

# MINUTES | Rhodes University SRC General Meeting

**DATE:** 27th September 2018 SRC Council Meeting

**TIME:** 19h36

**VENUE:** SRC Offices, Steve Biko (Union) Building

**CHAIR:** Mister Secretary General

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**Comment [WU1]:** Meeting began late because of compulsory talk which the Council had to attend

## ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & ABSENTEES

- APOLOGIES:
  - o President: Nhlakanipho Mahlangu (called Secretary General saying that she was going to Pretoria; did not mention reason)
  - o Vice-President: Kudakwashe Chingono (on leave)
  - o Academic Councilor: Siyabonga Malaza
  - o Environmental Councilor: Luthando Dayimani
  - o International Affairs Councilor: Nadia Engelbrecht (would be late for the meeting)
- All other Council Members were present. No further apologies.
- Secretary General noted that Council members had been excusing themselves from Council engagements through Mr. Eric Ofei; in respect hereof, Secretary General noted that Mr. Ofei does not have the final say about the legitimacy of excuses – this is a power belonging to the Council

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 17 SEPTEMBER 2018

- Community Engagement Councilor asked for the attendance of Council members at that meeting to be added to the minutes

- International Affairs Councilor noted that she had attended a **Constitutional Review** and not an Institutional Review as per the minutes
- Student Benefits Councilor confirmed the minutes, with Sports and Societies Councilor seconding

## MATTERS ARISING

- Great Field Party Report
- Societies' Discipline

## ALCOHOL AND DRUG CAMPAIGN

- Community Engagement Councilor reported that an individual named Angela had spoken to her with regards to starting an alcohol and drug campaign at Rhodes University
- Community Engagement Councilor reported that there had been email liaison between herself and the above-named individual, as well as consultation with RUCE; the details hereof are yet to be discussed; however, Angela sought buy-in from Council regarding the campaign
- Student Benefits Councilor noted that he thought that the initiative was a good one, and requested that Community Engagement Councilor furnish the Council with the abovementioned email correspondence
- Secretary General noted that in partaking in this initiative, the Council ought to be cognizant of SWOT Week
- Treasurer General requested information regarding the relevant envisaged timeline for this campaign as well as any salient dates
- Community Engagement Councilor noted that Angela had at this stage merely sought preliminary go ahead, and thus no dates had been given as yet; she noted that RUCE is sensitive to SWOT Week (**Council resolved that Community Engagement Councilor would get dates as soon as possible**)
- Secretary General expressed the view that it might be worthwhile to incorporate the campaign into a Purple Thursday or Exam Treats
- Projects Manager requested Council to keep in mind the upcoming Breast Cancer Awareness Week from 08<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- **RESOLVED: Council supports the campaign if it is logistically possible to carry it through**

## MATRIC DANCE DRESSES

- Community Engagement Councilor reported that most of the schools' Matric Dances were in October; she requested that the Council participate in maintaining the momentum of the project; posters are to be disseminated to the Council's various substructures
- Sports and Societies Councilor asked if it would be possible for the Council to attend at least one of the Matric Dances
- Community Engagement Councilor reported that the Council's attendance of at least one Matric Dance was part of the initial plan with the project
- Treasure General requested information regarding dates and times
- Community Engagement Councilor reported that the first Matric Dance is scheduled to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- Secretary General noted that it would be worthwhile to write to the relevant schools in respect hereof

## RULES FOR SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATIONS

- Secretary General requested that Councilors think of creative solutions to mitigate the concerns regarding the holding of Supplementary Exams in November; he requested that they email these ideas to the office of the Secretary General by Sunday, 30 September 2018 at 12h00; the Executive of the Council is to compile these ideas in the coming Executive meeting, for purposes of perusal and discussion at the next Council meeting

## GREAT FIELD PARTY REPORT

- Student Benefits Councilor noted that the purpose of this agenda item was to remind the Council about the necessity of the report's publication; to this end he requested that the report as well as the minutes of Council meetings be made publicly accessible to all students; he suggested that these bits of information be disseminated on a regular basis
- Secretary General noted that the financial report has been received by the relevant people; it is still to be looked at; a report relevant to the Council is yet to be following this

Comment [WU2]: Spelling?

- Secretary General noted that the figures quoted on the abovementioned financial report do not make sense, and that there was a degree of miscommunication between Noma and Maynard

## SOCIETIES' DISCIPLINE

- Student Benefits Councilor wanted again to make it abundantly clear that the purpose of ensuring discipline among campus societies was not about targeting or victimization; he expressed the view that the discipline of societies has been unacceptable
- Student Benefits Councilor noted that a request was made at the last meeting to inquire into the leadership of Nkoli-Fassie; he requested information as to what stage this inquiry is at
- Sports and Societies Councilor reported that the Nkoli-Fassie situation is confusing; he reported that Councilors were effectively chased away at the Pride Walk given that the leaders of the Pride Walk had requested that the attending Councilors remove their SRC regalia
- Sports and Societies Councilor asked if the Council wanted to move to disband the society, to put it on probation, or to disband the society's committee; this is all for the purpose of initiating formal disciplinary hearings
- Media Councilor expressed the view that a strong case exists against Nkoli-Fassie; she expressed the view that the student body at large has an issue with the society; she noted that what Nkoli-Fassie had done by attending a meeting to which they had not been invited was unconstitutional in that the society had over-stepped its boundaries
- Sports and Societies Councilor asked for clarity, asking if the President had not invited them to that meeting
- Secretary General requested that the present conversation be streamlined in that the current issue was whether or not to disband the society
- Sports and Societies Councilor expressed the view that the committee of the society was problematic and not the actual society itself or what it stands for in principle

- Student Benefits Councilor noted that the strategic thing to do would be to dissolve the society's committee, and that the institution of disciplinary action against the society would send the message that societies depend on the Council and not vice versa
- Treasurer General suggested that the society be suspended pending investigation; she expressed the view that dissolving the committee would look the victimization of students
- Secretary General noted that his personal feeling was that the Council ought to move to disband the society as a whole
- Sports and Societies Councilor reiterated his objections to disbanding the society as a whole given that the society is more than the committee which leads it and that the society serves a very important purpose on campus; he also noted that the public image it would create if the society were disbanded in its entirety would be bad for the Council
- **VOTE:**
  - o Dissolve the committee of Nkoli-Fassie: 1
  - o Disband society as a whole: 4
  - o Suspend society pending investigation: 1
  - o ABSTENTION: 1
- Secretary General requested that the Council be led by the Sports and Societies Councilor in terms of the details of the disbanding of the society
- Media Councilor expressed the view that Nkoli-Fassie does not serve the bigger purpose it claims to serve given that the students on campus are made uncomfortable by the society
- Media Councilor noted that in terms of disbanding societies, there is precedence, citing the suspension/probation of SASCO
- Treasurer General noted, in terms of societies discipline in general, that she had been made to feel unwelcome by the society of which she is an Honorary Member, and that the role of Honorary Members be made known to societies
- Secretary General noted in response that communication at Rhodes University in general is quite bad; in respect hereof Honorary Members must be proactive with their societies

- Sports and Societies Councilor requested that in terms of the Council's resolution to move to disband Nkoli-Fassie, information, allegations of misconduct supported by university legislation, evidence etc. be sent to him; the composition of the resultant report would be decided upon offline
- Student Benefits Councilor noted that the wider Rhodes University community must be made aware of the Council decision detailed above
- As an aside note, Secretary General stressed the importance of efficiency in the Council, and requested that friendships not make Councilors overlook the incompetence of other Councilors

## LEAVERS

- Projects Manager reported that majority of Council members opted to go to the beach and spend the night; in respect of accommodation she needed to be made aware of where exactly the Council proposed to go
- **VOTE**
  - o Port Elizabeth            0
  - o Port Alfred                1
  - o Kenton-On-Sea            1
  - o East London                7
- Projects Manager reported that if the departure date is to be Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, the Council would not leave early, and would only arrive at their destination late in the evening
- *COUNCIL RESOLVED TO DEPARTING FOR EAST LONDON ON SATURDAY IN THE MORNING AND TO RETURN ON SUNDAY IN THE LATE AFTERNOON*
- *COUNCIL RESOLVED TO EATING OUT AND **NOT** HAVING A BRAAI*
- *COUNCIL RESOLVED THAT PROJECTS MANAGER WOULD DETERMINE THE ITINERARY*
- Mr. Ofei requested that the Council exercise caution in terms of dates and times, and requested that the Council make a decision about time and stick to it as there had been big fights in the past in respect hereof

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Media Councilor asked when the posters for the Breast Cancer Awareness Week would be ready
  - o Projects Manager reported that they would be ready in the week following the present meeting
- Treasurer General noted that the hygiene campaign would be taking place in the coming week; on 04<sup>th</sup> October 2018 Residence Operations would be holding a talk from 18h00 onwards (**THIS EVENT IS NOT COMPULSORY; NO HONORARIUM DEDUCTIONS APPLY**)
- Treasurer General noted that while the event is not compulsory, representation and media capturing are important
- Mr. Ofei noted that the provincial head of Nando's would like to speak with the Council in respect of the survival of the Nando's at Peppergrove Mall; to this end he would like ideas from the Council in a meeting which can only happen from 04<sup>th</sup> October onwards; Mr. Ofei reported that the provincial head is keen on sponsoring certain things
- **COUNCIL RESOLVED TO HOLD MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL HEAD OF NANDO'S AT 13H00 ON FRIDAY, 05<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**
- Secretary General reported that fittings for jackets would take place in the coming week, and that the Council must decide on a design for the jackets; he requested that the design which the Council decides upon be neat and tidy; the decision of the design would be made on the debrief group

#### STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT OFFICER

- Mr. Ofei reported that lots of claims were made in respect of Phumelele Nkomozakhe; he reported that Nkomozakhe claimed to have worked but did not; he stressed the importance of the Council being systematic and strategic in the matter of Nkomozakhe; he noted that there will be backlash, and advised the Council to fight back against it

#### REPORTS BACK

- Student Benefits Councilor



- Division of Student Affairs did not say that they were running out of toiletries; in respect hereof he is to communicate with the DSA to secure sponsorship for the provision of toiletries
- In terms of Dining Hall visits, he had received some concerns; these are to communicated to the relevant Council members
- Projects Manager
  - Attended meeting with Sports and Societies Councilor regarding the name changing of societies
- International Affairs Councilor
  - Worked on Heritage Day observation
- Sports and Societies Councilor
  - Conducted International Sports Day over Heritage Day weekend
  - Attended meeting with Projects and Oppidan Councilors regarding societies name changing
- Community Engagement Councilor
  - Conducted hand over session
  - Held meeting with RUCE
  - Involved in Dining Hall visits
  - Attended Environmental Awards
  - Attended International Sports Day
- Media Councilor
  - Now has a phone, and is thus contactable via cellphone
  - Partook in Heritage Day observances and uploaded pictures
  - Conducted hand over session
  - Held official hand over meeting with Media Team and the incoming Media Councilor
- Secretary General
  - Budgeting process has begun; is at the stage of recommendations
  - Involved in the Language Policy Review
  - Attended Environmental Awards
  - Attended meeting with Disciplinary Committee; reports that amount of incidents of disciplinary infractions in residences is alarming; requests that Councilors communicate with Hall Reps in this regard

- Will attend Dr. Oosthuizen Memorial Lecture, and is to have dinner with the Vice-Chancellor

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 21H00

NEXT MEETING ON 01<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2018 AT 18H30