



CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. CHANGING THE TERMS OF OFFICE:

A major struggle the SRC constantly has when it comes to the end of a particular term of office is effective training, continuity, as well as hand-over. This perpetual problem has major negative impacts for the operations of the SRC as a body, but moreover for the representation of the students as a whole.

After careful consideration and consultation, an effective recommendation to deal with these problems, is to change the terms of office of the SRC.

For Student Forum to consider:

Changing the term of office such that it runs from January to December.

The SRC Elections would be held as per the Constitution of the Students, during the third term, as normal. However, the in-coming SRC would only effectively/officially assume office at the beginning of the following year.

In between the end of the Elections and the beginning of the following year, the in-coming SRC will be receiving practical training and thorough hand-over. Furthermore, during the inter-rim, there will be separation of responsibilities: the in-coming SRC will be able to focus on planning their vision & objectives for the following year, while the out-going SRC will focus on the representation within University Committee meetings. This should ease the strain of each of their academics at the end of the year.

2. SRC RESIDENCE COUNCILLOR TO RUN IN THE MAIN SRC ELECTION:

Currently, the SRC Residence Councillor is elected from the SRC Hall Representative structure.

This has proven to be problematic: In that the University has jeopardised the legitimacy of the structure; Halls have been empowered to remove the Hall Representatives from their Constitutions. Furthermore, the Hall Representative elections are held after the main election, which means that the Residence Councillor only forms part of the SRC weeks after the main election has been held, and this is inconvenient in that, the Residence Councillor does not take part in the training like the rest of the members of Council.

Furthermore, the number of votes that the Residence Councillor receives as opposed to other members of Council has also been brought into question.

The halls would continue to elect Hall Representatives as per normal, and the Residence Councillor would be Chair of the Hall Representatives committee.

3. New Portfolio: Secretary General

For Student Forum to approve, the inclusion of the new portfolio as a member of Council:

Secretary General:

- 4.1 Shall be the Chair of the SRC Executive meetings
- 4.2 Shall be the chair of all SRC Statutory, Extraordinary and Emergency Meetings in the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, unless unable to do so in which case the SRC shall elect a nominee.
- 4.3 In conjunction with the Vice President Internal, is responsible for the internal workings, administration and functioning of the SRC. This includes *inter alia*:
 - 4.3.1 agendas and minutes (and published via the various forums)
 - 4.3.2 grievances procedures
 - 4.3.3 all policies relating to SRC's working
 - 4.3.4 overall responsibility for liaison with SRC staff members and
 - 4.3.5 to be responsible for the utilisation and maintenance of the Student Union Building's offices.
- 4.4 Ensure that systems are created to ensure the optimal implementation of the SRC's plans of actions.
- 4.5 Ensure that appropriate linkage mechanisms exist between the Executive, Secretariat, SRC and the Student Forum.
- 4.6 Receives and co-ordinates monthly portfolio reports and is responsible for a portfolio assessment which shall be communicated to the Student Forum; and therefore, is the speaker of Student Forum for the SRC.
- 4.7 Advises the President & Vice President Internal on internal matters.
- 4.8 Ensures that task lists, responsibility charts and other such planning is done / implemented and the results of this filed.
- 4.9 Works & liaises with the Media Councillor to be the spokesperson of the SRC
- 4.10 Reports, and is accountable to the three Presidents

Effective changes to the portfolio of the Vice President Internal:

Vice-President Internal:

- 2.1 Shall chair all SRC Executive, Statutory, Extraordinary and Emergency Meetings in the absence of the President.
- 2.2 Must comply with reasonable instructions from the President.
- 2.3 Represents the President when required to do so.
- 2.4 Deals with all matters concerning the Student Body and is the Chair of the Student Forum.
- 2.5 Reports to the SRC any recommendation made by the Student Forum to the SRC.
- 2.6 Is responsible for the internal workings, administration and functioning of the SRC,
- 2.7 Ensures that systems are created to ensure the optimal implementation of the SRC's plans of action.
- 2.8 Ensures that appropriate liaison structures exist between the Executive, SRC and the Student Forum.
- 2.9 Advises the President and the SRC on internal matters.
- 2.10 Is responsible for an on-going structures audit.
- 2.11 Acts as a channel between students and University structures on concerns relating to University structures, rules and regulations.
- 2.12. Oversees the activities of the Oppidan Councillor, the Residence Councillor, the Academic Councillor and the Societies Councillor.

4. PERMANENT EXECUTIVE:

Given Rhodes University's core mandate is academics, the need is evident for the Academic Councillor to sit on the Executive of the SRC. The SRC Executive acts as a spearhead of the implementation of the SRC's plans of action. As such it is also therefore imperative for the Secretary General to form part of the SRC Executive. As result, the recommendation is that the current two (elected) seats be filled with the Academic and Secretary General portfolios.