sent to the Vice President should also include the Treasurer General
* Treasurer General asked that event proposals and quote be sent 10 days before actual event.
* Secretary General said the updated yearly calendar will be sent.

**Lead Meeting with Mr Ofei 19:50- 20:21pm**

Mr Ofei raised the following:

* Councillors need to rework yearly plans and include objectives, performance and reports
* Secretariate includes the President, Vice President, Secretary General and Treasurer General and is responsible for the performance, monitoring and administrative.
* Secretary General schedules meetings, submits reports, the Vice President attends cluster meetings and monitors projects, and the Treasurer General is the council’s financial advisor.
* The SAUS affiliation was not a good idea, and the council should reject some invitations and should be strategic in the application for which events to attend.
* Lead meeting moved to next week Friday, 14th of May 18:00-20:00pm.

**Agenda 8.1 Know Your Rights Campaign**

* 13th of May confirmed for the Know Your Rights campaign
* President said to apply for the physical venue and communicate with arranged speakers
* Community Engagement councillor said you only need 48 hours to apply for a venue
* Secretary General stated that venues in Steve Biko are under construction, so they need to inquire other venues

**Agenda 8.2. Disability Event (Diverse Ability)**

* 8th of May confirmed for Diverse Ability event

**Agenda 8.3. Student Parliament**

Madam President stated the following:

* The Student Parliamentary seating will be on the 17th of May at 19:00p,
* She hopes by then to have all faculty and SRC hall representatives
* It will be virtual
* A document will be sent to Secretary General to circulate what to expect in student parliament.

**Agenda 9.1 Feedback from graduation meeting**

Madam Academics stated the following:

* On 23 April, she had a meeting with Ms Wicks and concluded to go ahead with the proposal and submit it to her first although Ms Wicks noted that the event is a great risk.
* They discussed that they would need to have two ceremonies a day, sanitize venues and consider the parking situation for Great Field (does not have parking space like the Monument).
* Furthermore, they would need to determine how much screening people outside the country will be and that screening should not exceed 72 hours and that students should be allowed 2 parents to attend.
* They also need to consider how long screening will take vs the health checks
* Madam President asked council to engage the document.
* Secretary General said by 7th May councillors need to have engaged the document
* Vice President stated that Suzette from Registrar and Health & Safety have not yet communicated but updates will follow.

**Points of departure**

* The Vice President will be on leave from the 4-10 May, councillors may still email but must Cc the Secretary General and Madam Activism and Community Engagement will head the Activism event.

**Agenda 10: Date and time of next meeting**

* 10 May 18:00pm, venue TBC.