

MINUTES | Rhodes University SRC Meeting

DATE: 03 September 2018

TIME: 18h30

VENUE: RA Room, Steve Biko (Union) Building

CHAIR: Madam Vice President

ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & ABSENTEES

- APOLOGIES:
 - o Residence Councilor: Phelisa Yoyo
 - o President: Nhlakanipho Mahlangu (who was unable to attend this meeting owing to an unavoidable personal emergency)
 - o Secretary General
- ABSENTEES:
 - o Transformation and Activism: Phumelele Nkomozakhe
- LATE ARRIVAL:
 - o Environmental Councilor: Mr. Luthando Dayimani
- All other Council Members were present. No further apologies.

MATTERS ARISING

- Societies Policy Review
- SRC Alumnus Status
- Resignation

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 21 AUGUST 2018

- Erratum in respect of the “Unathi” referred to in the discussion of the Benefit Concert. The “Unathi” referred to therein is **not** the Community Engagement Officer as stated in the aforementioned minutes. Instead the “Unathi” referred to is Unathi Msengana, one of the performers in the Benefit Concert.

HONORARIUM

- Academic Councilor put forward the suggestion that, owing to the previous confusions and contradictions in respect of the issue of honorarium, the Council should undertake to formally recording in hardcopy format those engagements which each individual Councilor has/has not attended.
- Academic Councilor noted that some Councilors have been dishonest in respect of those engagements which they have honoured and those which they have not. He noted further that the sending of private messages to excuse oneself from Council obligations is problematic, in that it hinders the ability for Councilors to be held accountable.
- Academic Councilor further suggested that if there are major changes made to Councilors’ projects, that information should be communicated formally via email for record-keeping purposes.
- Mr. Eric Ofei noted that it is not individual Councilors who take the **relevant information to him**, but that it is supposed to be the Secretary General. The reason that has not happened to the required extent is because the Secretary General has taken ill.
- Mr. Ofei expressed a vote of confidence in the Acting Secretary General (Mr. Lukhanyo Tshongweni) insofar as improving the relay of information and other duties which he is to undertake as the Acting Secretary General.

Commented [WU1]: Presumably in respect of honorarium?

- Mr. Ofei made mention of the WhatsApp arrangement between the Councilors (voice-notes which are to be sent to Media Councilor), noting that she (Media Councilor) made the arrangement very clear in an official meeting setting. Thus, the obligations which the Council had undertaken in this regard are binding.
- Student Benefits Councilor noted that the Council has been negatively affected by the ill health of the Secretary General. To that end, communication has been unclear insofar as the projects of Councilors are concerned.
- Treasurer General noted that after every event a register of attendance must be taken
- Oppidan Councilor noted that the system of relaying information through the Secretary General serves the purpose of accountability, especially as is concerned legitimate reasons for absenteeism
- Media Councilor noted that caution must be taken insofar as the issue of the voice-notes is concerned. She noted that the deadline was 12h00 midday but was then moved to 18h00 for the sake of convenience
- Media Councilor noted that everyone was late in submitting their voice-notes; and in general, the issue was indeed mentioned in an official Council meeting.
- Projects Manager noted that there was confusion in respect of the voice-notes, as some Councilors did not know that not sending the voice-notes would result in deductions from honorarium.
- Student Benefits Councilor noted that he concurs with the Projects Councilor, and further notes that it was Mr. Ofei who had made the deductions.
- Media Councilor noted that various things were penalized via deductions in honorarium; she noted that the Council be careful to claim ignorance in respect of the voice-note arrangement because it is one of the activities to which the Council had bound itself, just like the Silent Protest for example.
- Academic Councilor raised a point of correction stating that it is only absenteeism from compulsory events which incur deductions in honorarium. He notes with alarm that the initial arrangement was that Councilors would actually appear on the SRC radio show and that the show would be compulsory. He noted that the voice-note arrangement was an ad hoc arrangement. He further notes that no decision was made to deduct honorarium based on voice-notes.

- Mr. Ofei urged that the Council Members not “shift the goal posts”, He further urged that the Council decide explicitly whether a given function/engagement is compulsory and how much people will be deducted in respect of non-compliance therewith
- He noted that if two-thirds of the Council agree with the quantum of deduction, then that holds as a binding Council decision. He urged that all of this information be made abundantly clear to everyone. He noted further that conduct/lack of conduct which makes the job of another Councilor more difficult would incur a deduction in honorarium.
- Sports and Societies Councilor noted that everyone should send information of their functions/engagements to the Secretary General with all of the appropriate information (compulsory, deductions, etc.)
- Community Engagement Councilor noted that she had made this suggestion a very long time ago.
- Student Benefits Councilor further noted that information in respect of the percentage of honorarium deduction must be communicated to the entire Council.
- Academic Councilor suggested that criteria be drawn up of what constitutes compulsory Council engagements
- Treasurer General suggested that a standing agenda item of “Upcoming Events” be added. He further noted that setting criteria will be unduly difficult. The Secretary General is simply to disseminate information in respect of dates, penalties, etc.

UBUNTU FUND CONCERT

- Treasurer General noted that Thursday, 13th September 2018, and Friday, 14th September 2018 the Benefit Concert would be taking place; what must be decided is the appropriate marketing strategy; proposals have been drawn up. He noted that a repeat of the Great Field Party must not happen in which too few people were contributing effort.
- Oppidan Councilor noted that too few people know where the Steve Biko Building is, and suggests that ticket selling points should be taken to places the locations of which are broadly known.
- Oppidan Councilor suggested that Spar and Pick ‘n’ Pay be ticket-selling points, and suggested that the Treasurer General liaise with them in order to gain concessions on their poster policies; she also suggested that Shoprite be another ticket-selling point.

- Sports and Societies Councilor suggested that a loud hailer be used on the coming Saturday, and that various Councilors should undertake to drive around campus and the location.
- Projects Councilor enumerates marketing strategy proposals, with Councilors confirming amending where necessary as follows:
 - o Tuesday, 4th September:
 - Putting up posters in the morning as soon as posters are ready; whoever is available is to spread the word and put up posters, trusting that Councilors would take the initiative
 - Student Benefits Councilors requested that the salient information be put up on Facebook
 - The placement of posters around campus is to follow the same rules as those used in SRC Campaigning
 - Oppidan Councilor suggested that Media Councilor speak to the library IT department
 - o Wednesday, 5th September:
 - Distributing flyers at shopping centers during rush hour times at strategic places for example traffic intersections
 - Council votes on times:
 - 4 Councilors in favour of 07h00 – 08h00
 - 1 Councilor in favour of 16h30 – 17h30
 - 4 Councilors in favour of 12h00 – 13h00
 - 2 abstentions
 - Those working at 07h00 are Councilors: Environmental, Oppidan, Sports and Societies, Treasurer General, and Academic
 - Those working at 12h00 are Councilors: Vice-President, Student Benefits, Projects, International, and Community Engagement
 - Those who were not present in this meeting would be allocated in due course
 - o Thursday, 6th September:
 - Go to crèche and paint the banner for Ubuntu Fund – the importance of this being the tin collection to take place on Saturday which requires the banner

- Vice President notes that she is weary that the Council is overloading itself with work
- Student Benefits Councilor expressed reservations about using the children at the crèche for expediency; he noted that the Council does not really have a relationship with the crèche and that making use of them as a public relations tool would be disingenuous
- Environmental Councilor suggested the use of spray paint for the banner and regular paint for the people's handprints
- Projects Councilor noted that the banner ought to be complete by the time the Concert takes place
- Community Engagement Councilor asked whether or not permission had been obtained to go to the crèche and interact with the children in the first place
- Sports and Societies Councilor also expressed concerns regarding the use of the children for expediency; he proposed rather to use the scholars from Ntsika High School
- Projects Councilor noted that permission to go to the crèche had not yet been obtained as the Council's consent needed to be obtained first
- Oppidan Councilor suggested that the painting of the banner be done in conjunction with the promotional video, and that the banner ought to be completed as matter of urgency
- Media Councilor echoed concerns of the use of the children from the crèche citing that their relationship with both the SRC and the Ubuntu Fund is questionable at best
- Environmental Councilor suggested making use of the 15 boys in the Vukani project, as they too will be attending the Concert
- Vice President concurring with Media Councilor noted that the original intention of the Ubuntu Fund was Rhodes-centric; she then asked if the scope of the Ubuntu Fund would then be re-configured as an "inter-generational" project of sorts

- Mr. Ofei concurring that the Ubuntu Fund has not as yet taken off properly, and that for the sake of sustainability the scope ought to be widened incrementally
- Treasurer General noted that the reason it has not taken off properly yet is precisely because of its limited scope and that it has not identity, and thus no sense of permanence. The Fund is need of a permanent sponsor, and that will not happen if its configuration is limited to being Rhodes-centric as it is difficult to “sell” that way
- Environmental Councilor noted that the use of the children is for the purpose of drawing attention to the poster itself and to make it interactive; he stressed the importance of the Ubuntu Fund having broad scope and appeal especially in respect of the wider Grahamstown community
- Sports and Societies Councilor noted that the Council needs to create a whole brand and that the idea of broadening the scope of it shows its potential for growth and impact to potential sponsors
- Media Councilor noted the time-consuming nature of the lead up to the Benefit Concert, and that it would be better simply to use Rhodes students for the hand-printing
- Student Benefits Councilor concurring suggested the use of Purple Thursday to this end
- Environmental Councilor suggested the use of stencils for the spray-painting of the banner, and that this would be done in collaboration with the Projects Councilor
 - RESOLVED: PURPLE THURSDAY 11H30 TO 13H00 AT THE KAIF; ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY
 - STENCILLING WOULD TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, AND THE COUNCILORS ARE TO BE DIRRECTED IN THIS REGARD
 - DEBRIEF ON TCKET SALES ON THURSDAY @ 18H30 – 19H30; MAPPING A WAY FORWARD

- Saturday, 8th September:
 - Advertising
 - Coin collection – to which Pick ‘n’ Pay has not yet confirmed
 - Handing out flyers at 11h00 to 12h00
 - RESOLVED: TICKETS TO BE SOLD BY COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE TRAFFIC INTERSECTIONS; COUNCILORS TO SIGN FOR TICKETS
- Wednesday, 12th September:
 - Selling of tickets; same format as Purple Thursday; apologies apply; attendance compulsory
- Thursday, 13th September:
 - Handing out of flyers as is the case on Wednesday 05th September
 - Selling of tickets; same format as Purple Thursday; apologies apply; attendance compulsory
- Friday, 14th September:
 - Selling of tickets; same format as Purple Thursday; apologies apply; attendance compulsory
- ACADEMIC COUNCILOR TO SEND INFORMATION TO FACULTIES
- MEDIA COUNCILOR TO SEND INFORMATION TO THE SUBWARDENS
- OPPIDAN COUNCILOR TO SEND INFORMATION TO OPPIDAN STUDENTS
- SPORTS AND SOCIETIES COUNCILOR TO SEND INFORMATION TO CAMPUS SOCIETIES
- WORKLOAD TO SPLIT HALFWAY ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY; BY NEXT MEETING COUNCILORS TO DECIDE ON WHICH DAY THEY ARE TO WORK
- TICKETS TO BE COLLECTED FROM PROJECTS COUNCILOR ON TUESDAY, 04TH SEPTEMBER BETWEEN 15H00 AND 17H30
- NO FREE TICKETS TO COUNCILORS FOR CONCERT

- Community Engagement Councilor noted that more time ought to have been given to notify Councilors that tickets would not be free
- Academic Councilor reiterated the importance of changing ticket-selling points to locations more accessible to members of the community
- Media Councilor requested information in regards to the selling of the tickets on Computicket; and suggested that Treasurer General speak to Pick 'n' Pay and Spar in regards to the selling of tickets
- Treasurer General noted that the handing out of flyers need not be a daily undertaking; he noted further that a promotional video would tell people about the Ubuntu Fund and promote the event
- He noted that in the making of the promotional video, all Councilors need NOT be involved and that delegation is sufficient
 - Media Councilor to relay information in regards of delegation and the time for the making of the video, to be communicated on the Council WhatsApp group

RESIGNATION

- Mr. Ofei noted that when Councilors resign they must come to Council meeting immediately preceding their resignation; he noted that proper procedure must be followed
- He noted that owing to the ill health of the Secretary General, he wished the Secretary General were present so as to furnish the Council with the relevant information as concerns her duties as Secretary General.
- Media Councilor reported that the Academic Councilor-elect has dropped out and thus suggested that, during the hand-over phase, the sitting Academic Councilor should do the hand-over with the incoming Activism and Transformation Councilor
- Student Benefits Councilor asked what the Council is to do with the resignation of the sitting Activism and Transformation Councilor, Phumelele Nkomozakhe
- Environmental Councilor raised a point of clarity in respect of what he has done; he noted that his being on the SRC is not about money; he noted that he has been to meetings and that the problem with environmental issues on campus are a top-down issue at the university. He regarded the suggestion that he is not doing his job as unfair

- Sports and Societies Councilor noted that he has faced the same sorts of problems as the Environmental Councilor but that facing those problems is not an excuse, and that the Environmental Councilor ought to have taken greater initiative
- Student Benefits Councilor noted that the general obligations of the various Councilors in addition to the obligations of their own portfolios are important
- Mr. Ofei noted that the Environmental Councilors performance as an SRC member has been one of the worst he has ever witnessed
- Academic Councilor availed himself to help and assist the Environmental Councilor in the execution of his duties
- Oppidan Councilor noted that following a resignation, an official statement from the SRC is released, and enquired as to what that process would entail given that Nkomozakhe has issued a private statement of her own on her personal Facebook page
- Mr. Ofei noted that the reasons given to him for Nkomozakhe's resignation cited personal and professional reasons; and that she would not be receiving honorarium
- Projects Councilor enquired as to whether or not Nkomozakhe's projects would continue, citing the complex nature of the SRC's present relationship with Nkoli-Fassie
 - o Vice President to get back to the Council on that score
- Treasurer General suggested that disciplinary measures be taken against Nkoli-Fassie
- Student Benefits Councilor suggested that the official statement on Nkomozakhe's resignation not include a vote of wishing her the best going forward as due process was not followed in her resignation
- Mr. Ofei noted that he does not think that the absence of professionalism is a good idea; he urged the Council to release an official statement to the Student Body
- Mr. Ofei further noted that disciplinary action ought to be taken against Nkoli-Fassie but that this be done systematically and in accordance with due process
 - o TO BE DEALT WITH IN SPORTS AND SOCIETIES DISCIPLINARY CODE
 - o A STATEMENT IS TO BE RELEASED BY COUNCIL

SPORTS AND SOCIETIES POLICY REVIEW

- Sports and Societies Councilor noted that societies' names change too often and this causes administrative issues; he reports the institution of a Constitutional review to stem this from happening

- SUGGESTIONS TO BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, 07TH SEPTEMBER AT 12H00

SRC ALUMNUS STATUS

- Treasurer General noted that whilst the Council does not have powers to revoke alumnus status, he suggested that the Council not recognize or acknowledge Nkomozakhe going forward
- Sports and Societies Councilor sought clarity on whether or not the Council does indeed have powers to strip SRC Alumnus status
 - Mr. Ofei noted that the Council does indeed have those powers; he noted that they are dealt with in terms of the internal policies of the alumni board and that information would be given in that regard by no later than Wednesday
- Student Benefits Councilor expressed his support of the revocation of Nkomozakhe's alumnus status, as, in his view, she had disrespected the Council as an institution
- Vice President noted that it would be best to do so when all of the surrounding commotion has died down
- Treasurer General, with Media Councilor concurring, urged the importance of not being reactionary and that purely based on Nkomozakhe's disrespect of the SRC institution that revocation happen immediately
- Mr. Ofei noted that 5 days must be given for her to prepare her case and a defence
- REASONS FOR REVOCATION OF KNOMOZAKHE'S ALUMNUS STATUS:
 - Disrespect of the SRC institution
 - Bringing the name of the Council into disrepute
 - Breaking oath of office
 - Insubordination to the Council
 - Absenteeism
 - Misrepresentation of the Council
 - VOTE TO INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS TO REVOKE PHUMLELE NKOMOZAKHE'S ALUMNUS STATUS: UNANIMOUS
- Mr. Ofei, with Council resolving so, noted that notice to revoke status be issued at the end of the present meeting

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT OFFICER

- Mr. Ofei noted that Inauguration did not go well; he reported that training went well; he requested that Councilors avail themselves in the coming year to assist the incoming SRC; he reported that Community Engagement Councilor was voted the best presenter; he urged the Council to “finish strong”; he urged Councilors to apply for the Rhodes Top 100 in Leadership

REPORTS BACK

- Media:
 - o Training camp last week
 - o Voice-notes are not required tomorrow
 - o Last radio show was good
 - o Urged Councilors to keep up the good work
- International:
 - o Austin made contact this morning in respect of the Term Report
- Community Engagement:
 - o Had Ntsika Tour at the end of last term; it was very successful; good feedback was obtained
- Academic:
 - o Went to Makana Municipality to market the upcoming Concert
 - o Went with the Oppidan Councilor to put up posters in the location
 - o Teaching and Learning document sent to Acting Secretary General
- Environmental:
 - o Reminder about water restrictions
- Student Benefits:
 - o Scheduled meetings regarding NSFAS and other financial matter with students; basic issues were raised in the meetings; NSFAS is to create a toll free number service – this is to be confirmed
- Oppidan:
 - o Oppidan forum was held; it was fruitful; discussed fee having to increase by a considerable amount to cover for the past 3 years; resolution was discussed to have this fee charged through the student account for NSFAS students
- Sports and Societies:

- International University Sports Day meeting was held with the various stakeholders; liaison is currently being carried out with Mr. Dingaan Boo
- Projects:
 - #IAmWoman went very well; posters to be posted on campus
 - Reminder about the Benefit Concert
- Treasurer General:
 - Regarding the multilingualism colloquium, positive feedback was obtained
 - Language policy review has been sent and is awaiting comment on 20th September
 - Budgeting process has started; held meeting with Geoff Erasmus; this meeting was bried
 - Has been doing work in respect of the Benefit Concert
- Vice President:
 - Training went well
 - Together with the President, she had gone to Cape Town for the Parliamentary sitting on Gender Based Violence; reports that it went well overall; presentation is to be sent to them in the coming days; discussion points were GBV and crime
 - Sorting out date for Cluster Meetings
 - Friday 18h00 – 19h00 INTERNAL
 - Friday 19h00 – 20h00 EXTERNAL
 - Will be absent from 17 September to 14 October owing to academic commitments
- Acting Secretary General:
 - Termly reports are to be compiled; some Councilors have not sent these yet; those who have submitted need “more meat” in their reports

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 21:23

NEXT MEETING ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 18H30