**Minutes: Rhodes University SRC General Meeting held on the 26th of July 2021**

**Time Started**: 18:13

**Venue**: Zoom

**2021.07.01. Present**

- Ms. L. Nkambule - Ms. L. Leboho

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

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

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

- Ms. Z. Gcumisa - Ms. C. Mude

- Mr. L. Cezula - Ms. N. Mwenye

- Ms. T. Hlako - Mr. M. Pfupa

- Mr. M. Khopeli

**2021.07.02. Leave of Absence**

- Ms Milca Matariro sent an apology and could not attend due to a bereavement in her family.

**2021.07.03. Confirmation of Previous Minutes (7 June 2021)**

- Community Engagement councillor raised a motion to confirm the minutes.

- Madam Activism seconded the motion.

**2021.07.04. Conflict Declaration**

- No conflict declaration.

**2021.07.05. Matters Arising**

**5.1. Oppidan Cookbook**

**5.2. HIV and AIDS Campaign**

**5.3. Tall Trees**

**5.4. Bafundise Project**

**5.5. Library Literacy Information Program**

**5.6. Students needing Funding**

**5.7. Textbooks Donated by Alumni**

**5.8. Leadership Week**

**5.9. COVID-19 Campaign**

**5.10. Women's Month Webinar**

**5.11. Google Box**

**5.12. August Pad Drive**

**2021.07.06. Matters Arising from the SRC Executive**

**6.1. General Progress Meetings**

**2021.07.07. Upcoming Events**

**7.1. Women's Month**

**2021.07.08. Report Backs**

**8.1. FSCA Update**

**8.2. Feenix Update**

**8.3. Financial Aid Committee Feedback**

**8.4. Social Media Policy**

**8.5. Feedback from the library committee**

**8.6. Feedback from the Faculty board**

**8.7. Feedback from Infrastructure Committee**

**2021.07.09. Other Matters Arising**

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

**Agenda 5.1. Oppidan Cookbook**

* Madam Oppidan stated that she compiled the book from recipes that people from Oppidan residences use.
* Madam Activism said she was delighted with the cookbook and added that the notes on “Is a Vegan” should be added to the other recipes too, for the benefit of vegans.
* Madam Treasurer General said there should be other meals in order to have variety and other African cuisine. Then overall, she likes the book and is impressed.
* Madam Student Benefits asked if it was possible to add a table of contents before the recipes in the book. She suggested that the task team could add where to buy the ingredients and council could find people who have sponsored the SRC before e.g. Pic ‘n Pay.
* Residence councillor suggested that there should be separation and categorisation of the cuisines (Italian, African, Seafood, etc). He also stated that there should be diverse meals just as Madam Treasurer General had mentioned but all in all, the book is great.
* Sports and Societies councillor said that having the Cookbook is a great initiative and it is a great book, as people are learning about different meals from the book. He stated that the task team should acknowledge everyone who was involved in creating the book. Sports and Societies councillor asked if the book will be distributed as a hardcopy or as an online book.
* Madam President concurred with all the comments. She added that the book is such a great starting point and it can be further improved. Madam President reiterated that the students who contributed should definitely be acknowledged. She stated that the document is good, especially for students who are staying off campus.
* Madam Oppidan answered the Sports and Societies councillor saying the book will be available online.
* Madam President suggested that the project task team could do a general call out to students for information to diversify the meals.
* Community Engagement Councillor asked how often the book will be issued and if it would be updated each term.
* Madam Student Benefits stated that in addition to calling out students, council members could add recipes and include the meals from the International week.
* Madam Oppidan, with frequency, I thought we can update it yearly however, it will be updated once more and then released.
* Madam President sought clarity on what will happen from now.
* Madam Oppidan answered that she will edit the document this week and then bring it back to council then maybe release it 2 weeks from now.

**Agenda 5.2. HIV and AIDS Campaign**

Madam Projects stated the following:

* She needs assistance in terms of names of speakers.
* Ms. Mandisa will help Madam Projects with the project.
* She is waiting for ICON condom for their feedback.
* Community Engagement councillor stated that there are a lot of students living with HIV and suggested that some of them can be involved in the campaign so that their perspective may be shared with others.
* Madam Students Benefits asked who would distribute the condoms.
* Community Engagement councillor stated that the document mentioned including the LGBTQI+ community. He questioned what could be done so that people may not be ashamed and may be able to come out with confidence concerning the stigma around sexuality and HIV.
* Madam Projects was grateful to the Community Engagement councillor and said she will speak to Ms. Mandisa seeing as she hadn’t considered it. She added that Ms. Mandisa might know people who are more comfortable to speak about that.
* Madam Projects said that condoms will be distributed by placing them around campus, i.e. the library, residences, etc. She is looking forward to sending out infographics to tackle the project and open to suggestions.
* International councillor commented on breaking down the stigma saying that it is a good idea.
* Madam President said that some of the SRC events make students uncomfortable but then it speaks to the greater purpose of the projects. She commended the involvement of the Eastern Cape liquor board seeing as many students living with HIV abuse substances and so she is happy with the campaign.
* Madam Post Graduate stated that she had two submissions. Firstly, the task team could promote abstinence so that those who want to abstain do not feel as if they should not. Secondly, when they distribute condoms on campus, they could add lube as well.
* Sports and Societies councillor was grateful for the project. He mentioned that the project is centralized on campus and it does not seem fair that some students will miss out on it as they might not be back on campus by 29 August 2021. Sports and Societies councillor said that there will be a webinar for the campaign but the students would not be able to receive the condoms and he expressed that it would be good to cater for students when they are not on campus.
* Madam Activism said that the task team could introduce oral condoms (dental dams) and asked for clarity on the LGBTQI+ issue and how best the task team can destigmatize.
* Residence councillor suggested that the task team advertises the project like council did with the Diversability event. He said people could receive condoms at Steve Biko and on the way to the dining hall, for example.
* Madam Projects replied to the suggestions saying that in terms of lube, it could be difficult but she will speak to Icon and find out. She said her task team can encourage students who aren’t on campus to collect condoms at the nearest clinic in order to cater for them. In terms of the speaker for the LGBTQI+ topic, she said the campaign would need a speaker that can contextualise it and see if there is a way forward. Madam Projects mentioned that she did not have a topic as yet and was asking council to share their ideas.
* Madam President said that Madam Projects should move forward with the established task team at the moment. She stated that there was a key speaker that she came across which could be very helpful for the campaign’s success.

**Agenda 5.3. Tall Trees**

Madam Activism had the following to say:

* She received feedback from a team member.
* The team member said that the format of the whole document is ruined and he asked if Madam Activism’s input is covered under the SRC policy. He believes the document is not feasible to work on and the relevant councillors can work with the input they have.
* It is difficult to work with the students and she understands how much effort has been put into the project.
* Madam President was disappointed that after the edits made by council, the committee felt that the format did not align with the vision they have. She sought for clarity by asking if the dissatisfaction came after the edit. Madam President added that councillors spent quite some time editing and making changes to the document and asked what the way forward was now.
* Madam Security General suggested that council moves to not collaborating with them and removing the SRC name from the book.
* Community Engagement councillor agreed with Madam Security General.
* Madam Vice President agreed with Madam Security General and added that in terms of structure, there is no way to publish that book without including the SRC.
* Madam President said that if the students are not willing to accept the edits from the SRC then she agrees with Madam Security General. She raised a movement that the SRC not be included in the credits if the edits are not accepted.
* Sports and Societies made an amendment to say that there is no need to mention that the students once worked with the SRC as it will be difficult for them to run the project on their own.
* Madam President said there is no collaborative effort if the edits are not being accepted.

**Agenda 5.4. Bafundise Project**

Madam Academics said the following:

* The Bafundise project adds to the Makufundwe project.
* The project ensures that the matric classes are well equipped and prepared for when they come to Universities.
* Madam President clarified that the document shared by Madam Academics was titled Balungisele but the agenda name is Bafundise project.
* Madam Media said that considering that it’s a virtual visit, the task team could open the virtual visit up to more schools that are making an effort to make sure that their students get into Rhodes and also the schools that do not have the facilities to promote their students in the same way.
* Community Engagement councillor asked if Madam Academics had the equipment required for the project.
* Madam Academics agreed with Madam Media, however she was looking into how possible it is to share with other schools. She will get the different departments to submit their emails to her task team. Madam Academics and her task team will have the videos compiled using a phone thus there is not much equipment required.
* Madam President said that council needs to know when the task team will be able to apply. She said that the best month would be September and not October. Madam President suggested having the schools play an informative video during assembly from a USB flash or through a projector so that the students can get the information.
* Madam Academics asked if the task team should distribute the videos now.
* Madam President answered no and said the task team could consolidate the videos so long and then distribute the final product in September.
* Madam Security General suggested that a selected councillor could hold a conversation with the Dean, whereby he/she asks probing questions that can be answered accordingly.

**Agenda 5.5. Library Literacy Information Program**

* Madam Academics said that Thandi from the Library committee would require assistance with sharing a poster and wanted her to share the poster with the Academic reps.
* Madam President approved of it and added that she believed it was important. She concluded that there were no objections and asked council to share the poster as well.

**Agenda 5.6. Students needing Funding**

Madam Student Benefits stated that:

* She wanted to update the council that on 16 July 2021, Mrs Mathewana called from the Financial Aid office saying there hasn’t been any feedback. The office has funding available to give to students and that might not be picked up in the system.
* Madam President asked if the funding is for commercial students.
* Madam Student Benefits answered yes, the funding is for Commerce and BSc. She submitted a complete list of students that approached her since she was not sure who did commerce or not.
* International councillor mentioned that he was not sure how debiting and crediting worked but on Ross it appears as if the fees has been cleared on the website. He wanted clarity on what that meant.
* Madam President said she would encourage students to email the Student affairs councillor to find out more about their account status.

**Agenda 5.7. Textbooks Donated by Alumni**

* Madam Student Benefits stated that on 26 June 2021, she received an email from the alumni office about textbooks that had been donated, she hasn’t been able to collect them but she will update council once she has done that. Madam Student Benefits said she would need help to distribute the books.
* Madam President said that this information could have been shared via a message to council, however she expanded on it. She said council can have pictures of the textbooks that have been donated then each councillor can share those pictures and have students choose which books they would like to collect.

**Agenda 5.8. Leadership Week**

* Madam Vice President said the following:
* Leadership Week will be happening from 25th-27th August, as a weekend. The organising team are hoping that the dates will be around that time. It will run over 3 days.
* The event can have 1 or 2 hour webinars and have different speakers at the webinars that include people who were once in the council.
* Sports and Societies councillor called for a point of order saying that Madam Vice President was speaking too fast and council didn’t receive a proposal. He asked for Madam Vice President to please send through a proposal to council.
* Madam President stated that she would let the point of order stand.

**Agenda 5.9. COVID-19 Campaign**

* Madam Projects stated that the campaign will be different as it will be online and infographics will be released to people.
* Madam President suggested that since the times are moving towards vaccination, could council have a vaccination awareness campaign and have Professor Darrington speak about the scientific point of view of the vaccine. She asked hoe council felt about this.
* Madam Media added that the task team could include the lambda variant of the virus in the campaign.
* Madam Projects said that these were great ideas and she proposed to move the campaign to the following Thursday as she would have to rework the project and add more information.
* Sports and Societies councillor stated that there would be no need to cancel the upcoming campaign but rather have the vaccination centred campaign next week Thursday.
* Madam President said that it was a great suggestion.
* Madam Activism stated that it is important to remind people to adhere to the rules and regulations of COVID-19 as the alcohol ban has been lifted.
* Madam Vice President said there should still be information released this Thursday regarding COVID-19 and reminding people about the rules and regulations.

**Agenda 5.10. Women's Month Webinar**

* Community Engagement councillor stated that he supports the list of speakers and the webinar will be a high impact event due to that. He requested for a list of back up speakers in case some of them are unavailable.
* Madam President expressed that no one gave her feedback besides the Community Engagement councillor and Madam Vice President and she was hoping that since it is women’s month and the council is female dominated, there would be more feedback but she appreciated the feedback she received.
* Madam Student Benefits said that she did not have amendments for the Woman’s day as she did not know most of the speakers and the plan looked good. She said the proposal was quite straightforward so that is why there was not much feedback.

**Agenda 5.11. Google Box**

* Madam Projects asked for a point of clarity. She asked if technical team from SRC members meant a person in the SRC task team or something else.
* Community Engagement councillor asked about the filtering of the information and if there will be separate documents for each of the dining halls.
* Residence councillor stated that he was hoping that the task team from SRC could provide two people to assist with the project. He also said that it would be better to facilitate one link rather than having 14 links.
* Madam Projects disagreed since she has used google docs as well. She explained that the Residence councillor would be able to facilitate the documents and strongly suggested the use of different links for each dining hall.
* Residence councillor stated that he and Madam Projects can discuss it further in private.

**Agenda 5.12. August Pad Drive**

* Residence councillor asked if he could please have a task team including, Madam Post Graduate, Madam Oppidan, Madam President and other council members.
* Sports and Societies councillor recommended that it would be of best interest if the task team invited the Wellness society to partake in the event and he believed they would be very happy to join the Pad drive.
* Madam Treasurer General pointed out that the amount of funds allocated to the project is concerning. Her team can add more as they are looking for sponsorship. Madam Treasurer General encouraged the Residence councillor to dig deeper into his portfolio funds. She also added that the pads could be distributed at the same locations that the condoms would be distributed in the HIV and AIDS campaign.
* Madam Secretary General suggested that the project should be a continuous project and not leave it to the August event only. She raised concerns about distributing pads on a purple Thursday as it might pose a challenge.
* Madam Projects stated that Dischem had a nice drive whereby they would ask customers to buy sanitary towels and drop them in a box at the door on their way out. She believed it would be great to do something similar.
* Madam President said that council can discuss the agenda further as the Residence councillor builds his task team. She encouraged the Residence councillor to include Madam Projects in his task team.

**Agenda 6.1. General Progress Meetings**

* Madam Secretary General stated that the Progress meetings will be held with the Madam Vice President over Zoom and frequently.
* Madam President said that she will provide feedback from the SRC Executive meeting.

**Agenda 7.1. Women's Month**

* Madam Activism stated that she would have liked to paint the library wall on Sunday 1 August 2021, however the task team had to move it to the 8th of August 2021. The task team will be painting the feminist symbol and quotes from women who inspire them.
* Madam Academics asked how the team will make sure that COVID-19 regulations are adhered to with many people being present, and she asked if this will be a contact event.
* Madam President said that the team has to be watchful of what people write on the wall, the SRC wouldn’t want controversial statements being written by people.
* Madam Activism stated that after she does some research on controversial topics, the task team would have to let people know whose quotes to avoid. She said that the event was designed for SRC only but now maybe there can be time slots where other people come to paint and write as well and so that it does not become a contact event.
* Madam Academics suggested that people could start painting and writing throughout the week and not have it all done on one day.

**Agenda 8.1. FSCA Update**

* Sports and Societies councillor was concerned that there is slow progress. He said that Ruce is an economic society and had nothing to do with the finances. They did not continue with sign-ups however council would like to know what they suggest.
* Madam President said that they have expressed interest in working with the SRC. She added that there is not so much council can work with from the update and asked how council can move forward with the update. Madam President asked when council should have a Financial wellness webinar and urged councillors to be honest with themselves.
* Madam Student Benefits, said that there will be a pre-activation meeting where they will discuss the date for the next meeting and there will be a meeting which will take place on Wednesday that she will attend it with Madam Vice President. She said that she can only give feedback on when the webinars can be scheduled for after the meeting.
* Madam Treasurer General added that the FSCA will take place as time goes by, it couldn’t happen last semester so the task team moved it to this semester.

**Agenda 8.2. Feenix Update**

* Madam Student Benefits explained that she still needs to send the documents to Madam Media and figure out how to spread the word as she taps into awareness.
* Madam Vice President expressed that she believes that once the project picks up, there would be need to maintain consistency, momentum and have good advertising. She enquired how that would be done.
* Madam Student Benefits stated that a lot of stuff was supposed to be done last semester but when SWOT week came, the task team had to postpone the plans to the new semester. She said things are moving at a slow pace due to the delays that keep coming up but the task team will have the first meeting on the 2nd of August. She has been providing clarity to all students that need the clarity.

**Agenda 8.3. Financial Aid Committee Feedback**

* Madam Activism said that Point 3 reads that the University says that NSFAS makes them work too much.
* Madam Student Benefits answered that the resolution was that financial appeals have to be moved to NSFAS since Student offices were being over worked.

**Agenda 8.4. Social Media Policy**

* Madam Secretary General shared an update that council was asked to submit edits on the document. She said that the feedback is that council would want the document to be redone as they would want rules that prevent cyber bullying and other changes. The next meeting is on the 29th.
* Madam Vice President added that the document was very bad and it should be edited. She suggested that the committee outsources other people to help with the document.

**Agenda 8.5. Feedback from the library committee**

Residence councillor stated the following:

* There was a meeting last year, there were concerns raised in terms of the composition of the committee. There is a formation of a Makhanda state called the Forum.
* There were shortages of library staff and UCT did not want to co-operate in terms of helping structuring the library employees.
* He shared statistics from the event. He mentioned that it was a success from the Division of Students Affairs side and not the students’ side.
* The SRC works with the Division of Students Affairs and Library and council could help to increase the number of the library committee.
* Madam Academics stated that the library has so many programs and the marketing of the programs should be increased through the SRC. She said that speaking to the substructures of the SRC will be a great starting point.

**Agenda 8.6. Feedback from the Law Faculty board**

Madam Post Graduate stated the following:

* There is advancement with the invigilator app. This year the application team recorded 1500 students that used the App. It is sensitive to movement and speech.
* She received emails asking for postgraduate funding scholarships for LLB students but LLB is a second qualification and not a postgraduate degree.
* Madam Projects suggested that information be released to students who are interested in applying for funding for LLB, letting them know that they do not qualify.
* Madam Student Benefits shared the same sentiments with Madam Post Graduate. She added an update that the LLB students can apply but they might not qualify.
* Madam Media expressed that the Law faculty does not have enough bursaries or funding opportunities and the amount of some bursaries may not be enough to cover all expenses.
* Madam President agreed with Madam Projects and added that the funding shortfall from NSFAS has had a negative impact on the students’ payment plans.

**Agenda 8.7. Feedback from Infrastructure Committee**

Community Engagement councillor stated the following:

* There is feedback on recycling on campus.
* The Deputy Director will revise the feasibility of the project of having a more environmental conscious attitude.
* The committee wants to move some departments around and council will be updated on which departments these are.
* The renovations at the Administration block are almost complete with some electrical issues left behind.
* The Mood room needs to be updated, the plan was sent to the relevant people for approval.
* The evacuation plan for responding to emergencies or COVID-19 needs to be revised. Their goal is to strengthen contingency plans just like when there were food shortages that time.
* Sports and Societies councillor added that there was a motion that was raised in the meeting to combine some projects so that the amount of funds requested wouldn’t be too high. He urged council to go over the document that was sent to council.

**Agenda 9. Other Matters Arising**

* There will be a student body meeting on 6 August. There should be two of those meetings in an academic year.
* The SRC will have to write an article with regards to suicide. Balance your lives, an NGO, approached Madam President with regards to that. Madam Student Benefits asked when the writing would begin. Madam President answered saying that there isn’t a time period really, so the time is up to council. Madam Post Graduate suggested having people volunteer to write about it since it is a sensitive topic.
* There was an invitation from Turbovite to collaborate with them as they advertise their energy drinks. Madam Student Benefits supported the idea of collaborating with Turbovite. Madam President stated that she will delegate the necessary councillors when council has all agreed on the collaboration.
* There will be a trans-language event. This is part of the transforming mandate of the University. The SRC was invited to speak on the topic of trans-language in the University.

**Agenda 10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

02/08/2021 at 18:00 on Zoom

**Time Adjourned:** 21:02