**Minutes: Rhodes University SRC General Meeting held on the 27th of September 2021**

**Time Started:** 18:27

**Venue:** Zoom

**2021.09.01. Present**

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

- Ms. H. Mpiti - Ms. M. Matariro

- Ms. T. Phiri - Ms. M. Mathatabatha

- Ms. G. Mngeni - Mr. N. Mkhulisa

- Mr. L. Cezula - Ms. V. Moyo

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

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

- Mr. M. Khopeli - Mr. M. Pfupa

**2021.09.02. Leave of Absence**

- There was no leave of absence.

**2021.09.03. Confirmation of Previous Minutes (20 September 2021)**

* Community Engagement councillor said that in Agenda 8.2 on the 8th point from the top, there was an amendment with regards to the titles, it is not the Vice President but the chairperson, not the Treasurer General but just the Treasurer, not the Community Engagement councillor but Community Engagement councillor rep.
* Community Engagement councillor
* Sports and Societies councillor corrected Agenda 8.4 saying the first and last points from the minutes should be removed. He also corrected Agenda 8.2 saying there should be consistency in the title of the Sports and Societies councillor.
* Madam Vice President corrected Agenda 8.2 saying she did not mention deadlines for the policy.
* Madam Student Benefits moved to confirm the minutes and Community Engagement councillor seconded the confirmation.

**2021.09.04. Conflict Declaration**

No conflict declaration.

**2021.09.05. Matters Arising**

**5.1. Resignation of the Academic Councillor**

**2021.09.06. Matters Arising from the SRC Executive**

**6.1. Executive Meeting**

**2021.09.07. Upcoming Events**

**7.1 Pride Month**

**7.2 Recycling Competition**

**2021.09.08. Report Backs**

**8.1. The Recycling Hub meeting**

**8.2. The Eco Brick Bins meeting**

**2021.09.09. Other Matters Arising**

**9.1. Student Entrepreneur**

**9.2. NSFAS Accreditation process**

**9.3. Societies Petition**

**2021.09.10. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Time Adjourned: 19:32

**Agenda 5.1. Resignation of the Academic Councillor**

Madam Academics stated the following:

* She has stepped down from the position of Academic councillor and wanted to formally inform council.
* The basis of the resignation was due to a hearing case that she was involved in. The case was not successful on her part.
* Madam President said this was quite unfortunate, council appreciated Madam Academics’ vigour, her work has been utterly appreciated and she has redefined what the position means. She served students very well.

**Agenda 6.1. Executive Meeting**

Madam President stated the following:

* In terms of NSFAS Accreditation, this is the time when most students might need to renew their leases, Madam Oppidan has more information about this.
* Basic conduct was discussed.
* What happened at the council meeting regarding allegations of intentionally not attending council meetings was discussed. There will be a meeting with senior management on Friday where other matters will be raised.
* There was a request to have a longer period to paint the wall for pride month.
* Madam Student Benefits asked which other matters would be raised with senior management at the meeting.
* Madam President said the Secretary General could send an email requesting for the other matters to be stipulated.

**Agenda 7.1 Pride Month**

* Madam Student Benefits said the document included a pride picnic with less than 50 people in attendance and asked if this would be possible and if the application had been approved. She asked what prizes would be won.
* Residence councillor was captured by the document and commended the Activism councillor for a project that aims to promote the diversified student body. He said the event is on the day of the painting of the wall and asked if the date could be moved to a Saturday or Sunday as Friday is an academic day.
* Madam Post Graduate stated that there is no time mentioned in the document and asked what time the wall would be painted.
* Madam Vice President suggested getting in touch with other societies and making a broad call out. It would be great to collaborate with other societies. She said there is a higher chance that there would be no contact event. Council will ask for assistance from the other substructures and it would give a different message in a way.
* Madam Vice President suggested having the date of the painting moved to the following week as pride month runs for a month.
* Madam Treasurer General said since Heritage wall was recently painted, it would be great to have the pride month painting done in the second week and not in the beginning of the month. She also asked if there was a person who could paint the wall yet.
* Madam Activism stated that if the picnic idea is rejected, then her team can let the competition run for a month. In terms of prizes, the team has been deliberating on using Rhodes merchandise from the well-known shop. The painter has been confirmed and she said she would be keen to paint.
* Madam Activism was open to moving the painting event to the following week.

**Agenda 7.2 Recycling Competition**

* Madam Environmental stated that the event is now a dinner event.
* Residence councillor asked if the event is a contact event or not. He also requested to have the President and the Environmental councillor sign the awards.
* Madam Environmental agreed and said it was a good idea to have her sign the awards. She said it would not be a contact event even though she would have loved for it to be one.
* Madam Environmental said the event is going to be a virtual event. She has scheduled a meeting with the Residence councillor to strategize on how they will get the information to the sub-wardens’ and the wardens’ attention. There are prizes for the dining hall and the wardens need to collect the awards.

**Agenda 8.1. The Recycling Hub meeting**

Madam Environmental had the following to say:

* The event was supposed to launch at the beginning of this term but it has been moved to the beginning of 2022.
* The Environmental elect has been brought on board and the new Environmental councillor will oversee taking over any projects that Madam Environmental had begun working on for the Hub.
* The team is currently working on a story time that the student body can understand about the evolution of humanity and how humans impact the environment in a way that does not overwhelm people.
* When people talk about the environment, they talk about the chemicals, about decomposed waste and it moves the attention from the core message.
* The team will release a story book.
* Madam Environmental and the Environmental elect have been asked to write the story and they will bring it to council then release it to the student body.

**Agenda 8.2. The Eco Brick Bins meeting**

Madam Environmental stated the following:

* Madam Treasurer General and Madam Environmental have finalised the purchase of the materials to make the eco bricks and she asked if there were any councillors available to assist in making more bricks on Saturday.
* The councillors available to assist could let Madam Environmental know.
* Community Engagement councillor asked what the relation to starting the Eco brick bins project is in terms of contact events.
* Madam Environmental explained that the Recycling hub and the Eco brick bins are two separate events. The Eco brick bins are the SRC’s project and the Recycling hub is a point that was created so that students can gather and separate waste. The Recycling hub requires a lot of contact and that is not allowed at the moment.

**Agenda 9.1. Student Entrepreneur**

Madam Student Benefits stated the following:

* There was a virtual meeting with Rhodes Business school on Friday.
* The student entrepreneur week will be from 7 October 2021 to 18 October 2021. It will be virtual.
* She still needs more assistance from councillors, only Madam Oppidan and the Residence councillor have volunteered to assist as it stands.
* The SRC has a specific day in the week to share.
* From the executive, it was approved to have a student entrepreneur training, but after the FSCA webinars she was in contact with the National Employment Fund (NEF) representative who said they conduct trainings for free.
* The Student Benefits councillor wanted to have the trainings here but the representative wanted to come to Grahamstown and council can have a discussion on this.
* All the events are happening online.
* She found out that Inectus is a society that is entrepreneur based and that is the society her team is collaborating with.
* Madam Vice President she said she was glad to know that all is going well. She reminded Madam Student Benefits that Executive had rejected the idea of the studentpreneur training and moved with a way forward. Executive rejected the idea because it would have been too demanding for the SRC to handle alone without collaborators.
* Madam Vice President believed that the project is continuously growing. She also mentioned that there are constant changes in terms of timelines.
* Madam Student Benefits said she raised the issue however the event is online, the people who will probably engage are student entrepreneurs and that is the desired group of people to attend.
* Madam Student Benefits said the event is running up until the 18th of October 2021 because there will be a policy hackathon from 14-18 October 2021. The event will be from 18:30-20:00 and at 12:00-14:00 for something that people can engage with later on. The SRC will have one day to share in that whole time period and she will focus on training in that student entrepreneur week.
* Madam President asked if the dates warrant mobilising students up until the 14th of October 2021 for example, since SRC has one day.
* Madam Student Benefits answered saying yes.

**Agenda 9.2. NSFAS Accreditation process**

Madam Oppidan stated the following:

* She spoke with Madam President and Madam Vice President about an email that had been sent.
* She requested to send an email from the SRC with regards to the accreditation.
* The dates of the emails are different compared to the follow-up emails.
* She asked council to submit questions that they may want her to ask.
* Madam President said the SRC has to say something about the process and this can be done through Madam Oppidan. She encouraged council to draft a document for that.
* Madam Student Benefits asked if council could enquire about the dates and she raised questions about stating if leniency will be carried out.
* Madam President said council needs to make sure it is bringing the student voice into the process and through the directive of Madam Oppidan.
* Madam Vice President asked what the conversation was in terms of what they are looking at, the policies, if it is applicable to Rhodes University, etc. She asked for context in order to be able to submit questions.
* Madam Student Benefits asked who the people to contact are, landlords or agents.
* Madam Oppidan stated that the team was looking at the certificate of compliance with regards to the NSFAS policy in the meeting and everything else was discussed before the meeting. She said the correct person to contact is the warden or one of the sub-wardens or the DSA.
* Madam Student Benefits asked who can be contacted in the DSA.
* Madam Oppidan typed the lady’s name in the chat box.
* Madam President asked that council have all the information at hand before releasing the information.
* Madam Oppidan said she didn’t get captured by the difference in the dates.
* Madam President advised Madam Oppidan to request for the meeting minutes.

**Agenda 9.3. Societies Petition**

Sports and Societies councillor stated the following:

* The Societies are not happy that their physical events are being declined, yet Sports groups have been having physical events.
* They want to start a petition.
* By the time they send a statement, they will have backing from the student body.
* They will make the statement of displeasure public.
* His team is glad they are taking the matter through the right channels.
* He encouraged councillors to sign the petition.
* Madam President said that it is good to see vigour from the societies. The stance of the SRC needs to be established. She encouraged the SRC to be in support of the Societies council.
* Sports and Societies councillor said councillors can share the petition and the Secretary will share the petition online tomorrow as well. The COVID-19 task team will receive the outcomes of the petition.

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

* 4 October 2021 at 18:00 on Zoom

**Time adjourned**: 19:32