

Rhodes University

Students' Representative Council

Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on Monday 04 April 2016 at

19h00 in the

RA ROOM

2016. M10.1

PRESENT

President, Vice President, Activism, Treasurer, Community Engagement, International, Projects Manager, Student Benefits, Societies, Oppidan, Media, Residence, Mr. Ofei.

2016. M10.2

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Academic and Secretary General

2016. M10.3

OTHER MATTERS FOR THE AGENDA

Residence Councillor – raised an item for Hall reps; item number 11

Activism Councillor – raised an item for Rape culture talks

2016. M10.4

PRESENTATION BY STUDENT WELLNESS MANAGER

Thobeka Msengana presented a workshop about 'Conflict Management & Assertiveness'. She had the Council involved in an activity to help them identify any similarities and differences that they share in terms of what they value. She explained that "What causes conflict are the different values of people. The way they approach their work is influenced by their values."

Some discussion points from the presentation:

- What is conflict?
- Positive aspects of conflict
- Negative Aspects of conflict
- Ways of reacting to conflict

*(group discussion of which animal each is)

- Conflict resolution steps
- Three relating styles
- Recipe for assertive communication

2016. M10.5

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Treasurer identified spelling errors

The Projects Manager has been incorrectly referred to as Projects Councillor.

The President requested that other identified errors should be emailed.

The minutes were confirmed by Oppidan Councillor and seconded by International Councillor.

2016. M10.6

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE MINUTES

No executive minutes because there was no meeting.

2016. M10.7

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE EXECUTIVE

No matters.

2016. M10.8

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

No Confirmation.

2016. M10.9

SRC VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President explained that he will be having one-on-one meetings with the Councillors to discuss their core objectives. He also explained that he would have loved to see all the Councillors involved during the presentation by Thobeka Msengana. He asked that Councillors email him their feedbacks on this presentation.

President suggested that the Vice President meeting with Council in their clusters.

2016. M10.10

FlavourFest *Projects*

Projects Manager gave an update on the upcoming FlavourFest event – happening from Friday 8th to Saturday 9th. It is a joint event with sports. Flying Fish is sponsoring. 68 National teams are coming to play volleyball.

The Great Field has been closed down until Friday (fencing is being done during this time, and inspectors will come on Thursday, Food stalls will also be setting up).

At 08h30 on Friday, the Volley ball match will start – the last match is at 22h00pm Friday.

Saturday, the activities start at 8h00. At 16h00, they will have to evacuate people from the field and gates will open from 17h00 for the evening party.

She asked the SRC to get involved on social media in promoting the event.

Societies Councillor is fetching the artists from the airport.

She explained that the SRC's role is to be on call throughout these days. She requested that the SRC should not drink and that they wear their SRC t-shirts. Projects Manager said the target is to sell 3000 tickets and the money being used has been sourced from the O/Week budget.

Residence Councillor asked for a programme with the times of each event for both days.

Mr. Ofei Suggests there should be more pre-sold tickets to avoid chaotic situations outside the gate on the day.

Projects Manager explained that they are at a competition mode with other events being hosted around town that have a potential to attract a large crowd of students.

Residence Councillor suggested that they open up the event to other higher institutions around Grahamstown.

Projects Manager in direct response; explained that the university would challenge this idea because of safety issues.

Mr. Ofei advised that the important thing is to have their target number in the sale of tickets achieved.

Vice President advised that a video advertising the event should be released as for advertising on social media.

Community Engagement Councillor suggested that as Council, they don't wait on the Projects Manager for ideas but they should initiate ideas to help promote the event.

Student Benefits Councillor suggested they get Hall Reps involved in the promotion of the event.

2016. M10.11

REPORT BACKS

Residence Councillor:

He explained that Hall Reps have shared that they are feeling marginalized and not very much involved in anything. The Residence Councillor suggested that Hall Reps should get invited to Council meetings so they could feel as part of Council.

Oppidan Councillor suggested that Hall Reps could be involved in the Oppidan Fundraising project.

Projects Manager suggested that the Residence Councillor question the Hall Reps in order to understand what it is that they want instead of the SRC delegating to them what to do.

Vice President clarified that he had spoken to the Hall Reps and what they wanted was to be seen as SRC Hall Reps, they want inclusion to privileges, and that they don't mind delegation.

Academic Councillor questioned that how would Hall Reps be held accountable if they are made part of Council meetings.

Mr. Ofei explained that the SRC fought for Hall Rep privileges i.e. not to pack their rooms for vacations – he suggests they be asked “What exactly do they want?” He suggested they be told from the beginning of the year that they are sub-structures of the SRC and not the SRC. He said they need to understand that without the SRC, their positions do not exist.

Treasurer suggests that, to give the Hall Reps a privilege for the FlavourFest event, that they sell a number of tickets in order to get free access.

Activism Councillor:

She explained that she had a meeting with GAP and OUTRHODES in order to plan how they are going to facilitate residence talks on rape culture and abuse. She will have a meeting with wardens and the DSA. She requested that the SRC email her of anyone who is clued up on rape culture and abuse. The DSA will organise posters to advertise the talks.

She is also planning a project “Title IX” that consists of a list of demands that will be forwarded to university management concerning how they deal with rape cases.

With regard to the ‘Oppidan Meal assistance’, she has been working on an idea with Jay Pillay – the proposal has been sent to the VC, but she has not received a response.

Oppidan Councillor:

She has been working on the Constitution that the Oppidan Committee has agreed to amend.

Media Councillor:

She expressed that there is a lack of respect with regard to the use of equipment by SRC councillors. She will be sending emails to Council members who have misused equipment.

2016. M10.12

SRC ADVISOR

Mr. Ofei requested that the Council should send information that needs to be circulated to the students to the Hall Administrators so that it can be sent to the students’ email addresses.

He suggests that Council needs to decide what it is that they want to do with the SRC Facebook page – i.e. what it is they are going to allow on that page and decided the level of control they want to have. He advises that whatever decision they decide; they will be bashed.

He requested an explanation of the decision that was forwarded to the DSA that concerned not allowing SRC alumni attend SRC training. He explained

that SRC training was a sole responsibility of the outgoing SRC, he does not see why the SRC alumni should not be part of training. He requested that the SRC bring up such matters with him for discussion before they are forwarded to other university bodies.

President in direct response; clarified that no final decision was made and that it was a conversation he had with the DSA and there seems to have been miscommunication. He made it clear that the SRC is not aware of this information.

Mr. Ofei advised that the SRC should encourage students who want to meet SRC Councillors to make an appointment and must only make exceptions during emergency situations. This will give them time to focus on their studies.

Mr. Ofei spoke about the Constitution – he feels some of the things need to be worded properly instead of being changed. He will send the Council his draft of the Constitution during the June/July holidays to give them ideas.

2016. M10.13

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Residence Councillor: suggested that the SRC form a relationship with the student media newspapers i.e. they have an SRC column to highlight what it has done.

Media Councillor in direct response; suggested that they would have to pay for that column, but instead they could have their own pamphlet to save costs.

Media Councillor: She raised the issue that she has not been getting support from the Executive concerning managing social media.

President requested that fundraising and transformation should be outstanding agenda items – he suggests these are items that need discussion every time and each cluster needs to come up with ideas on how to fulfil the achievement of these two items.

Treasurer reminded the SRC of the Ubuntu Fund and that the Council should work from that document when planning to raise funds.

Academic Councillor suggested they have a time frame with regard to Fundraising.

2016. M10.14

UPCOMING EVENTS

FlavourFest 8-9 April

15 April 2016 Meet and Greet with the VC

2016. M10.15

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

11 April 2016 19h00 RA Room

Meeting Adjournment

22h15