**Minutes: Rhodes University SRC General Meeting held on the 31st of May 2021**

**Time Started**: 18:02

**Time Adjourned**: 19:06

**Venue**: Board Room 02

**2021.03.01. Present**

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

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

- Ms. M. Makokove - Mr. N. Mkhulisa

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

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

- Mr. M. Khopeli - Ms. C. Mwenye

- Ms. L. Leboho

**2021.03.02. Leave of Absence**

- Madam International, Madam Student Benefits and Madam Activism took a leave of absence.

**2021.03.03. Other matters arising**

**3.1. Media team training**

**3.2. Oppidan bus**

**2021.03.04. Confirmation of previous minutes (24 May 2021)**

* Proposal on the floor to adopt the minutes as the clear account of the meeting.
* Madam President noticed a correction for point number 5 on Agenda 3.3, should say the 25th of June and not the 5th of June. Also, on the second to last point, it is not new leadership but rather a new board. Madam President stated that an indication of the time the meeting was adjourned should be present.
* Sports and Societies Councillor said that its secretary not security general.
* Sports and Societies Councillor stated that under Agenda 9.1, it is the Sports Foundation not Sports Fund Committee, the rifle club registration will not be charged and not that it is free, removal of the point that the university will be reluctant to fund a project, correction of the spelling for Prof. Rod Walker and that he only joined the meeting late. In Agenda 9.2, the correct statement is that there is need for 26 members for a society to remain active.
* Madam Environmental had a correction for Agenda 9.3, stating that it is not Madam Projects who gave feedback but it is Madam Environmental, correction the spelling for Carlene Royle and not Royale, who works at Environmental Learning and Research Centre.
* Minutes were adopted by Community Engagement Councillor and seconded by Madam Post Graduate Affairs.

**2021.03.05. Conflict Declaration**

- No declaration of conflict.

**2021.03.06. Matters Arising**

**2021.03.07. Matter Arising from the SRC Executive**

**7.1. Announcement: SAUS Conference**

**2021.03.08. Upcoming Events**

**8.1. Student Parliament**

**8.2. International Week**

**2021.03.09. Report Backs**

**9.1. Community Engagement Portfolio Feedback**

**9.2. Engagement Meeting with Sports Rep**

**9.3. SRC Hike**

**9.4. SWOT Week**

**2021.03.10. Date and time of next meeting**

07 June 2021 at 18:00 in the RA Room

**2021.03.11. Additional and Closing remarks**

**Agenda 3.1. Media team training**

* Madam Vice President stated that the team was supposed to have training last week and there was supposed to be welcoming remarks, a talk about communications, divisions, institutional background and historical pointers among other things. She suggested that there be a new date for the training and the matter to be handled as high priority since exams are around the corner and there is a new Media Councillor.
* Madam Secretary General stated that Madam Media, Madam Treasurer General, Madam International, Media team and herself had a meeting with the media team and Madam Media. The Secretary General suggested that council has a meet and greet instead of training since most topics were covered in the meeting with the Media team.
* Madam Projects suggested having it on Thursday, 3 June 2021.
* Madam Academics asked when council could start sending submissions to Madam Media given that there are Academic team posters due.
* Madam President responded saying that the Executive members will discuss about it and let council know to whom and when to submit their Media requests. She added that the new Media Councillor has just arrived and would not be fair to overwhelm her with previous submissions.
* Sports and Societies Councillor suggested Friday evening at 7 after the Community Engagement training.
* Madam Post Graduate Affairs and Community Engagement Councillor suggested Thursday at 7pm
* Madam President noted Thursday at 7pm and Friday at 7pm and said to wait for confirmation on when Lead would be. If Lead is on Friday then the meet and greet can be on Thursday and vice versa.

**Agenda 3.2. Oppidan bus**

* Madam Oppidan said her team the people who will receive the bus will get feedback on the rules and regulations for the bus this week, then the bus will be supplied before exams.
* Madam Post Graduate Affairs asked if there were people chosen for the bus already.
* Madam Oppidan said yes, there were 3 people chosen and the Oppidan team needs to inform them that they won the tender and induct them as well.
* Madam Post Graduate Affairs asked how many buses were on offer.
* Madam President and Madam Oppidan said 3 quantums.
* Community Engagement Councillor asked when exactly the plan of the operation of the bus will commence since Madam Oppidan said before exams.
* Madam Oppidan said they are not sure yet.
* Security General kindly asked Madam Oppidan to apply pressure for the bus to be available before SWOT week as students are complaining and exams are approaching.
* Madam President stated that it has been so long and the procurement process was out of everybody’s control since quotations had to be compared. There should be a level of transparency in the procedure. She said she will think of how best the SRC can apply pressure.
* Community Engagement Councillor agreed that the pressure for the bus is being applied to us. Maybe Madam Oppidan and Madam President could ask the DSA to provide an update to students directly on what challenges have arisen with regards to the student bus.

**Agenda 7.1. Announcement: SAUS Conference**

Madam President stated the following:

* The conference will be on the 25th of June 2021.
* There will be elections for the new National Executive Council.
* The SRC will have voting power.
* The SRC Executive will go to the conference in Venda for 4 days, from 25 June 2021 until 28 June 2021.

**Agenda 8.1. Student Parliament**

* Madam Vice President said that on Wednesday at 7pm at Barrat, there will be a Student Parliament meeting.
* The meeting has to be face to face seeing as Mr. J. Haddaman discussed with Mr. Ofei about having concerns about voting via zoom, it might not be the best platform to have it. They had a few difficulties with the Societies and also said that it might be difficult to monitor the voting sessions.
* There will be provisions for those who will not be available physically and will join virtually. Madam Vice President will share the meeting links personally with the different people. She will delegate the Tech team from the SRC to handle this and Madam Projects will head that project with her task team.
* Madam President stated that council members should be in full uniform during the meeting. She asked that if the SRC Tech team is to facilitate the virtual platform, wouldn’t the team need to incorporate some IEB members so that the IEB is responsible for voting.
* Madam Vice President clarified that the SRC Tech team will handle the questions and comment and not the elections.
* Madam Projects suggested that the link could come from their IEB in order to make the process easier.
* Madam Academics mentioned that there are some people from Faculty reps who aren’t on the mailing list, they have to be added to the list and this was in reference to the reps who are not in Grahamstown but want to join the meeting.
* Madam Vice President stated that she noticed 10 emails that keep bouncing back, one of them was from a society and she spoke to the chairperson of the society.
* Madam President suggested that a reminder could be sent to the Faculty reps and maybe the team could make a group chat to mitigate that.
* Sports and Societies Councillor asked who apologies where to be submitted to.
* Madam Vice President said that the apologies should be submitted to her and she had already received some.
* Residence Councillor asked how the situation will be fixed in the future in terms of emails bouncing back.
* Madam President agreed with the Residence Councillor and mentioned that for the time being it needs to be stressed that the mailing list is an issue that needs to be attended to because it becomes the responsibility of the Speaker of Parliament to fix the problem.

**Agenda 8.2. International Week**

Madam President stated the following:

* Madam International had to postpone the events and amend the Thursday events.
* There will be Wave your Flag only and it will not be combined with Purple Thursday for this week.
* Madam International will communicate on what is needed from council members.
* Secretary General added that Madam International asked that, from the substructures, there should be a follow up with the people who were supposed to wave the flag to find out if they were still available to carry out the task.

**Agenda 9.1. Community Engagement Portfolio Feedback**

Community Engagement Councillor stated the following:

* The Community Engagement team had their Community Engagement reps training with a meet and greet.
* They launched the Vuka Makhanda program and the Community representatives work with their partners on the objectives for the year.
* Praise was present and speaking on the importance of the governance and she had a message from the Director of Community Engagement.
* Projects being headed by Community Engagement reps are being made to commence earlier in the semester 2.
* Community Engagement week was supposed to be in May, but it was postponed to October, he will update council closer to the time.
* One of the Community development staff from Sphumelela Development approached him and would like to have a workshop with RCL learners in Makhanda to talk about how to be leader at a school level, purpose of student governance at a high school level. Community Engagement Councillor requested a proposal and will get back to both the council and the development staff by the end of this week.
* For the month of June, it’s a tough month due to exams but his team can work with it through loading hours in the Vuka Makhanda platform. There are Global United Nations Sustainable Development goals being followed, but they are specified to the Makhanda complex/municipality. The team could join one of the clean ups that are happening, they could pick 3 days, to go for 2-3 hours in order to engage from June to October. Ruce approached him and said the program does not really have a specific person handling it. His team and council should be at the forefront with people waking up and rising as people liven up Makhanda.
* He was approached by the Student Recruitment office, they want to market Rhodes at schools they don’t usually go to, specifically in the Eastern Cape. This will speak to the Community Engagement policy and the Institutional Development plan which says that the development that Rhodes gives out must speak to immediate community and the Eastern Cape.
* Sodaya/ Sodie and sis Nosi had a reflection on the Community engagement extravaganza that we had last term. She appreciated the format, the hosting skills from the Community engagement Councillor and the general running of the event. She then suggested that next time in the next semester, the team could focus on a different topic as a continuation of the discussion from the first extravaganza
* He had drafted a Media statement for the award but faced some challenges, he will report back.
* Vegetable Garden can be done next week and he will work with Madam Environmental.
* Community Engagement reps reflection will occur and the date and time will be advised, council members are welcome to attend.
* There was a meeting with Emma who is Community Engagement Representative Sports Council and they are trying to integrate them into the formal structure of community engagement, recognise them and give them the support they haven’t had before. Working towards the SRC policy conference in August with Madam Vice President and Sports and Societies Councillor.
* He wants to have a Xhosa short course next semester and will have a meeting with Ms. Nosilela Mngwindi from the African Languages department in that regard.
* Community Engagement committee will have an annual meeting on 9 June 2021 and he will give a report on it.
* Madam Vice President asked if Vuka Makhanda was the one where there is a prize for someone who has lodged more hours.
* Community Engagement Councillor answered yes.
* Residence Councillor asked if there was a date for the Community Engagement reps reflection.
* Community Engagement Councillor answered that he has to get back to council.
* Madam President asked if doing Vuka Makhanda in this time period would be wise because after this week the SRC has to put a halt to activities and added if Community Engagement Councillor would have to host it this week.
* Community Engagement Councillor said the policy speaks to social events on campus, he proposed that council alerts the office that they need transport etc. The event does not fall under the social events for the school so it should not pose any problems.
* Mentorship training was supposed to be last week Tuesday, which was postponed due to protests and he asked if council could suggest a new day.
* Madam President chaired the date suggestions and mentioned that it could not be Wednesday.
* Madam Vice President suggested Friday at 2pm and Madam Environmental seconded.
* Madam President finalised that it would be on Friday at 2pm.
* Sports and Societies Councillor asked if the event is happening physically or virtually.
* Community Engagement Councillor answered that it is a virtual event.

**Agenda 9.2. Engagement Meeting with Sports Rep**

Sports and Societies Councillor summarised the meeting into the following points:

* There aren’t any Oppidans partaking in the sports and it is a cause for concern.
* The Sports Reps have been organising through their Warden to have a Sports day on a small scale.
* In the opening of 3rd term, he is going to have a meeting with 4 Sports rep per Hall where he will talk about the Sports day event that he is planning. He will come to an agreement with the Sports reps in terms of date and meaning.
* After that meeting he will know which sport to concentrate on and submit it to council.
* Madam Oppidan mentioned that she could not attend the meeting. Oppidan Sports rep was present in the meeting but there is need for more assistance with regards to including Oppidans to the system that is present on campus.
* Madam President agreed that Madam Oppidan and the Sports and Societies Councillor should find ways to get Oppidans engaged
* Madam Vice President commented that the Oppidans are proactive and it would be great to have them on board. As for the Sports day event, she would like to receive the proposal and a proposed a date.
* Sports and Societies Councillor could not confirm the date at that moment since he has to speak to the Sports reps about it although he mentioned that it would be in the third term.
* Madam Environment suggested that it would be good if there could be a team for council, that could participate in the Sports day event and it would be a chance to engage with the students.
* Madam President suggested that instead of having a team, council could find out if there is a match and then the SRC can go to support.
* Residence Councillor asked if the sporting activities would be continuing after the 4th of June 2021.
* Madam President and the Sports and Societies Councillor answered no.

**Agenda 9.3. SRC Hike**

Madam Environment summarised the meeting points as follows:

* Council and its substructures started together and came back together. It was adventurous seeing as how the hiking distance ended up being 12km and it was a success
* The hike helped the Environmental team map out the route that they should take.
* The next one should be on a flat level ground if possible, rather than having many slopes.
* Madam Vice President agreed that the hike was successful and the leaders of the hike are open to more engagement.
* Sports and Societies Councillor asked that people be told what to wear next time.
* Madam Oppidan added that the hike was fun and she enjoyed it.
* Madam Post Graduate Affairs commented that she missed out but would really like to join the next hike. She encouraged council to have a more accommodating date for the future events.

**Agenda 9.4. SWOT Week**

Madam President said the following:

* The Senate Executive had a meeting Madam President raised the SWOT week Agenda.
* They said the proposal came too late but provided one day and said it would be catastrophic to the academic calendar to move the SWOT week to an earlier day.
* Council would have to inform students that the proposal came late however, the students should raise the issues themselves.
* The SRC should encourage our student body to continuously raise the issues they have with their HODs, class reps, faculty reps and all relevant people. We Lead together, we Fight together.

**Agenda 10. Date and time of next meeting**

07 June 2021 at 18:00 in the RA Room

**Agenda 11. Additional and Closing remarks**

* Madam President said the last official council meeting is on the 7th of June 2021 so that councillors can have enough time to study since there is no SWOT week.
* Friday 11 June 2021 will be the last day of office for council and then only the Executive committee will be working. She encouraged Councillors to respond to students with requests.
* Madam Academics asked that since the graduation proposal agenda did not sit in Feenix where else could it sit and Secretary General clarified.
* Madam Vice President stated that during the protest and other times when substructures were releasing statements there was no consistency. She encouraged council to maintain uniformity, if a substructure releases a statement, the signature should be signed as the SRC.