**Minutes: Rhodes University SRC General Meeting held on the 18th of August 2021**

**Time Started:** 18:00

**Venue:** Zoom

**2021.08.01. Present**

- Ms. L. Nkambule - Ms. M. Matariro

- Ms. H. Mpiti - Ms. M. Mathabatha

- Ms. T. Phiri - Mr. N. Mkhulisa

- Ms. G. Mngeni - Ms. V. Moyo

- Mr. L. Cezula - Ms. C. Mude

- Ms. T. Hlako - Ms. N. Mwenye

- Ms. L. Leboho - Mr. M. Pfupa

**2021.08.02. Leave of Absence**

- Madam Student Benefits and Sports and Societies councillor were on leave.

**2021.08.03. Confirmation of Previous Minutes (10 August 2021)**

* Community Engagement councillor corrected Agenda 8.2 saying that the name is spelt Masixole and the second sentence should state that Masixole is a man not a lady.
* Madam Media stated that Agenda 8.1 says Madam Media could not attend the meeting and the EFF meeting, which is not correct. Agenda 8.5 says there were technical glitches but she said there were no technical glitches.
* Madam Vice President moved to confirm the minutes and Residence councillor seconded the confirmation.

**2021.08.04. Conflict Declaration**

No conflict declaration.

**2021.08.05. Matters Arising**

**5.1. Campus Concepts**

 **5.2. Recycling Competition**

 **5.3. Motivate Me Monday**

**2021.08.06. Matters Arising from the SRC Executive**

**2021.08.07. Upcoming Events**

**7.1. Vaccination Launch**

 **7.2. HIV and AIDS campaign**

**2021.08.08. Report Backs**

**8.1. Health and Safety Meeting**

**8.2. Oppidan Union Meeting**

**8.3. Feedback from the PGLC**

**8.4. Update on Leadership Week**

**2021.08.09. Other Matters Arising**

**9.1. Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation Collaboration**

**2021.08.10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Time Adjourned: 19:23

**Agenda 5.1. Campus Concepts**

Madam Media stated the following:

* She had a meeting with Mr. Mbewu, he mentioned that one of the reasons that there was no relationship anymore is because of the
* He would like SRC to become the ambassador of Campus concepts, in order to benefit the student body and to market their brand.
* Community Engagement councillor was grateful for the update. He asked that since council has been requested to be ambassadors, would council receive content and if there is a conflict of interest due to the collaboration.
* Madam Environmental asked if the companies at the bottom of the document were the only companies providing discounts. She was worried that there are no grocery stores where students can get discounts from mentioned in the document.
* Madam Media stated that they had given her 3 goodie bags to share, one for President, one for Media councillor and the other one would be for anyone else who would like the goodies. The conflict of interest issue will need to be raised in the next meeting, as for now Madam Media is not sure. She said that the companies mentioned in the document are the only ones providing discounts.
* Madam President stated that council would have to make an update with regards to the Communication division’s proposal. There was another request from the institution itself. She asked if council should rather get feedback with the way forward about the store.
* Madam Media stated that council should get feedback on the store first.
* Madam Treasurer General said before council accepts sponsorship elsewhere, council should speak to the Communication division. She felt that the best way is for the communication to take place first and then council can find out what exactly is required. She encouraged council to consider their offer.
* Madam President stated that the discounts to students are a good idea and student friendly. She suggested acquiring something that can benefit the student body.

**Agenda 5.2. Recycling Competition**

* Madam Post Graduate stated that the document mentioned a possible trophy and she asked if it was the trophy that was paid for but wasn’t delivered or Madam Environmental has a plan for a different one.
* Madam Environmental said that she and the Treasurer General went back and forth with the student that created the trophy who said the trophy exploded. The task team will outsource a cheaper trophy from High Street.
* Madam Post Graduate asked if the student will return the money for the trophy or not.
* Madam Environmental stated that the student said she didn’t receive payment for the trophy, so there might have been a mistake on the SRC’s part, Madam Treasurer General could shed some light on it.
* Madam Treasurer General stated that the student said she did not receive the payment, however, when the funds were reconciled it was discovered that the funds for the trophy payment were deducted. She said there will be a physical meeting to find out how much she usually gets paid and how much she received in that month.
* Madam Media said she did not understand what was meant by the trophy exploded and asked if Madam Environmental could explain.
* Madam Environmental said that the SRC did not pay her for 2 months and the trophy was placed next to a sculpture at the Drama department that then exploded and thus caused the trophy to explode.
* Madam President stated that council is captured by the amendments and she liked the different certificates. She hopes the money issue will be addressed as it is a key concern.

**Agenda 5.3. Motivate Me Monday**

* Madam Academics stated that she wanted the update to be added into the minutes, since it is an initiative. She has been advised to put the Motivate Me Monday on hold since there are elections going on. She discussed with the Vice President about putting it on hold. Motivate Me Monday will return after elections.

**Agenda 7.1. Vaccination Launch**

Madam Projects stated the following:

* The event will take place on the 1st of September, the presence and assistance of the SRC is required on the day so that there is no backlog.
* Council is required to be present on the 31st so that they can carry equipment needed.
* She needs Residence councillor’s assistance in handing out fliers.
* There is no vaccination literacy and there was a request to have a talk about it so that people can make informed decisions. The talk will take place on 26 August and it can be held on Zoom and later posted on RUconnected.
* Madam Environmental stated that all council members fall in the vaccination range and asked if councillors will be able to get vaccinated while assisting.
* Madam President said that the document encourages council to get vaccinated.
* Madam Vice President expressed that there may be councillors who do not want to get vaccinated and asked if they can refrain from getting vaccinated and being present at the launch.
* Madam President encouraged council to state conflicts of declaration in the beginning.
* Madam Secretary General agreed with the President.
* Residence councillor said he will liaise with the Hall representatives about putting posters up. There was no mention of having a webinar in the document and he asked if council may get clarity.
* Madam Media asked if students will be provided with transport on the day, to and from Post Graduate Village.
* Madam Secretary General stated that the student engagement was not a lot. She suggested that there could be 4 councillors who can sit and talk about the vaccine. Madam Secretary General asked if the university is going to provide tablets at the vaccination site and what kind of equipment council is taking to monument.
* Madam Projects said Ms. Mandisa will bring equipment, gazebos, tables and chairs. There won’t be a webinar because student interaction is low. She said the task team wants to get people to make an informed decision with facts and evidence. Madam Projects said she liked the Secretary General’s suggestion and added that the doctor can be interviewed. She said students may bring the questions they have in order to get answers.
* Madam Treasurer General suggested that the SRC should not offer transport
* Madam Environmental stated that there will be posters that will be put up at dining halls and asked council to minimise the amount of physical posters and maximise on online posters so that there is no paper wastage.
* Madam President stated that the information provided was straight to the point. From this meeting more light can be shed on the extra information that was asked for by councillors.
* Madam Media suggested that the SRC should provide transport, have a schedule with 3 vehicles that leave at a scheduled time. So that we show that we are promoting the idea of vaccination.
* Madam President said she assumed that transport provision will be made.
* Madam Secretary General asked that if the SRC provide transport for the first day, how many days will the SRC provide transport for, since it is not a once off thing. She said council can engage the students division to make a provision for transport.
* Madam Media mentioned that it was said that it should be SRC who organises the transport. She was speaking for the day of the launch but with regards to further dates, the institution can take the transport provision up.
* Community Engagement councillor stated that council had heard both sides and he proposed a motion to vote on whether the SRC should provide transport or not.
* Madam Treasurer General opposed the motion on the grounds that this is an open event, providing transport will provide expectations that the SRC might not be able to sustain.
* Madam President said she will not let the motion stand since there had been 3 engagements on the agenda.
* Community Engagement councillor said he was vehemently against the provision of transport, the implementation of this will end up in exclusion of other students. The vaccination is publicly accessed, council would not want to look like an elitist group that supports certain groups only. He encouraged council not to baby students.
* Madam Activism stated that it is not sustainable. If council provides transport they would need to provide the transport for their 1st and 2nd doses.
* Madam Vice President stated that she was captured by Community Engagement councillor and she raised a point that the SRC could get transport for themselves.
* Madam President was satisfied by the points raised.
* Madam Secretary General suggested that council moves for no transport provision at all. It would not give a good impression if SRC had transport and students did not.
* Madam President suggested that there be a vote. Those against transport provision were 12, there was no one for transport provision and 1 person who abstained from voting (Madam Media).
* Madam Media stated that she was conflicted.
* Madam President moved for no transport provision.

**Agenda 7.2. HIV and AIDS campaign**

Madam Projects met with Ms. Mandisa and would like to collaborate with her. She stated that they will find a date for when the campaign should be held.

**Agenda 8.1. Health and Safety Meeting**

Madam Environmental shared the following feedback from the meeting:

* They was a discussion about fixing washing machines and installing more fire alarms in the campus buildings.
* They were trying to find ways of raising funds since the university has limited funding at the moment because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Some of the washing machines are wasting water.
* They requested to have a water awareness program from 23rd to the 27th of August.

**Agenda 8.2. Oppidan Union Meeting**

Madam Oppidan had the following to say:

* The meeting was held on Sunday where there was discussion of upcoming events such as the Reflection session on the 23rd of August and speed dating.
* They are planning on hosting an Oppidan Ball on the 29th of October.
* Madam Media asked what provisions will be made for the COVID-19 rules and regulations and if the SRC was invited.
* Madam Post Graduate asked if the Oppidan Union will include 1st year postgraduate students in the events.
* Madam Environmental mentioned that the Oppidan Enviromental rep was changed and asked for her number. She had spoken to the previous rep about an upcoming picnic and was not sure if the new rep knew about it.
* Madam Oppidan answered yes, the SRC is invited and she would have to find out more about the COVID-19 protocols as there are still discussions with the wardens. The Oppidan Enviromental rep was chosen on Sunday and she will share the number with Madam Environmental. She said she will include the 1st year postgraduate students.

**Agenda 8.3. Feedback from PGLC**

Madam Post Graduate had the following to say:

* The first PGLC meeting was held.
* CPGS was grateful, there were issues they were worried about that they discussed.
* More supervisors give attention to postgraduate students and the undergraduate students get less attention.
* There is a drop in the postgraduate funding in the last 2 years because of COVID-19.
* There is appointment of examiners. Senate takes long to approve examiners and so they are looking into having Deans choose examiners instead.
* The 3 minute thesis completion is now on going, it will end on 17 September. There will be a quiz next week just to promote the event. The councillors can take part in the competition but not the quiz since it will seem like Madam Post Graduate is favouring the councillors.
* Madam President was grateful that there was revision of the committee.
* Madam Vice President said she was worried if the postgraduate SRC councillors were eligible for the quiz.
* Madam Post Graduate said the councillors can take part in the competition but not the quiz since it will seem like she is favouring the councillors if they win. She was not sure about prize money, but she will use R1000 from her portfolio funds and R500 will be awarded to the number one.

**Agenda 8.4. Leadership week**

* Madam Vice President mentioned that the event is clashing with the inauguration of SRC. The webinar will be Wednesday 31 August and Thursday 1 September.
* Madam Post Graduate asked if it is going to be combined with the training since the dates clash. The dates of the training are 30 August – 4 September in Makhanda and 4-12 September out of town.
* Madam Vice President state that she was not aware and has taken note of this.

**Agenda 9.1. Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation Collaboration**

Madam Activism stated the following:

* She has been invited to hand out letters.
* They have asked if the Media councillor can share the content.
* The task team will get postcards and they will be signed by students.
* Community Engagement councillor said that Madam Activism mentioned wanting to work with the school and asked what the vison and the intended purpose is for collaborating with the school.
* Madam Media said that Madam Activism mentioned that it will be her and another councillor and asked how the other councillor will be chosen, using what criteria.
* Madam Activism responded that the intended outcome is to widen the reach of the videos. The task team wants to know how the videos have impacted the students. About the other councillor, it would be with the discretion of council and it is up to council, nonetheless, she wanted to talk to Madam President.
* Community Engagement councillor said that the videos can be shared to the schools via email and WhatsApp.
* Madam President said she liked the initiative and there would be a great reach as the event is so powerful.

**2021.07.10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

* 23 August 2021 at 18:00 on Zoom

**Time Adjourned**: 19:23