

**Rhodes University**

**Students' Representative Council**

**Minutes of the Executive Meeting Held on Sunday 17 April 2016 at**

**15h00 in the**

**Presidential Office**

**2016. M03.1           PRESENT**

President, Vice President, Secretary General, Academic, Activism

**2016. M03.2           LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

No leave of absence by Treasurer

**2016. M03.3           OTHER MATTERS FOR THE AGENDA**

Vice President to speak on, item number 10

**2016. M03.4           CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

No confirmation of minutes because it was the first meeting of the second term.

**2016. M03.5           CODE OF CONDUCT *President and Secretary General***

The President spoke about implementing the Code Of Conduct when holding Councillors to account. The President feels that they are not abiding by it and he is not happy with how Councillors conduct themselves. He advised that the executive needs to initiate this to Council. He also emphasised the importance of professionalism when Councillors attend Committee Meetings.

Secretary General explained that she is disappointed with Council members as only one Councillor has submitted their report. She emphasised on the importance of meeting etiquette (i.e. she has noticed unprofessional body language by Councillors during meetings such as waving at the President when Councillors want to speak). She also spoke of punctuality problems not only by council members but also by executive members. Furthermore, Councillors do not send in their LOAs in advance. The Secretary General will highlight these problems at the next Council meeting.

Vice President, also reiterated the problems of Councillors arriving late, not abiding by the Code of Conduct and requested that the executive lead by example.

The President advised that it is important to empower the executive to discipline Council as this is not only the responsibility of the Presidency.

**2016. M03.6**

**SRC STAFF** *President*

The President spoke of the need for the SRC to meet with their staff members. He asked whether this meeting should be run by the executive or the presidency.

Vice President in direct response, explained that they should adopt a system where the presidency meets with the staff alone because the fewer people involved the easier it is to run the meeting.

Secretary General expressed that it is important to have an external party in party in these meetings. She suggests that they resolve things internally with the SRC staff and if nothing is resolved they then invite the DSA.

A motion was held concerning the abovementioned suggestion by the Secretary General and Activism Councillor seconded this motion. there were no objections to this motion.

**2016. M03.7**

**PROF LESTER** *President*

The President explained that he had a meeting with Professor Lester and that this meeting concerned issues on funding of the 'middle-class' students. He explained that Professor Lester was willing to give a presentation of his proposal to the SRC Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. The Student Benefits Councillor will be working closely with Professor Lester and the President is yet to send a formal email inviting Professor Lester to give his presentation.

The Secretary General said she would forward the Mohito Document to the Councillors before they meet with Professor Lester in order that they can have an engaging discussion.

**2016. M03.8**

**TEAM WORK** *President*

The President expressed his unhappiness with executive members not contributing enough to the agenda for the executive meetings. He explained that this speaks to team work, and the code of Conduct.

Academic Councillor spoke of how Councillors want to do projects and gain individual credit for their work, he explains that this puts a strain on team work spirit. He encouraged that Councillors should find ways of involving other SRC portfolios in their projects and emphasised that there should be a move away from autonomy.

Vice President seconded the Academic Councillor in explaining that autonomy and team work clash. He encouraged that projects be 'SRC run' and not individual portfolios.

Secretary General expressed her worry that there are still unanswered questions on about the people who were actually involved in the organisation of FlavourFest. She also raised her unhappiness with the Student Benefits Councillor running campaigns with friends (she explained that such support is good but there should be a restriction). She feels that this type of autonomy removes the power of the SRC as a whole from being fully involved. She believes that the executive needs to be stern with these kinds of issues as they have allowed too much leeway.

Academics Councillor suggested that there be channels for project to go through before they are launched.

President explained that it is important to trust the person leading the project.

Secretary General explained that the issue is when people don't inform the Presidency of their projects. She requested that that this be tabled for the Council meeting.

There was a motion to present the item to Council and being stern about it. This was seconded by the Vice President and there were no objections.

Academics councillor requested to present this item. The Secretary General in direct response explained that it will be a shared item between the Academic councillor and the President.

#### **2016. M03.9**

#### **DELEGATION OF WORK** *President*

President explained that this item has been covered under 'Team work' above.

#### **2016. M03.10**

#### **STRATEGIC WAY FORWARD FOR COUNCIL** *Vice President*

The Vice President spoke about the meetings he has had with the Councillors in their respective clusters. From these meetings, he's identified communication problems within the clusters, he explained that some Councillors don't want to 'grow' as leaders, some have not met their mentors, and that they don't document everything they do in their portfolios. As a way forward, he suggested that Councillors should use available channels for assistance, also to reject projects that are not proposed in advance. Furthermore that they should invite speakers who can share what leadership is and educate Councillors on the importance of growth.

Secretary General advised that Councillors should not put strain on duties that need to be performed by staff members. She also raised that having previous SRC members at training does not provide any new knowledge. She requested that the training programme needs to be raised with wither the university/ DSA/ or staff members.

President expressed that he was happy with the feedback given by the Vice President and he notes that there are things they do that are supposed to be done by SRC staff.

Academic Councillor suggested that the SRC should do SWOT analysis exercise as part of their training programme as this will help them identify their opportunities and threats.

Vice President explained that most of the problems they are facing as the SRC is because they don't know each other outside Council meetings and suggests they have more encounters outside Council meetings.

#### **2016. M03.11**

#### **REPORT BACKS**

Vice President; he had cluster meetings which were a success as Councillors got to speak out.

Academic Councillor; is running an academic initiative that he is launching Monday 18 April, has been having curriculum conversations and encouraged executive to attend these.

Activism councillor; signed Chapter212

Secretary General; has been doing administration work

President; had a meeting with Colleen, met with Unemployed People's Movement and is going through their proposal, facilitated the Oppidan's protest (he explained that funds have been donated by the DSA and the DVC), he's met with Professor Lester.

#### **2016. M03.12**

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Activism Councillor requested that the Council meeting of 18 April be moved an hour earlier.

Secretary General in direct response, advised that such issues must be email to her in advance and she agreed to move the meeting to 18h00.

Activism Councillor also raised an issue of Mr. Ofei's presence in Council meetings as some Council members feel that he's bearing on them.

Academic Councillor suggested that they should make a formal request to have Mr. Ofei present in Council meetings if need be and not have him sit in every meeting even when he is not required.

Activism councillor also requested that they inform Mr. Ofei to refrain from posting on the SRC page as it is difficult to see the capacity he is posting in.

Vice President suggested that if Mr. Ofei wants to post, he notifies the SRC and they engage on the post before it is posted.

Academic Councillor advised that when they address this to Mr. Ofei, they don't address it personally but address it as a Council sitting.

Secretary General explained that she feels that Mr. Ofei has been overstepping the President at times.

President explained that it is not stated in the Constitution for Mr. Ofei to sit in on Council meetings. He said this issues involves a staff member and therefore would need to be raised in the staff meeting. He also suggested that they avoid putting an individual as an agenda item.

Secretary General in direct response, explained that Mr. Ofei is not Council member but a staff member and therefore can be put as an agenda item and that his presence needs to be limited. She will be putting this item for Council as a standing a standing agenda item.

A motion was held as to whether to address Mr. Ofei with the SRC staff or with the SRC Councillors in a Council meeting. Academic Councillor seconded the motion that Mr. Ofei be addressed in a staff meeting. there were no objections.

Secretary General explained that both motions will be standing agenda items for the Council meeting.

**2016. M03.13**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Environmental Week 18-22 April 2016

**2016. M03.14**

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

24 April 2016

**Meeting adjourned**

**17h00**