

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

10 February 2025

Time: 18h30

Venue: RA Room

2025.05.01. Welcome and Attendance

Present:

- President: Mr Siyanda Vilakazi
- Vice President: Ms Linathi Ndubela
- Secretary-General: Ms Kotulo Nxasana
- Treasurer-General: Mr Bulumko Sukwana
- Academic: Ms Unarine Ndou
- Media: Ms Owami Kunene
- Residence: Mr Mpho Phologolo
- Activism and Transformation: Ms Lwazi Dzingwe
- Community Engagement: Mr Sesethu Mtshelu
- Environmental; Mr Lona Mazindla
- International Affairs: Ms Rendani Mudau
- Oppidan: Ms Faith Busisiwe Ntuli
- Postgraduate Affairs: Mr Thembelani Chili
- Projects Manager: Mr Bongani Mtebule
- Sports and Societies: Ms Lesy Makhubedu
- Student Benefits and Sponsorships: Mr Lwango Gamnca
- Student Development and Support Officer: Mr Eric Ofei

2025.06.02. Leave of Absence

There was no leave of absence received.

2025.06.03. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed with amendments. Mr Residence Confirmed the minutes. Mr PGA seconded the confirmation.

2025.06.04. Declaration of Conflict

There was no conflict declared.

2025.06.05. Matters Arising

2025.06.05.1. Leadership Week

- Meeting with the Alumni Board to track the progress of Leadership Week on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 6:30 PM
- Purpose: Track the progress of SRC in planning
- Attendance: Compulsory for all SRC members
- Role of SRC members: No need to comment; Madam VP will provide a brief overview
- Madam VP suggests that the council also email Miss Avuxeni Tyala, the Chairperson of the Alumni Board, to inquire about the role of the Council in the meeting.

2025.06.05.2. Portfolios and Fairness

- Madam SG emphasised the importance of respectful communication among councillors.
- Concerns were raised about a councillor undermining others' work within their portfolios.
- Mister PGA suggested that delegations by SG should specify tasks and include updates for each councillor's portfolio so that the council does not assume others are not working.
- Mister Residence emphasised the need for respect and clarification among councillors.
- Madam SG agreed to provide specific delegations and updates.
- Mister Projects cautioned against undermining others' work ethic.
- Madam International expressed disappointment with Mister Projects' work ethic during O-week.
- Madam SG and Madam Oppidan emphasised the importance of inquiry and empathy among councillors.
- Madam VP noted that the efforts of hardworking councillors should not be diluted.
- Mister Residence raised concerns about unfair delegation and uniform issues during All Week.
- Mister TG apologised for undermining others' portfolios and highlighted flaws in the honorarium system.

- Mister President emphasised the importance of proper delegation to allow councillors time to rest.

2025.06.05.3. YFM

- Madam Media said YFM will host a Next Talent Search at Rhodes University on February 14th, 12:00-15:00.
- The Communications Division facilitates the event.
- Madam VP requested that a document outlining YFM's concept be shared with the council.
- Madam SG confirmed that she will send out the document

2025.06.05.4. McDonald's Boycott

- Concerns about McDonald's not being included in the list of organisations supporting Israel previously shared by Madam International were raised.
- The student support and development officer emphasised the importance of collective impact and sacrifice.
- Mister Residence voted that the council moved forward from the decision to publicise their stance without a formal vote.
- Mister Environmental raised concerns about the inconsistency and potential impact on staff and students.
- Mister TG questioned what happens when new information arises about other organisations supporting Israel.
- Madam SG suggested aligning with the institution through an academic boycott.
- The Student Development and Support Officer emphasised making decisions based on principles, not emotions. He proposed a special meeting to discuss the issue, including presentations on the pros and cons. He highlighted the importance of empathy and sympathy towards the Palestinian people. This is qualified by the deep history of segregation and discrimination South Africa saw during apartheid.
- Mister PGA noted that McDonald's is likely not the only organisation affiliated with Israel and mentioned an email inquiring about the SRC's stance.

2025.06.06. Other Matters for the Agenda

Special Meeting of Senate

- Madam SG referred the council to documents submitted by Senate last year regarding the academic boycott.
- Madam SG suggested considering boycotts, divestment, and sanctions based on human rights principles.
- The Student Development and Support Officer emphasised prioritising human rights in decision-making.
- The council decided to be pro-Palestine in their stance.
- Concerns were raised about whether to implement an academic or organisational boycott.

Office Hours

- Mister TG suggested aligning SRC office hours with DSSD staff members' working hours (8 am-4 pm).
- Madam VP recommended drafting an email to her office to propose an amendment to the operational model regarding office hours.
- Madam SG inquired about expediting the process, suggesting the email could be sent within the week for consideration.
- The Student Support and Development Officer noted that a dishonesty clause is in place to penalise individuals who falsely report their office hours.

Planting of Trees from the Environmental Centre

- Mister Environmental reported that he is still waiting for trees from Sunnyside.
- Confirmed receipt of 5 shrubs and 5 indigenous plants to date.
- The SRC announced that each tree or plant would be planted in different halls.
- The details of the tree planting will be confirmed soon.

Student-Related Matters regarding NSFAS

- Mister Projects raised concern about the escalating accommodation crisis.
- Students have not received their full allowance to pay leases.
- Students are struggling to find NSFAS-accredited places.
- Mister President will attend a meeting with the DSSD to address the issue.
- Mister President requested Madam Opidan to share details of her meeting with the DSSD.
- Madam Opidan reported that the NSFAS accreditation process is ongoing.
- Madam Opidan will provide updates after speaking with the Council Executive.

- Mister President requested that the minutes of Madam Opidan's meeting with the DSSD be circulated

2025.06.07. Student Development and Support Officer

- Student Development and Support Officer commended the council for their hard work and successful execution of OWeek despite challenges.
- He emphasised the importance of teamwork and considered the collective effort beyond individual portfolios.
- Announced that society chair training has been rescheduled to February 22nd, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM, to allow for rest time.
- Mister TG inquired about provisions for those who celebrate the Sabbath.
- Mister PGA concurred with Mister TG's concern.
- The Student Development and Support Officer assured that provisions will be made, including:
- He confirms that plans will be made for those who observe the Sabbath to receive food cooked in advance to the beginning of the Sabbath period.
- An additional training session will be held two weeks later for those who missed the initial session due to Sabbath observance.

2025.06.08. Housekeeping

No Housekeeping notices were delivered.

2025. 06.09 Date and Time of next meeting

- The next meeting of the Student Representative Council will be on the 17th of January 2025 at 18:30.