**Minutes: Rhodes University SRC General Meeting held on the 2nd of August 2021**

**Time Started:** 18:00

**Venue:** Zoom

**2021.07.01. Present**

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

-Ms. G. Mngeni - Ms. M. Mathabatha

- Ms. Z. Gcumisa - Mr. N. Mkhulisa

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

- Ms. T. Hlako - Ms. C. Mude

- Mr. M. Khopeli - Ms. N. Mwenye

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

**2021.07.02. Leave of Absence**

- Madam President took a leave..

- Madam Secretary General took leave.

**2021.07.03. Confirmation of Previous Minutes (26 July 2021)**

* Madam Student Benefits stated that in Agenda 5.1 it states that there is an International week task team but it is not just a task team. She also stated that the spelling of Matiwane needed to be corrected. Madam Student Benefits stated that with the financial aid feedback, there was a request of student needing funding as a correction and to subtract commercial students as it was Commerce students.
* Madam Student Benefits said that with regards to clarity on the response of staff being overworked it should read Rhodes staff members felt they were overworked.
* Community Engagement councillor amended agenda 8.7 saying that the Deputy Director is of Infrastructure as it was not mentioned. He said that it is called a moot room not mood room.
* Madam Post Graduate corrected agenda 8.6 on the advancement of the invigilator app and requested that numbers should not be stated. She said that for the LLB qualification, it is not equivalent to honours on the NQF.
* Madam Environmental requested that the leave of absence be stated absent and leave out the reason.
* Madam Projects requested that Ruce should be in capital letters.
* Madam Vice President corrected the spelling of Ruce to RUESS.
* Madam Media corrected agenda 8.6 saying that LLB students need funding because of the shortfall of the current funding.
* Madam Oppidan amended agenda 5.1 saying that it should read Oppidan students and not Oppidan residences. She also said that updating the cookbook wouldn’t be yearly as yet since this is the first update that has been made.
* Madam Sports and Societies councillor stated that for agenda 8.1 he did not say RUESS is an economic society nor did he say that they did not continue with the signups and the other point he mentioned was in relation to ABSIP.
* Community Engagement councillor confirmed minutes and Sports and Societies councillor seconded the motion.

**2021.07.04. Conflict Declaration**

No conflict declaration.

**2021.07.05. Matters Arising**

**5.1. 3-Minute Thesis Competition**

**5.2. Oppidan Cookbook**

**5.3. Leadership Week**

**5.4. Scifest Africa**

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

Will only have Executive meeting this Sunday and the Data and allowance are the main agendas.

**2021.07.07. Upcoming Events**

**7.1. Women's Month**

**7.2. Student Body Meeting**

**2021.07.08. Report Backs**

**8.1. FSCA Update**

**8.2. Social Media Policy**

**8.3. Sports Council Feedback**

**8.4. SRC Poster and Booklet**

**2021.07.09. Other Matters Arising**

**9.1. Feenix Update**

**9.2. SRC Exec meeting with EFFSC**

**9.3. Reports from the substructures**

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

Time Adjourned: 20:44

**Agenda 5.1. 3-Minute Thesis Competition**

* Community Engagement councillor stated that the document says all students are encouraged to apply, but others are not doing thesis work but just coursework, he asked if this was correct. He encouraged councillors to do their best to make the event a success.
* Madam Media asked if the event was open to LLB students who are completing their studies.
* Madam Vice President said that the event is a great initiative. She concurred with CE that she would like to join but she is not working on a thesis as yet. Madam Vice President stated that there is a bit of vagueness towards the end of the document and she is not sure what Madam Post Graduate needs from council as assistance.
* Madam Post Graduate captured the Community Engagement councillor. She stated that a person in Madam Vice President’s shoes can still apply as they qualify since it is 3 minutes of talking about his/her research. Madam Post Graduate said that she is not sure about the prizes yet and she is open to suggestions and she would need help from Madam Media with marketing the event.
* Madam Post Graduate answered yes, even if an individual is not doing a research based degree or still working on a research proposal he/she can participate.
* Madam Projects asked for clarity as Madam Post Graduate had said she will have something online to build up traction before the competition and she wanted to know if that meant infographics or something else. She made a suggestion that Madam Post Graduate could use the snippet videos of the 3 minute competition from before.
* Madam Post Graduate said there will be different material posted online and she was grateful for the snippets idea.
* Madam Vice President stated that Madam Post Graduate could ask Madam Media for help with the traction for the event and she can approach Madam Projects for the prizes idea.

**Agenda 5.2. Oppidan Cookbook**

* Madam Oppidan stated that she has updated the cookbook according to the amendment and asked if there were any questions.
* Madam Student Benefits applauded Madam Oppidan for the amendment. She mentioned that there was a request for the location where people can get ingredients and they are not many of them in the new document and requested that she remains anonymous.
* Madam Treasurer General said she was happy to see wide variety and her recipe in the book. She stated that as society is decolonising in language, it is good to carry it out with food as well.
* Community Engagement councillor expressed gratitude for the amendments, congratulated Madam Oppidan and he felt it was ready to be released.
* Madam Vice President added that for the ingredients question from Madam Student Benefits, it is a work in progress so they can be added as the book is updated. She asked Madam Oppidan what the next step would be and if she is ready to upload the cookbook now.
* Madam Oppidan said she will sit in the Oppidan meeting next Wednesday and will have to talk to Madam Media and another council member on how to go forward.
* Madam Post Graduate suggested that the original 2 minute noodles recipe be added to the without the chicken breasts and extra ingredients.
* Madam Vice President replied saying that it is a well-known recipe but it would be great to have it in the book.
* Sports and Societies councillor disagreed with Madam Post Graduate, he believed that people can read the recipe on the noodles packet. He would rather have the other noodle recipes with the other ingredients included. Mr. Khopeli said that council can have it posted on RUconnected and he can change the document to a link so that it can be there for the rest of the year.
* Madam Environmental commented saying that the cookbook is beautiful and she agreed with Madam Student Benefits. She added that there can be a page at the end of the book listing where people can buy ingredients.
* Madam Academics suggested that there can be some parts of the book written in other languages so as add more to the diversity idea. She commended Madam Oppidan for a job well done.
* Madam Vice President was grateful for the submissions that have been made. She said the submissions are to Madam Oppidan’s discretion and posting on RUconnected would be great as Sports and Societies councillor said. Madam Vice President said that after these additional edits then Madam Oppidan can send to the group chat, one last time.
* Madam Oppidan was grateful for the comments, she will amend the book and send it back, maybe by Friday.

**Agenda 5.3. Leadership Week**

* Community Engagement councillor sought clarity on the document in terms of the process of collecting videos from the previous SRC members, if it will be the same quality, who else will be there for the data collection besides Madam Media and what the deadline is.
* Madam Projects said that it is a great initiative since the nominations for SRC council are fast approaching and said that it takes a long time to edit and bring something together so may the document be edited earlier because things tend to go amiss 2 days before.
* Madam Vice President stated that IB did something similar so she believes the quality of the video will be dependent on that. After meeting with the task team, there will be a deadline. She was grateful for Madam Projects for availing herself for collating data. She reminded council that she would appreciate suggestions on speakers.
* Madam Student Benefits suggested that the task team makes use of the 2021 council and not just the alumni. This could be an opportunity for the SRC to express a few sentiments about leadership. She expressed that these events should not always focus on alumni. She asked if there was a deadline for the submission of speakers for the seminars.
* Madam Vice President said she will ask members of the SRC to have the names of the speakers by Thursday and council can present their emails. She requested that the names be accompanied by the email and a short piece of information about them.
* Sports and Societies councillor stated that it should also be a space where senior students may speak on their account of leadership. They could share about their journey from Wellness rep, to Senior student to Sub warden. He felt that the event should also include the other leaders on campus.
* Madam Post Graduate asked if the speakers will get paid.
* Madam Vice President responded saying yes they will. She also added that the task team could add speakers from different institutions so that it wouldn’t just be about Rhodes leaders.

**Agenda 5.4. Scifest Africa**

* Madam Environmental stated that, after meeting with Scifest they said they will be looking at energy use, how to recycle energy, and how Rhodes will be using energy. This way Scifest can use that to lower the load shedding schedule. Madam Environmental and the Scifest crew are going to have a meeting, so if there are any questions council would like her to relay in the meeting they could let her know.
* Madam Vice President suggested that Madam Environmental can speak to the previous Environmental councillor and find out how to go about this project. She requested an update after the scheduled meeting.

**Agenda 7.1. Women's Month**

* Madam Projects stated that the invitations had been sent to the people. By 12:00 on Tuesday, the people should have RSVP’d and the task team can figure out if there is need for new speakers. There was need to separate the documents as they were combined so Madam Projects separated them and sent out the invitations.
* Sports and Societies congratulated the task team for the great work even when the head of the project is not available. However, he felt there was confusion since council did not receive anything written down so that there can be a follow up and for accountability purposes. He requested for a document with details of the events for the month.
* Community Engagement councillor stated that council should be updated and there should be document for the event. He added to what Madam Projects said and mentioned that there will be a meeting tomorrow to discuss the videos that were taken of the ladies in the frontline with regard to tackling COVID-19.
* Madam Vice President stated that she appreciated the proposal for the webinar. She agreed that having a document will assist inn staying updated on the events and suggested having more events for the month.
* Community Engagement councillor said that he only received the invitation today so he will give feedback on confirmed speakers when they respond. There is an expectation to celebrate the life and work of Uyinene Mrwetyana.
* Madam Activism stated that since women’s month falls under her portfolio, she has been collaborating with a couple of people. In terms of events there is the wall painting, the webinar and the talk. She stated that something similar to what was done on youth day may be carried out.
* Madam Vice President asked if anyone wanted to add anything since there are three events in the women’s month. She felt that maybe it was not enough, however acknowledged the time crunch that might be present.
* Community Engagement councillor stated the events were enough since council members have to work before the event.
* Madam Vice President asked Madam Activism to let council know if the time and day were finalised.
* Madam Activism stated that she will ask the groundsmen to paint the wall white, she asked a friend to paint the female icon and the event will be at 2pm on Sunday 8 August 2021. Initially there was an event for each Friday, however the team does not want to bombard students with emotion provoking issues every week and the University has other events planned. She mentioned that there are Psychologists on stand-by so that people can ask questions and if triggered, can be assisted.
* Madam Vice President encouraged Madam Activism to ensure that the paint is enough. If there could be a document it would be great, she said, since it could be easier to visualise the events.

**Agenda 7.2. Student Body Meeting**

* Madam Vice President said she will book the council chambers and there will be banners from Comms division, the meeting can be held on Zoom and live on Facebook, she will chair it. The meeting will be like a round table meeting and all councillors are urged to be engaged. She said there will be need for council members to be on their feet so that all councillors are able to read a reply to a question before it is sent out. Council can get extra time to go through the questions in the meeting.
* Madam Student Benefits asked who will be at council chambers, what will happen to those still at home and who will be able to answer questions in person.
* Community Engagement councillor added that not all councillors will be back on campus, only the Executive committee is present. If councillors are logged in on zoom, the logistics need to be sorted out with regards to zoom. He said that it should show that the SRC is engaged and that not only the Vice President will be answering questions.
* Sports and Societies councillor said that the SRC might not be able to answer all the questions, however council knows most of the information pertaining to SRC even if the person with the portfolio has in depth knowledge.
* Madam Vice President stated that people will submit the questions and Madam Media and team will note the questions. It would be great to share the councillors’ answers on WhatsApp as they can be proof read in there. It will be a shared collated effort. She felt it would be great to use google docs for the answers so that it is immediately updated. She believed that those who are at home have received data and would be able to attend the meeting.
* Madam Vice President said that the banner should be placed in the location.

**Agenda 8.1. FSCA Update**

Madam Student Benefits had the following to say:

* She had one amendment with the Pre-activation activity. A member of the FSCA said it will be pre and post.
* The meeting will be moved from 11 August to any day after the 15th of august, otherwise all is captured.
* There was feedback from the campus radio that SRC has requested for feedback from the RMR manager.
* Community Engagement councillor commended the task team on the progress. He said the document is well noted.
* Madam Vice President stated that council will await the feedback from the meeting.

**Agenda 8.2. Social Media Policy**

Madam Vice President stated that this is a standing agenda.

**Agenda 8.3. Sports Council Feedback**

Sports and Societies councillor stated the following:

* A couple of items were discussed in the meeting.
* The maintenance priority list and the budget was discussed and there will be another meeting.
* They requested for a million aside so that they can work on the infrastructure.
* Intervarsity might not happen due to unforeseen circumstances.
* Most tournaments have been moved to September and some to next year.
* The rugby team was not abiding by the University law and Mr. France is trying to rectify that. He restructured the rugby team and council. The current rugby coach will be the administrator. They are waiting for the new chair for rugby to be instated. There was an amendment in the constitution.
* If the SRC gets free gym membership, then it might be unfair to other students and student bodies. The Sports council has no issue with SRC using the gym but the issue is with who will pay for the gym. The constitution did not specify who will pay for the SRC gym. The gym is an independent branch in the University, so it would be difficult to get funds as the gym would still seek their payment.
* He was not sure which category the SRC members would have preferred, gold, bronze or platinum, so he went for the gold membership.
* Madam Environmental was grateful to the Sports and Societies councillor for taking all the grievances of the SRC to the meeting. She suggested that he convinces the committee to get a bulk promotion or get them to accept one general amount to pay for the SRC members.
* Madam Vice President added that it could be something like a discount.
* Community Engagement councillor said that even if the current SRC won’t benefit, Mr Khopeli may carry on trying to make sure other councils do benefit from the work he is carrying out to make sure the gym project succeeds.
* Madam Vice President stated that as a council they could strategize a plan on where to get funds when they meet with Mr. Ofei. She suggested expanding the budget so that some funds may be directed to the gym.

**Agenda 8.4. SRC Poster and Booklet**

Madam Media had the following to say:

* She had a meeting with the Vice President and she said Madam Media should look for the poster and the previous Media councillor wasn’t replying to her messages or Madam Projects’ messages.
* She and Madam Projects located the poster but in an unedited format and it does not have a picture of Madam Student Benefits, so the media team has to restart by making a new poster.
* The format of the book is for a lack of a better word, messy. So it cannot be sent out.
* Madam Projects stated that the bios have been updated from her side and these bios were received from council. She believes they would have to revise the booklet, Media councillor, Projects councillor and the previous task team.
* Madam Vice President asked how long the new poster will take and when it can be sent to the printers. She asked with regards to the booklet, that there be a template design and she reminded council that they had agreed on having a picture of Steve Biko on the back.
* Madam Student Benefits said she sent the picture to Madam Projects and Madam Media can find out more from her. She expressed that wouldn’t want a new poster, however it is up to council. She felt that the release of the booklet had been taking long and suggested that the task team sends updates as the processes occur. She said she would have preferred for it to be a first priority.
* Madam Student Benefits requested that the proposals be in Google docs form so that council members do not submit the same edits.
* Community Engagement councillor said there is a lot that needs to be reworked since the booklet has been delayed over months. For the purposes of uniformity, International councillor and Media councillor would need to get their pictures taken. He felt the poster has to be branded when it is released since it is a bit late now, council has been in office and it is no longer about introducing the SRC members.
* Sports and Societies councillor did not see the need to release the book anymore. It was for the benefit of the first years so releasing it in August would be too late. He felt council would rather concentrate more on the poster.
* Madam Projects said the council members without pictures can get their pictures taken when they get back into town.
* Madam Projects raised a motion: Take pictures of the new councillors who have joined SRC and add to the poster, thus waiting until they are in town.
* The motion raised was seconded by Community Engagement councillor.
* Madam Student Benefits amended the motion asking that the poster not be redesigned.
* Madam Projects mentioned that it was impossible to edit the poster by adding images to it due to the format of the document however it can have a similar design.
* Madam Vice President stated that the motion is moved to waiting for the councillors and pictures being retaken and the design can be changed since the file can’t be edited. This motion was passed.
* Madam Student Benefits stated that if both councillors have their uniforms, they could get their pictures taken and she asked for a time frame for when things are going to be ready.
* Madam Projects replied to Mr. Khopeli with an objection to the scraping of the booklet, as the task team had put a lot of time and effort into it. The booklet could be reworked and produced along the lines of what the SRC has done.
* Madam Academics asked for clarity saying that even if the document is reworked, how long it would take for the book to be released.
* Sports and Societies councillor stated that the bios are already on RUconnected and so is the other information in the booklet. He does not know what he would have to say in that book and since it took so long for the book to come up, he feels it might take even longer to rework it. Mr Khopeli feels that council would be shying away from the original vision of the booklet.
* Madam Vice President, as a person in the booklet task team, she felt there had been too many distractions. She concurred with the Sports and Societies councillor and believed 2021 SRC could give the incoming body the book to update it and work around the document.
* Community Engagement expressed concern in terms of content that would be released in the booklet. He had been swayed to the other side since the Sports and Societies councillor had said that there were other communication channels that had communicated the contents in the booklet and council can leave the booklet to the incoming SRC.
* Madam Vice President requested that a motion be cast.
* Sports and Societies councillor raised the motion: To let go of the booklet for 2021 and pass it to the 2022 SRC as was envisioned.
* Motion was seconded by Community Engagement councillor.
* Madam Media suggested that the book go to the new SRC with amendments so that they are not confused.
* Madam Vice President felt that there was no need as council was dropping the project and it would be better for the new SRC body to run with the project in the way they would prefer

**Agenda 9.1. Feenix Update**

Madam Student Benefits stated that:

* She will update council about the proceedings of the meeting next week.
* She suggested having the meeting on Monday.
* She moved the meeting to that time because it is women’s month and other events may be occurring.
* Madam Vice President expressed concern that there are a lot of events going on in August, but took into consideration that Feenix had been delayed for so long and suggested waiting on council to decide if it was okay to carry on with the Feenix project.
* Community Engagement stated that he believed the Vice President and Student Benefits councillor can discuss the date so that they can see if the date doesn’t clash with anything else.

**Agenda 9.2. SRC Exec meeting with EFFSC**

Community Engagement councillor stated the following:

* They requested a non-release of marks.
* Students are able to request their transcript to share with a funder, or employer etc.
* Not being able to see your result may affect the progress of the student even if they have outstanding fees.
* The committee should do the groundwork to find out who is affected by the issue. So they can collect the information on students and council may be proactive to see which students are affected.
* This issue needs to be resolved before exams.

Sports and Societies had the following to say:

* Data provision communication was discussed.
* They were worried that students do not have data.
* SRC acted immediately and asked for the academic plan for the year so that council aligns the issues with students.
* There should be data for students to attend zoom meetings. It is important for students to reach out to SRC as council needs the facts and evidence for use when taking the issue to the stakeholders.
* Madam Student Benefits added that it was an amicable meeting with amicable conclusions and there was an agreement to collaborate with the committee in terms of the list of the students who will need the results and those who are affected.
* Madam Academics said if a student hasn’t received results, he/she can email the registrar to ask for a temporary letter and attach the letter that requests his/her results. She asked if that had changed.
* Community Engagement councillor said that is the procedure that is followed. The issue is that he would like students to let council know if they are facing challenges because of this procedure.
* Madam Vice President added that the last time she checked, the University could only send to institutions and employers and not exactly bursary managers.
* Madam Student Benefits suggested that there be a FAQ link for this topic since the questions regarding this are always coming through.

**Agenda 9.3. Reports from the substructures**

Community Engagement councillor asked that the relevant councillors with students that sit in student parliament, give him the information he needs.

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

* 09/08/2021 on Zoom.

Took a break from 18:54 to 19:05.

**Time Adjourned**: 20:44