

# MINUTES | Rhodes University SRC Meeting

**DATE:** 30 July 2018  
**TIME:** 18h30  
**VENUE:** RA Room, Steve Biko (Union) Building  
**CHAIR:** Madam Vice President

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## APOLOGIES

- The President sent her apologies as she was unable to attend this meeting owing to other prior engagements. In her stead, Madam Vice President chaired the meeting.
- Sports and Societies Councilor, Mr. Khaka Mpofu, also sent his apologies as he would arrive late.
- All other Council Members were present. No further apologies.

## MATRIC DANCE COLLECTION

- The Council resolved to advertise the Matric Dance Collection, and to email all the dining halls in this regard. It was further resolved that emails would be sent to the various schools concerned.
- The call is made for anything to be donated; beauty supply stores are to be approached as an additional source of help.
- The Council called upon the Presidency to draft letter to the departments.
- An email dated for the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018 will be sent to [illegible]. The Councilors with substructures are to be copied in this email
- Madam Vice-President requested information on the next visit to Ntsika High School; Madam Community Engagement confirmed that everything was indeed prepared for and that the next visit would happen on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018.

**Commented [WU1]:** By Zuko: Please amend this specific agenda point as necessary, as I had arrived late and could not denote the full scope of the discussion

**Commented [WU2]:** For example, I was absent to hear which departments this is in reference to, and what the purpose will be of the letter proposed.

**Commented [WU3]:** I will give you back your notes (the ones you took at the beginning of the meeting) and you will be able to determine what the missing word is here, and the context in which this point was made

## INTER-VARSITY UPDATE

- Madam Projects Manager reported that a meeting was held in connection with Inter-Varsity in Port Elizabeth. Inter-Varsity was scheduled to take place on the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018; she further reports that Nelson Mandela University (hereinafter “NMU”) are regrettably unprepared to host, thus it appears that the event has been postponed. At this stage the future of the event remains unclear – there exists the possibility that it might not happen at all. Madam Projects Manager reports that those present at the aforesaid meeting were not only members of the SRC of Nelson Mandela University but some members of staff as well.
- Student Benefits Councilor expressed gratitude for the feedback, as well as some concerns particularly in respect of the quality of communication between the various entities involved in the organization of Inter-Varsity. He requested that the Rhodes University SRC be copied in communiques, and expressed the concern that the communiques being sent are being ignored by someone who is disinterested in the success of the event.
- Student Benefits Councilor further asked if there exists the possibility for Rhodes University to host Inter-Varsity in the stead of Nelson Mandela University this year, as many Rhodes University students are likely to inquire about the event.
- Sports & Societies Councilor noted that he wishes not to regard Inter-Varsity as postponed. He noted further his feeling that Nelson Mandela University “dropped the ball” insofar as its obligations are concerned as this year’s host. He reported that in an unofficial meeting attended by himself as well as Madam President, with the SRC President of Nelson Mandela University, the general sentiment tended towards the imminence of a postponement. However, he expressed that he wishes to await formal confirmation of the above.
- International Affairs Councilor expressed concerns as to the capacity for Rhodes University to host Inter-Varsity at such short notice. This sentiment was echoed by Projects Councilor who noted that Inter-Varsity is far too big an event for the burden of hosting to be assumed by Rhodes University at such short notice.
- Projects Councilor further noted that 2018 is the year for Nelson Mandela University to host, and that next year (2019) would be Rhodes’ turn. She reiterated the possibility of postponement, and lamented the unclear communication on the part of Nelson

Mandela University in respect of whether or not the event is to be postponed or cancelled altogether.

- Treasurer General reported that the Management of Nelson Mandela University does not want to host Inter-Varsity because of concerns in respect of the programme for the event as well as safety plans. He reported further that the SRC of Nelson Mandela University is at loggerheads with their University Management. At the aforementioned informal meeting, the Nelson Mandela SRC President wanted to know if other institutions are ready for Inter-Varsity. The Treasurer General further expressed the view that if Inter-Varsity is postponed to the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018, Rhodes University would be unwilling to provide transport. He echoed our inability to host the event at such short notice.
- Sports and Societies Councilor reported that the Nelson Mandela University SRC President wants to hold another meeting, which he (Mr. Mpofu) felt would be redundant as Nelson Mandela University is simply not ready to host.
- Student Benefits Councilor suggested that in further meetings the possibility of postponement ought to be ruled out, and that there should be some sort of penalty on Nelson Mandela University for not hosting this year. He also expressed the wish for it to be made very clear to the Student Body of Rhodes University that the mess up in respect of Inter-Varsity is not the fault of this Council.

### WOMEN'S DAY DISCUSSION

- Projects Councilor reported that cluster meetings were held, from which came the idea of the #IAmWoman series to be held in the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> August 2018. For Women's Day, she suggested that the Council incentivize the Student Body to participate fully, since it is a public holiday, by getting people out of their residences (for example: with cupcakes etc.) The aim is to incentivize people to attend the talks in which various themes surrounding womanhood are explored. She posited the possibility of serving refreshments at these talks. She also suggested that students be allowed to write on the wall regarding Women's Day.
- Residence Councilor noted that these events clash with a prior event of the SRC and suggested combining the events to resolve this clash.

- Oppidan Councilor noted that when the Council plans for the Women's Day observance, that it should know what other societies have planned for the day, and that the SRC event must be unique.
- Secretary General made a note on the Legacy Project.
- Projects Councilor suggested that the wall writing take place and for treats be given out on the Wednesday.
- Student Benefits Councilor read out an email by Katlego Gabashane regarding "Seeing Red". He reported that he replied to the email noting that the Council would love to work with them, and that the design of the poster ought to be referred to the SRC.
- Madam Vice-President noted that this was the first time that she had heard about the email mentioned above, and noted that before replies on behalf of the Council are sent that the Council be consulted first.
- Treasurer General noted that it being women's month does not mean that events must necessarily be planned around the 9<sup>th</sup> August, and that events can be spaced out over the duration of the month of August.
- Projects Councilor requested that the email referred to by Student Benefits Councilor be forwarded to her. She further suggested that for the #IAmWoman series students be requested to write 250 word essays on various Women's Day related themes and the two best would be published.

**Commented [WU4]:** To be honest I didn't really catch what you were saying here

## SILENT PROTEST

- Transformation Councilor reported that the programme for the Silent Protest is available on Facebook. She noted that everything for the Silent Protest has been accounted for and that Lindsay (from the Allan Gray Centre for Leadership Ethics) is the main person in charge of the Protest's organization, and that requests for detail beyond what is published be referred to her.
- Transformation Councilor notes that the meal arrangement for the Silent Protest this year will not work the same as in previous years, and that T-Shirts are to be booked on RUConnected
- Academic Councilor noted that support (academic and otherwise) should be made available for students who are triggered by the Silent Protest, and suggests that a group of additional psychologists be placed on standby.

**Commented [WU5]:** Is this too informal?

- Secretary General asked what the difference would be between this year's Silent Protest and those of previous years, especially insofar as the traumatizing nature of the protest is concerned, and what mechanisms exist to make it less traumatizing and more conducive for students.
- Community Engagement Councilor further asked what the role of the SRC would be in this year's Silent Protest.
- Transformation Councilor responded by saying that last year's Silent protest **was in fact not entirely unproductive**. She noted further that there are indeed additional psychologists available. Moreover, this year's Silent Protest is scheduled to take place over multiple days during which performing arts and talks by academics would take place, the latter of which would be highly informative. She noted further that the role of the SRC in this year's protest is simply to be visible and to buy and wear the Silent Protest T-Shirts. She also requested that Madam President be informed of the need for her to be a speaker.
- Student Benefits Councilor emphasized the importance of Madam President being a speaker, and also in doing so to address the issue of "CrimeWise". He further asked how the Silent Protest would cater for those students who are triggered to the point of staying in their residence rooms and not even taking part at all in the Silent Protest. Would there be LOAs made available for such students?
- Secretary General emphasized the importance of making provisions for those students who, despite being triggered, do not actively participate in the events.
- Transformation Councilor noted that the Counselling Centre would be operating for longer hours, and that no booking of appointments would be necessary, and that in this regard it would have more personnel stationed at the Centre. She reports further that academic staff are well aware of the situation and have been emailed on top-list.
- International Councilor stressed the importance of the crisis hotline and that wardens must be on call to deal with any mishaps with triggered students.
- Academic Councilor noted the importance of encouraging the general Student Body to look after each other.
- Student Benefits Councilor stressed the importance of academic staff being understanding when students are triggered, and requested that the Academic Councilor further liaise with academic staff in this regard.
- Academic Councilor noted that some form of liaison should come from the Secretariat as it carries more weight.

Commented [WU6]: She didn't say why

## MBOKODO CAUCUS

- Secretary General reports that a meeting was held with the Executive on 30 July 2018. At this meeting it was resolved that on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018 a working sessions will be held with the Executive to tease out the structure of the Mbokodo Caucus. On the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018 a discussion will be held on what it means to be a woman in leadership.
- Madam Vice-President asked if communication has been sent out to substructures, and that report backs of such emails be made available on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- Secretary General noted that Media Councilor will be making a poster.
- Transformation Councilor encouraged fellow Council Members to attend, and noted that invitation is extended to the rest of the woman on Council; attendance of all members of the Executive is compulsory.
- Madam Vice-President echoed that anyone is allowed to attend – not just the women on Council. She noted that the working session would take place at 14h00 on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in the RA Room.

Commented [WU7]: Executive of what?

## TOTAL SHUTDOWN

- Transformation Councilor noted that the dress code for the Shutdown is red and black and that solidarity would be appreciated from those Council Members who are neither women nor non-binary; she noted further that the Shutdown event is to start at 08h00 on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018. There will be a march at 12h30, and speeches and a moment of silence at Fingo Square. She called for involvement of the University's upper management: Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, and the Registrar. At 18h00 a consent is scheduled at the General Lecture Theatre. Permission for advertising the event was pending but has subsequently been obtained.
- Academic Councilor requested that the above information be disseminated to Council in the form of writing.
- Madam Vice-President noted the attendance of Council Members to be of paramount importance.
- Transformation Councilor noted further that a working document had been created, and that the day's events would include talks at schools about gender-based violence. There would also be a specific visit to Mary Waters High School in respect of these talks.

- Community Engagement noted that transportation had been booked to go to Mary Waters High School.
- Student Benefits Councilor noted that it “would be very nice” to convince University Management to shut down the academic programme for that day.
- Transformation Councilor noted that there was as yet no clarity in the above regard, although an email has already been sent on top-list
- Student Benefits Councilor noted that the University system oppresses students and emphasized the importance of releasing students from their academic commitments.
- Madam Vice-President requests that the Council approaches Management in that regard.
- Treasurer General suggested that the Council not request but demand a shut down from University Management.
- Transformation Councilor encouraged attendance of the talk at 18h00.
- Community Engagement noted that the time and date for this talk presents a clash as it would happen simultaneously with the briefing of the new Council.
- Madam Vice-President noted that the SRC will not be able to attend this talk owing to the abovementioned prior commitment, but if they finish on time they will be able to attend the talk.
- Academic Councilor suggested delegating some Council Members to attend the talk.
- Madam Vice-President noted that she would ask Mr. Eric Ofei if that is indeed possible.
- Transformation Councilor posited the possibility of holding the talk earlier in the day.
- Student Benefits Councilor noted that it will not be entirely necessary to do so. All that would need to happen would be for the briefing to happen quickly so that the Council may join the masses afterwards.

#### PURPLE THURSDAY

- Projects Councilor stressed the importance of requesting the students wear purple on Thursday; she noted that the importance on Council of wearing purple is all the greater.
- Madam Vice-President noted that it is not an inconvenience to wear purple on Thursday.
- Treasurer General suggested that Councilors not wearing purple on Thursday should be penalized with a R50.00 (FIFTY RAND ONLY) fine.

- Student Benefits Councilor noted that being fined R50 would be far too expensive.
- Treasurer General noted the importance of a heavy fine in the way of accountability.
- Madam Vice-President moved to voting on the matter of the fine:
  - o 8 Councilors voted **against** the proposed fine
  - o 5 Councilors voted **in favour** of the proposed fine
  - o 1 Councilor **abstained**
- Media Councilor noted that the only thing that need happen respect of the Council wearing purple is that Council Members should remind each other.
- Academic Councilor suggested that those not wearing purple would have to chair Council Meetings.
- Madam Vice-President noted that the chairing of meetings is a constitutional matter and thus out of the question.
- Sports and Societies Councilor noted the wearing of purple as the Councilor's responsibility, and thus there should be some kind of penalty.
- Student Benefits Councilor objected to monetary punishment as it would be prejudicial against those Members of Council who did not have extra cash floating around.
- *Pursuant to repeated attempts by the Vice-President to bring the Student Benefits Councilor to order, Madam Vice-President banned the Student Benefits Councilor from speaking further in this meeting*
- International Councilor suggested that the fine be lowered.
- Environmental Councilor suggested that the penalty be time-based instead of a monetary fine (i.e. Council Members not wearing purple would have to increase their number of work hours).
- Sports and Societies Councilor disagreed with the above suggestion as time would be inconvenient, and expressed the view that a better penalty than a monetary one does not exist.
- Media Councilor objected on the grounds that no one on Council does not want to wear purple thus rendering a fine redundant in the first instance; she noted further that a vote on the matter had already been cast, dispensing with the need for the further discussion on the topic. She also noted that time and money both have the same punitive effect and that an argument in preference of either over the other was nonsensical.

- Projects Councilor reminded the Council to be more conscientious in respect of their clocked hours, as the Secretary General and Mr. Eric Ofei would be inspecting the hours book.
- Academic Councilor echoed the fact that a vote had already been cast on the issue of the fine and that further discussion was both unnecessary but disrespectful to the vote already cast.
- **RESOLVED: NO FINE TO BE LEVIED AGAINST COUNCILORS NOT WEARING PURPLE ON THURSDAY**

## REPORTS BACK

- Community Engagement Councilor noted that she had a meeting with RUCCE, as well as a meeting with Ntsika High School
- Projects Councilor reported that a sitting of Student Parliament is to take place on Tuesday, 31 July at 19h00.
- International Councilor reported that she would have a meeting with Mr. Mpofu and Mr. Dingaan Booi; she further reported that Dining Hall visits had taken place; a meeting with the International Office regarding Heritage Day was to take place with the main focus being to “find a plan and venue”; she reported information had been sent to international students in connection with medical aid information.
- Activism and Transformation Councilor report on the upcoming Silent Protest, Total Shutdown, and Gender Week; she also requested that someone accompany her to do an interview.
- Academic Councilor reported that computers in the library are too zoomed in, and an email was sent to Tracy Chambers in this regard to follow up on the issue; he reported further that he had received 12 appeals:
  - o 4 appeals were successful
  - o 3 students ended up not appealing
  - o 2 students appealed but were unsuccessful
  - o 3 appeals were pending
- Academic Councilor further reported that at the Law Faculty Board Meeting it was revealed that the faculty’s accreditation was confirmed. At this, Madam Vice-President requested that an email be sent congratulating the faculty.

**Commented [WU8]:** She did not say in connection with what

**Commented [WU9]:** She didn't say what interview with whom

- Academic Councilor further reported on the vision of the Institutional Development Plan.
- Student Benefits Council (*at request of Madam Vice-President*) reported that it was difficult to deal with financial appeals and that he had to tackle them on a case-by-case basis, but he is assisting where he can (for example, where academic results are withheld pending payment of fees); he reported further that on Wednesday (25/07) and Thursday (26/07) he re-visited some of the financial appeals but the appeals committee could not decide on many things; the Rhodes Council Loan could not assist in many cases and those were then sent to NSFAS for re-consideration
- Student Benefits Councilor also noted that there was a shortage of toiletries and requested the Council to reach out to students for donations; he reported that he was able to buy toiletries with his own money but those would only be sufficient for approximately three (3) students.
- Environmental Councilor reported that Environmental Awards nominations are now open; anyone who wants to nominate someone may do so; the online link is to be forwarded to the rest of Council.
- Residence Councilor reported that meetings were held with Hall Reps to go over their roles during the election season; she appealed to Council that each res must have a polling officer.
- Treasurer General reported that a benefit concert was to take place; he is awaiting more concrete information in that regard; however, it is scheduled to take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018; a first donation has been made already amounting to R20 000.00 (TWENTY THOUSAND RAND ONLY); he noted further that the Projects Councilor would head up this event.
- Secretary General reported that appointment of a new minute-taker; she also noted that requisitions for the computers had been made; three (3) disciplinary hearing appeals are awaiting on SBC
- Vice-President called to recognize the successes of fellow Councilors and also called for mutual support; she called on ideas for programs for the coming semester to presented; she noted that the Post-Graduate Conference went well, and pictures were to be shared; she further reported that the constitutional review is to be discussed at Student Parliament, and called on fellow Councilors to consult and make proposed amendments to the constitution; she reported that Dining Hall visits are of concern as

Commented [WU10]: Which computers?

some Councilors have been absent without excuse – this issue would be followed up on; she expressed concern that this year’s campaigning for the SRC was lackluster and called on Council to encourage more people to campaign; lastly she reported that there would be no re-write for Pharmacy 3 as the faculty had resolved for no re-write.

***MADAM VICE-PRESIDENT ADJOURNS MEETING***