

MINUTES | Rhodes University SRC General Meeting

DATE: 08 October 2018 SRC Council Meeting

TIME: 18h31

VENUE: RA Room, Steve Biko (Union) Building

CHAIR: Mister Secretary General

JOINT SITTING WITH INCOMING COUNCIL FOR 2019

ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & ABSENTEES

- APOLOGIES:
 - o President: Nhlakanipho Mahlangu
 - o Vice President: Kudakwashe Chingono
 - o Sports and Societies: Khaka Mpofu

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 01 OCTOBER 2018

- Community Engagement Councilor noted that the RUCE Fun Day would take place from 12h00 – 15h00 instead of 14h00 – 15h00 as reflected in the previous minutes
- Treasurer General expressed concern that some of the arguments and points raised in connection with the validity of the excuse of Mr Khaka Mpofu were not fully captured; she committed to sharing those arguments and points with the minute-taker offline

MATTERS ARISING

- Hand over Reports
- Phumi's case update
- Kids of Biko
- Leavers
- Bus for Funeral (Sinzaio Tshongweni)

SOCIETIES LEADERSHIP CONTACT

- Student Benefits Councilor noted that inasmuch as Council members would like to be part of AGMs, it would be impractical to attend them all; he suggested that before the end of the year, the Council should meet with the newly elected leaders of societies
- Secretary General noted that organizing such a meeting would be within the portfolio of the Sports and Societies Councilor; he noted that this should be an easy thing to accomplish as he imagines that societies have their new leadership by now given the AGMs which ought to have taken place
- Mr Ofei noted that the Council used to have comprehensive lists of societies and their leadership; he lamented the bad trend of late of not having the said comprehensive lists; he requested that Council hunt down those details; the incoming Council must have all of those details by February next year; he noted that if societies do not tow the line in this respect, they would have to be dealt with appropriately
- Secretary General noted that the relevant details of societies for which the Council members are honorary members will be due on 02 November 2018; he requested that if there are non-compliant societies that this be made known to the Council

SOCIETIES FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- Student Benefits Councilor noted the need for the Council to be in possession of the various societies' financial and operational reports; in previous meetings it has been noted that societies must conduct themselves well – training must be done to this end
- Secretary General noted that during AGMs financial and operational reports must be done by societies in order for the legitimacy of the AGMs to be recognized; these reports must exist and are thus probably not difficult to procure

NKOLI-FASSIE REPORT

- Student Benefits Councilor requested information regarding the progress and stage at which the proceedings against Nkoli-Fassie are presently
- Community Engagement Councilor reported that the society has been served but they have not as yet replied
- Mr Ofei reported that 2 weeks prior to the present meeting he had been in a meeting with the lawyers regarding Phumi's case upon the first meeting with the lawyers Phumi and Mr Ofei were present along with Mr Sibusiso Kinat as an observer; Mr Ofei expressed the view that the claims against Student Benefits Councilor are bogus; he reported that the scope was then shifted to the Treasurer General given that her previous statements and conduct could have amounted to intimidation; Mr Ofei pleaded with the Council not to engage in this issue emotionally; Mr Ofei further noted that there exists no proof that Phumi had directed Nkoli-Fassie to write the statement; further, the Council had no right to compel Phumi to repudiate the said statement apart from requiring her to distance herself from it; he implored the Council to be strategic; he noted that the case against Student Benefits Councilor is unwinnable for Phumi as it has no merit; he urged the Council to retaliate against those who threaten Council autonomy regardless of who they are
- Mr Ofei further noted in respect of Alumnus Status: the Council technically does indeed have powers to effectively revoke the alumnus status of Phumi as she cannot use the the name of the SRC without a two-thirds majority of the Council in favour thereof
- Academic Councilor asked what the consequences are if she does use the SRC's name without its permission
- Secretary General noted that when prospective employers perform background checks, for example, they will be told that Phumi does not have alumnus status as a member of Council; this decision of the Council to revoke her status must communicated to the various divisions of the University
- Mr Ofei noted that Article 3.3(5) and (6) are where the Council derives its powers
- Incoming Community Engagement Councilor requested that the incoming Council be furnished with the appropriate information regarding this case
- Secretary General noted that the incoming Vice President has all of the appropriate information

- **Council resolved: information regarding Nkoli-Fassie hearing is due Friday, 12 October 2018 at 20h00; SBD to be contacted; Treasurer General and Community Engagement Councilor to handle Pride Walk statement; President to handle Shutdown Meeting; Student Benefits, Academic, and Environmental Councilors to handle Facebook post**

MATRIC DANCES

Comment [WU1]: Spelling?

- Community Engagement Councilor reported that the Matric Dances for Ntsika High School and Nombulelo High School would take place on the coming Friday; she requested that Councilors join for the purpose of picture taking especially of the donated dresses; they would be taking place at 17h00: at the Drill Hall for Ntsika HS and at the Graham Hotel for Nombulelo HS
- Incoming Projects Manager asked if the Council actually has permission to take the proposed pictures of the students in their dresses
- Academic Councilor expressed the view that permission must be obtained; he also noted that the taking of pictures is tantamount to a denigration of the pupils' dignity
- Secretary General suggested that a picture of the entire group be taken as opposed to individual pictures
- Community Engagement Councilor noted that a group picture is what was planned in any case, and that permission had indeed been obtained
- Media Councilor expressed the view that the decision for pictures to be taken must be left up to the individual pupil in question as some of the pupils might actually like it
- Mr Ofei expressed the view that he does not think it is a good idea to take the proposed pictures, as the issue at hand is a deeply personal one
- Secretary General suggested that Community Engagement rather take pictures of herself en route to the Matric Dances rather than the actual pupils
- Community Engagement Councilor noted that the picture taking is also for Assupol's documentation purposes
- Student Benefits Councilor noted that in general if someone has donated something, they would like to see it being used
- Secretary General noted that for the Council itself to use the pictures for PR would be questionable

RUCE Fun Day

- Community Engagement Councilor reported that the Fun Day would take place on the coming Wednesday at 12h00 – 15h00 at Prospect Field, and acts as the RUCE closing function; in terms of Council involvement the request was made that the Council cater for the children and man the various stations
- Secretary General requested that the Council wear their black t-shirts for this event
- **Council resolved that this event is not compulsory but diverse participation of Council members is encouraged**
- Academic Councilor suggested that Councilors RSVP in respect of their availability for this event

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

- Projects Manager reported that the present week was Wellness Week which incorporates Breast Cancer Awareness Week; flyers have been printed and are to be disseminated to the Halls; the poster would be ready in the afternoon following the present meeting; an RMR Show and distribution of flyers would take place on Tuesday; Thursday would be Pink Thursday, an exhibition on the Union Lawns is to take place, a roundtable discussion is to be held, and a mass picture is to be taken on the Great Field; a movie night is to take place on Friday (movie title to confirmed)
- Projects Manager requested assistance in distributing flyers
- Secretary General noted that flyers would be collected from Projects Manager herself; Councilors who are residence students should take a few flyers and distribute them in the Dining Halls; if any ideas come up for incentivizing students to take the mass picture these are to be communicated offline to the Projects Manager

KIDS OF BIKO

- Media Councilor reported that the organization was started by 1st years and was calling for peaceful protests in connection with the broader student body, and requested the Council's support; she reported that she suggested to them that they become an official society of the university for the sake of efficiency and ease of operation

- Secretary General noted that the Council is unable to give support for the specific protest action in question; any events that happen two weeks before SWOT Week are not allowed
- Mr Ofei expressed concerns about students randomly approaching Councilors in a random fashion; he urged the Council to refer people with a specific qualm or idea to the appropriate Council member whose portfolio is relevant to the issue at hand

BUS FOR FUNERAL

- Treasurer general reported that she had met with the DVC who said that they do not have funds to subsidize transport for the funeral but is willing to provide funds on a loan basis
- Secretary General requested that Treasurer General have a meeting with Mrs. Penny Kivitts to get a response regarding securing a bus
- Academic Councilor recommended that the debt be assumed and paid for by the incoming Council
- Student Benefits objected to this on the grounds that it is tantamount to corruption (that people who have never directly assumed a debt be required to pay for it)
- Treasurer General noted that the meeting with Mrs. Kivitts would happen, and thus no need for a discussion on this specific point
- Secretary General noted that whatever the arrangement is, the Council must provide transport and that it would be on a first-come-first-served basis
- Mr. Ofei noted that owing to the immense expenditure on the Great Field Party and also the accompanying irregularities in terms of the financial report, the University is tentative about subsidizing Council endeavours; Mr. Ofei noted that the Great Field Party will most likely not take place next year as a result hereof
- Incoming Residence Councilor suggested that tiny contributions be asked of the travelling students to help fund transport

HAND OVER REPORTS

- Mr. Ofei expressed disappointment that he had not received the Hand Over Reports of some of the Councilors
- Secretary General confirmed that all the reports which he had sent to Mr. Ofei are the reports which he had received from the various Councilors himself

- Student Benefits Councilor noted that a discussion must be had in terms of punitive measures to be taken against Councilors who had not yet handed their reports in
- **RESOLVED by majority vote [8 in favour; 1 not in favour; 1 abstention]: the Council would be following the Operational Model in terms of Honorarium Deductions (i.e. -10% for late submission + -10% for each day not having submitted) this would be for both the Hand Over Reports as well as the Hand Over Schedule**

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT OFFICER

- Mr. Ofei noted that there had been good leadership of late as the year has been drawing to a close; the Executive is doing well; he noted the good work ethic of most of the Council members; he noted that International Affairs Councilor has proven to be a valuable addition to the Council; in contrast the incoming Council had so far proven not to be as good; Mr. Ofei noted that this is too soon for such a phenomenon; he requested that Council check up on those Council members who had resigned for the sake of their wellbeing; he congratulated the six Council members who had won Rhodes Top 100 Awards

REPORTS BACK

- Academic Councilor
 - o Went to Allan Gray residence for the mourning of the late Sinazo Tshongweni
 - o Attended inauguration
 - o Conducted hand over session
- Oppidan Councilor
 - o Had meeting with the DSA regarding the Oppidan Union running at a deficit; to hold meeting with the Vice-Chancellor in terms of a solution
- Projects Manager
 - o Hosted 30 Seconds Challenge
 - o Received email regarding the Orientation Week Task Team
- Environmental Councilor
 - o Had meeting with an individual at RMR regarding a show on environmental wellness
- Media Councilor

- Spoke to the media team to run the radio show
- Conducted hand over session
- Uploaded some things on the website
- Treasurer General
 - Hygiene campaign was poorly attended
 - The last meeting with the Board of Residences was non-quorate
 - Mr. Templeton to meet with members of the Council regarding lights on campus and security
 - Attended budget meeting
- Student Benefits Councilor
 - Representing the President at the Hultz Prize
- Secretary General
 - Attended disciplinary hearings, representing students
 - Attended some AGMs
 - Attended budget meeting
 - Sent Constitutional Review to Student Services
 - Put out advert for Theo workshop
- Community Engagement
 - Cannot do anything this week regarding the Drug and Alcohol campaign

Leavers agenda item was discussed in camera

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 20h43

NEXT MEETING ON 15th OCTOBER 2018 AT 18H30