RHODES UNIVERSITY

students’ representative council

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH OF APRIL 2011 AT 18:00 IN THE R.A ROOM**

**2011. M13.1 ATTENDANCE**

The Chair welcomed councillors to their thirteenth meeting of Council.

# 2011. M13.2 PRESENT

* President
* Vice President Internal
* Vice President External
* Treasurer
* International Affairs
* Residence
* Media
* Academic
* Oppidan
* Projects Manager
* Activism and Transformation

In attendance SRC Liaison

# 2011. M13.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Societies and Student Benefits.

**2011. M13.4 OTHER MATTERS FOR THE AGENDA**

**2011. M13.5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**2011. M13.6 MATTERS ARISING**

To CONSIDER any matters arising from the previous minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

* The naming committee did not convene thus the Activism and Transformation councillor could not give a report back.
* The President and the Vice Chancellor are going to visit New Res to find a solution to naming the residence.
* The Press Conference:

The Vice President External reported to council that there are two articles that were published after the council held a press conference. The article in Makana Moon was negative and claimed that the SRC does not care about the activities external to Rhodes University. The Grocotts article gave a positive perspective of the SRC’s work over the past hundred days in office. The Treasurer asked if a message was sent out to the student body about the press conference.

The Treasurer also further mentioned that in the future council members should reserve comments if they are faced with a difficult situation. The Media Councillor said that the press conference was not aimed at the student body. The President further elaborated on the Media councillor’s point by saying that the press conference aimed to set the record straight by inviting internal media houses to report on the activities of the SRC. The Community Engagement Councillor suggested that in future council should only invite internal media and not external media. The Community Engagement Councillor further mentioned that there was miscommunication because the Executive Committee of the SRC made it sound like the student body would be invited for the conference. The Vice President External as well as the Media Councillor opposed the idea of only inviting internal media houses. The Treasurer was in support of having external media houses for future press conferences. The President suggested that council should invite external media only when council has big stories or issues about Rhodes and invite internal media for smaller scale issues. It was agreed upon by council that internal media consists of Activate, Oppidan and Grocotts, anything outside of that bracket is external media.

The Environmental Councillor requested that in future there should be consensus in terms of what will take place at the press conference.

* The President mentioned that the situation in Swaziland is not getting better and he is still awaiting a report back from the Swazi Society President.

# 2011. M13.7 AILDER AND CONSTITUTION

The Vice President External asked about the progress that the Constitution Reform Committee had made and the President mentioned that the committee will be meeting on Wednesday the 20th of April 2011 and Dr.Krueger will be there to address the Constitution Reform Committee. Council is being encouraged to send through any further recommendations that help to amend the constitution to the Oppidan Councillor as he is a member of the Constitution Reform Committee. The Vice President External asked council if council is going to utilize the services of AILDER in terms of drafting the constitution.

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**2011. M13.8 PURPLE THURSDAY**

The Media Councillor proposed to have a purple Thursdays to encourage the student body to wear overalls and to buy overalls. Ultimately Purple Thursdays will turn the bad connotation that comes with wearing an overall into a good one as Rhodes Students will be encouraged to wear their overalls while doing community service. The launch of purple Thursdays will be on the 28th of April 2011. The Residence Councillor suggested that council visit dining halls on Thursdays to promote Purple Thursdays and also to get a chance to interact with the student body.

**2011. M13.9 OPPIDAN BUS SPONSORSHIP**

The Oppidan Councillor mentioned that there is a new bus for Oppidan students. He also asked why council still has the FNB branding on the SRC bus as it is free advertising for FNB. The Treasurer mentioned that it would be far too expensive to remove the branding on the bus. The Treasurer is still trying to secure sponsorship from Nedbank and FNB.

**2011. M13.10 COUNCIL MINUTES AND PUBLISHING THEREOF**

The Vice President Internal mentioned that the council minutes will be published in the coming week once the secretariat has convened to peruse the minutes.

**2011. M13.11 CENTENARY**

* The Environmental Councillor mentioned that the planting of 101 trees will be one of the main features of Centenary. Trees will be planted outside residences and outside campus in other parts of Grahamstown. The Environmental councillor will be working with the Oppidan Councillor in order to secure that transport is available for all of the tree planting activities.
* The Environmental Councillor also mentioned that there will be a coffee bar at the Drostdy Lawns where students will be served coffee for free. A working team will be set up to manage the coffee bar.
* The Projects Manager mentioned that the time capsule will be manufactured by an engineering company and has asked councillors that are not part of the centenary task team to help with the time tent. The Community Engagement Councillor offered to help in the making of the time tent and the Vice President Internal suggested that the SDB help with the time tent.
* The International Councillor mentioned that council needs to decide on a theme for the colloquium. Council brainstormed a number of themes and decided on this theme: Student Governance, what it was, what it is and what it needs to be. (By Projects Manager).
* The International Councillor suggested that each council member personally send an invite to their predecessor.
* Council agreed to meet on Wednesday the 27th of April from 10:00 a.m to 12:00 to further discuss centenary.

**2011. M13.12 SRC EXECUTIVE**

* The President mentioned that the Vice Chancellor acknowledged Council’s concerns about the response the DOS gave after her variety show. The Vice Chancellor has scheduled a meeting with the Deputy Vice Chancellors (D.V.Cs), Dean of Students (DOS) and the SRC President.
* The Executive had a meeting that will be held each term with Dr.Mabizela and the Dean of Students. The President mentioned that Dr. Mabizela suggested that the SRC look into asking the student body questions such as: “What does it mean to live in a secular state?”

**2011. M13.13 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

**2011. M13.14 REPORT BACKS**

* The President had a meeting with the Director of Residential Operations and the Dean of Students to assess whether or not students that live up the hill need a shuttle after to take them up for lunch. At the moment students can order packed meals or book a meal down campus until a sustainable solution is found.
* All outstanding O-Week reports need to be sent through to the Vice President External by Monday the 25th of April 2011.

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

**SENATE:** The President mentioned that the Director of Institutional Culture has been announced at Senate. Adv. Tshidi Hashatse.

**SAFETY AND EVENTS:** The President mentioned that this committee will convene every week until the local elections are over.

**INSTITUTIONAL FORUM:** The International Affairs Councillor reported that the working group established to steer institutional forum acknowledged that the committee has not been meeting. Therefore the Institutional Culture Director will be the convener for Institutional Forum to ensure proper continuity and responsibility on the part of the members.

**INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE:** The Academic Councillor and the Vice President Internal mentioned that it is important for councillors to sit in the sub-committees that make crucial decisions on behalf of the students. The President said that council should look at asking honours students to sit on behalf of other students so as to propel student interests at these sub-structures.

**2011. M15.15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday the 26th of April 2011 in the R.A Room at 18:00.