

Minutes of the SRC Meeting held on 2 March 2016

RA Room – Steve Biko Building

Chair: Mr Gift Sandi

2016. M07.1 President, Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Academic, Community, Oppidan, Projects and Student Benefits.

New member of council, Miss Maseko is welcomed.

2016. M07. 2 LOAs received from Media and Societies councillors

2016. M07. 3 Other matters for the agenda noted; Oppidan, Give 5, Purple Thursday

2016. M07. 4 Minutes of last meeting confirmed.

Secretary General notes that minutes of the last meeting will be sent to Miss Maseko.

2016. M07. 5 SAUS bid for Rhodes University to host all institutions for national congress
From 31 March – 3 April 2016.

Issues raised: - the dates coincide with RU graduation dates, which also fall during the vacation period.

- RU is currently not affiliated with SAUS
- Mr Ofei explains how affiliating would not be beneficial as a result of past unpleasant experiences and going forward, council should be certain that the rightful payment will be received from SAUS before hosting, but to be clear on remaining unaffiliated.
- Chair suggests that an email be drafted and sent to the SAUS SG the following day (3 March 2016) highlighting the issues raised as well as negotiating alternatives.

2016. M07. 6 Vice President requests that core objectives and year plans be submitted by council members by Thursday (3 March 2016).

SG suggests that an email be sent to the rest of council to call for core Objectives.

2016. M07. 7 Student Constitution amendments:

Chair states that the plan is to review the constitution holistically rather than looking at isolated amendments. Method to be followed will be that of 2012 SRC, as suggested at the student body meeting on 1 March 2016.

Suggested plan is that of appointing faculty reps that will meet with council.

Matter will then be looked at from an external perspective (other

Institutions) and then taken to student parliament.

- Mr Ofei stresses to council that constitution amendment will not be finalised in 2016, due to the tedious nature and intricacy of the process and thus the students are not to be promised that the process will be complete by the end of the year, as this will pose a threat to the accountability of council to both students and senate.
- Academic rep: Suggests process should be broader to represent the diversity of the student body.
- VP: Notes that constitution still sates “student forum” and that should be changed.
- Mr Ofei: Only way to move forward is if SRC leads by drafting a constitution amendment.
- Start date of process dependent on student parliament, but currently set for 10 March 2016.
- Chair suggests that students be given a say from the beginning; response from Mr Ofei is that it is best for SRC to lead from the front, as this will also be good for time purposes.
- Oppidan councillor: Document to get students started should also be communicated with the student body.
- Changes to be made to constitution to be discussed at a different meeting after they have been looked over by the SRC advisor.
- SG: Reminder to send documents promised to student body.

2016. M07. 8 SG circulates code of conduct to council members and confirms that the amended document was sent.

- Treasurer states that the document is the same as the oath taken at the inauguration; SG confirms that oath is also needed in writing.
- Academic rep questions the rationality of signing such a binding document at such short notice; SG retorts that documents were circulated well in advance.
- Significance of honorarium is discussed.
- Example brought up by Mr Ofei where a past academic rep was in a situation where they were not granted honorarium and this was a cause for tension within council, thus reiterates the need for a document amendment to encourage god work ethic and morale in council.
- To not have honorarium would be dangerous.
- VP notes that council started off on the wrong foot in 2016 and it would therefore be wise to apply this document to council in order to cover failures.
- SG states that honorarium is necessary in order for commitments to be honoured, as she is currently faced with the problem of some council members submitting LOAs an hour before meetings.
- Mr Ofei: It takes a lot to vote SRC member out of office and this is why accountability needs to start within council. To establish a sense of professionalism.

- Academic rep questions time at which document was sent; SG states that it was sent on Sunday (and Monday) – time of receipt confirmed by Projects councillor.
- Council agrees with document.
- SG requests council to send their office hours ASAP to avoid delays.
- Successful applications for office space were Projects and International councillors. Two other office spaces will be made available.
- Chair: Stresses the importance of the oath and the accountability to which it binds council to the student body. Reiterates sentiments of the oath and states that the oath ought to be upheld at all times.
- Council then permitted to sign their oaths, but new council members may not yet sign, as oath needs to be vocalised before it can be confirmed in writing.
- SG: Email circulated and reminder on Whatsapp group for council members to sign in their hours, effective as of 2 March 2016.
- Suggestion for Sign-in book that has been previously placed in Madame Societies' office to be moved to Purple Room, as MS is not always in her office.
- Purple Room PC is currently down. Chair states that there are PCs that have been taken for repairs.
- SG shows council how the sign-in book system works.
- List of upcoming comm. meetings to be circulated.

2016. M07. 9 SG: Student parliament meeting scheduled for 10 March 2016.

- SG offers to circulate a template on how to write monthly reports.
- SG needs to present operation report before it goes to student body.

2016. M07. 10 Projects: Flying Fish is sponsoring the Great Field Party, but onus is now on Rhodes to book two artists with funds drawn from SRC budget, but this money will be made back.

Retreat: Scheduled for the weekend of the 11 March 2016

- Costs are covered.
- African Lodge put forward as an option, but cons are that it is slightly pricey and it already has 50 people booked for the same weekend.
- Island Vibe in Jeffrey's Bay therefore agreed upon as the most viable option. R160/night for 2 nights. Quotation (for 20 people) requested.
- Mr Ofei clarifies that it is a team building weekend rather than a retreat. Further states that he will be expecting peer reviews of strengths & weaknesses to be sent to his office as of Monday 7 March 2016.
- Oppidan: Requests to have the opportunity to choose roommate, as room allocations at training made for uncomfortable situations.
- Ofei sceptical of this suggestion due to past segregations.
- Treasurer agrees with Ofei, as she states that roommate picking creates scope for cliques to be formed, which ultimately break council.

- Back and forth discussion about pro and cons of either option.
- Possible solution from Projects: Girls and guys to pick a name out of a hat upon arrival and hence stresses the need for council to be aware of each other's weaknesses.
- Oppidan: Asks for ground rules to be set based not on persons, but rather on environment/space.
- Projects asks council to indicate times of their last classes on Friday 11 March in order for transport arrangements.
- Focus back on Great Field Party: Liquor license granted, so Great Field has the go ahead.
- Set to be weekend of sports tournaments and field party (8 April – 9 April).
- Need for SRC funds to pay for two artists and Red bull to cover another two artists.

2016. M07. 11 Oppidan report back: Constitutional change to be made on both documents.

- Chair highlights that transport for Oppidans is to be revisited, as bus is getting old.
- Agreement to put forward proposal for new bus.
- Get Home Safe may no longer be operating in second term, as car is also getting old.
- Treasurer states that need for own bus is necessary in order to decrease costs.

Community Engagement report back: Give 5 Week to commence from 7-13 March 2016.

- Makes note of Botha party happening on Friday 4 March 2016.
- Request for football finals to be rescheduled, as SRC will not be available on date initially stipulated, but suggestion for SRC to play at 4pm on Sunday 13 March.
- Chair encourages council to participate for fundraising purposes.
- Madame CE says she will put up list of week's activities for Give 5.
- Games night idea clashes with Nelson Mandela Hall's games night, so suggestion to have games at a Purple Thursday instead.
- Pool tournament to be hosted by Lillian Ngoyi as a Give 5 initiative.
- Give 5 shirts are usually for CE reps only, but idea is raised to sell them in order to make more money for Give 5.

Projects report back: Purple Thursday (3 March 2016 from 12-2 at the Kaif) to be an opportunity for students to take selfies with council and hashtag on RMR page in order to stand a chance to win a USB from Insight.

- Donuts to be given out.
- True/False trivia to get people to know their SRC.
- Golf shirts to be worn by council and Miss Maseko to wear purple Rhodes T-shirt.
- Consensus reached for all to wear purple.

- Projects states that she received a request from Campus Vibes to do more on campus events (to get naming rights) and projects states her reluctance at the venture.

Treasurer report back: States success at managing to get student who had not met registration date deadline to finally register.

- Presented budget speech at student body meeting on 1 March 2016.

Academic report back: In the process of creating a class reps' RUconnected page.

CE report back: Preparations for Give 5 underway.

- Liaising with Nicky re Green Fun run.
- Getting environmental reps to check water tanks on campus.

SG report back: Had a meeting with the VC.

- Attended two financial aid appeal meetings.
- Still busy with office allocations.

President's report back: Had a meeting with the VC regarding student appeals.

- Mentions words of gratitude received from student who had been struggling to get accommodation.

2016. M07. 12 SRC advisor: Stresses importance of communication within council and with the student body.

- Every beginning of the month there will be a presentation from various portfolios as of 14 March 2016.
- Board to communicate meetings when there is a full council.
- Requests that SRC knows the people they are leading and how to make their portfolios more efficient.
- Puts it to council to think about the way forward regarding overalls for Great Field Party.
- States that Student Body councillor ought to be included in council activities as much as possible.
- Pleads with council to not take sides during elections and to be as neutral as possible, but to also encourage voting, so the 30% mark can be reached.
- If there is an issue happening on campus, speakers from the relevant departments will be called to speak to council in order to equip council with the ability to solve and understand the problem.

2016. M07. 13 Any other business:

- SB asks what type of bus to look for; response is Quantum/mini-bus
- SG: suggestion for council to also report back on advisor's strengths & weaknesses and the notion is welcomed by the advisor.
- Individual meetings with SRC advisor as of Monday 7 March 2016.

- Academic rep states his grievances at not being granted an opportunity to clarify anything before the student body meeting; treasurer retorts that there had been no meeting on Monday 29 February 2016 and if anything is to be clarified, it will be communicated in future.
- Academic rep questions issue of accruals; treasurer states that actuals are being dealt with and not accruals, due to changes with accruals.
- Mr Ofei asserts that you cannot just release budgets due to the nature of how they are read.
- Chair advises council to find mentors and tutors (before exams).
- Further advises council to look into projects management document so that all can prepare for a particular event.
- Asks for council to check if they can avail themselves on 14 March 2016 for meeting to discuss rules of engagement with management (council to respond by 12pm on 3 March 2016).

2016. M07. 14 Upcoming events:

- Student parliament meeting 10 March 2016
- Give 5 Week 7-13 March 2016
- SSC Week
- Class rep meeting 3 March 2016 (President to be present) at 6pm
- SB councillor to attend SD&DB training from 1-5pm 3 March 2016
- Purple Thursday 3 March 2016

2016. M07. 15 Next Meeting to be held on 7 March 2016