



Minutes

Students' Representative Council Meeting

Date: 2021-10-13

Time: 18:00

Venue: SRC Boardroom and MS Teams

1. Welcoming

Viwe

2. Attendance and Apologies

Alysa-Abby

Present in person:

- a. Ilan
- b. Alme
- c. View
- d. Philip
- e. Alysa-Abby Kekana
- f. Eugene
- g. George
- h. Zander
- i. Takadiwa
- j. Chris

Present Online:

- a. Toni (Late with apology)
- b. Neo (Without apology)

Apologies:

- a. Christo

3. Setting the agenda

Alysa-Abby

Additions include:

- a. PPS Events

b. Institutional Projects

NB: Chair Clarifies that once an agenda point is closed no further comment or questions can be made within the meeting on that specific agenda point.

4. Commendations

Viwe

- a. Commendation for Alme, who has just been elected as the new Vice Chair of the Engineering Faculty Committee.

5. Institutional Committee Feedback

5.1 Rectorate Meeting Feedback

a. Vaccination Mandate

The SRC exec raised this point in order to find out where the university management is in terms of plans for a 'vaccine mandate' and what it could potentially entail. Firstly, the rectorate is trying to move away from the word mandate and instead refer to it as a rule, as mandate sparks misconceptions about what the vaccination is. The University is currently doing a risk assessment with ample student representation included on the risk assessment committee in the form of Viwe (Chairperson of the SRC), Toni (Prim of the Prim committee), and Vudi (The TSR Chairperson). Representation from different levels of staff including deans is also present on the risk assessment committee. The risk assessment will review the various options for returning next year and associated risks related to each. This risk assessment will inform the final decision and details of the vaccination mandate. However, Viwe must still find out from the chairperson of the risk assessment committee which factors will be considered in the risk assessment itself. In relation to last weeks SRC meeting question regarding ensuring accurate student vaccination statistics, it was made clear that the only way to ensure accurate statistics is through a vaccine rule roll out that requires students to present proof of vaccination. So far it has only been made clear that the current vaccination statistics with regards to students will not be taken into account as it is difficult for accurate statistics on current vaccination to be taken. The final decision and details regarding the university's vaccine rule will not come later than 2 December, specifically after the council meeting.

In the meantime, the rectorate has asked the SRC to push an agenda of spreading information regarding vaccinations. Thus, to promote vaccinations in order to avoid students feeling as though they have been forced to get vaccinated. The SRC has committed to including within the communicate to students regarding exam preparation, vaccine promotion, information and myth busting.

b. Easing Restrictions in Student Study Centers

A request has been made for the university to send out a communicate specifying for the students the information about the study centers including the times, including the capacity, including the rules of contact. The communicate must all be well spread with staff to ensure that facilities managers are up to date with the latest regulations. In response to raising the concern of the limited library hours the rectorate informed the SRC that the limitation is due to renovations which

is understandable and unavoidable, thus no extensions on library access can be made. With regard to, Tygerberg Library, hours may be extended pending work from Prof. Eugene. Prof Stan is currently investigating the possibility of extending regular study hours to 11 o'clock in the evening however it was raised that the longer the study centers are open the greater the risk for the staff members thus the rectorate will consider this in reviewing the study centers hours.

Capacity will either increase or decrease based on the capability of students to remain 1, 5 meters apart from one another. With regard to capacity Eugene suggests moving the tables rather than leaving every second computer user area empty. The chair takes note and commits to sharing this idea with the relevant parties. Capacity was further limited by the limited amount of study space and a suggestion was made to open up lecture halls. This is being taken under consideration.

c. Lessons from Covid

This point was related to where we as an institution are in terms of taking stock of what we learned from COVID. Which COVID adaptations were beneficial vs detrimental, what policies should we keep post covid etc. The SRC was assured that this is an area that learning and teaching is already looking into. Conversation topics centered around tabulating ICBC decisions and doing analysis of which decisions should remain standing vs. be removed post covid 19, program renewals and investigating different forms of assessment. The SRC was also told that the intention of the building upgrades is so that the university can move towards a more technologically advanced form of teaching and learning. Prof, Eugene also encouraged having another workshop wherein students and staff may present their perspectives of what we should learn from COVID.

6. Portfolio Feedback

George Chair person of the AAC

Majority of the faculty committees have been elected. Where there are delays, they have been due to a time shift caused by the unprecedented A4 schedule. The process of the AAC executive elections, as well as institutional representative elections/appointments are underway.

Ilan Financial Manager

Nothing important to report for the student populous besides a parking project currently underway.

Eugene, Senior Prim Committee Chairperson

All senior prim leaders have been elected. Eugene has had meetings with CSC and put in contact with the representative in charge of access to student communities. For postgraduate students, Eugene has begun working with the postgraduate office on the welcoming and orientation program for postgraduate intake and also connected the office with the new and relevant PSO communities aimed at postgraduate students.

Alysa-Abby (Student Financial Access, Secretary General

Alysa had a meeting with Mr Sauls and Bianca informally, with three key topics of conversation. Firstly Alysa-Abby made a request for access to a list of students that are at risk of not being funded for next year in order to inform preparation for a potential student debt plan (Preparations have already begun on this plan between

llan and Alysa-Abby). This request was denied as the information will not be available until the NSFAS board approves the final list of funded students and so the list of students at risk cannot possibly be compiled at this time. The second problem was that because there was an NSFAS review a lot of students were unfunded (up to 160 students). The third issue is that due to an issue with the NSFAS system during the late applications process, a lot of applications are not being accepted. Alysa-Abby is keeping constant communication with Mr Sauls and Bianca in order to work on ways to combat these issues.

Viwe, Chairperson

This week the Risk Assessment Committee had their first meeting which went well. Both Toni and Viwe attended, and student input was definitely given. An important Viwe championed was that no matter the outcome of the risk assessment it should be applied both to social activities and teaching and learning. If students are expected to be in person for learning and teaching, there should not be severe restrictions on social activities. Doing so would cause financial and emotional burden on students.

Viwe also attended the signing of the memorandum of understanding between Stellenbosch Academy of Sport, Stellenbosch Football Camp and Maties sport which went well. Essentially there will now be football games hosted at Danie Craven. Viwe is excited to foster a mutually supportive and beneficial relationship between these entities and the SRC.

Phillip, Vice Chairperson

We have received 101 applications for manager, a great improvement from last year. The Executive will meet Monday to finalize appointments. The Camp has been approved. Invitations should come by the end of the week. The SRC received approval for all in person obligations this year, that is all general SRC meetings and Executive meeting etc. Institutions and committees' structure will soon be sent from the rectorate office and meetings begin as early as next week.

Alme, Social Impact

The computer in the SRC Office Information Desk has finally been set up, though some technical difficulties are still being sorted out. Alme is having a meeting with Student Governance on Friday regarding institutional projects. Alme has not received feedback yet from Ashmond from the registrar's office though she will reach out to him in a personal capacity. Member photos were taken on Tuesday. There will be a meeting regarding graduation and Dream walk tomorrow (14 October) though Alme did not receive an invite. Viwe recommends emailing Ashmond requesting invitation.

Zander, Transformation

From the Student side no feedback yet. For the SRC side, planning for the transformation training for the SRC Camp is nearing completion.

Takadiwa, SUI
No feedback as of yet.

Chris, Student wellness

Chris has a meeting tomorrow with CSC to inform which will inform his portfolio planning.

Committee applications are currently being worked on with Alme.

Neo, Chairperson of Societies Council

Since handover, as a team the Societies Executive has only met once. A strategic meeting is planning for next week. This week discussions have taken the forms of one on ones around project and year plans. Applications for Office allocation is currently underway as well as treasurer training. Regarding Office allocation Neo may need to meet with Ilan at some point to assist with the project. There will also be a meeting with the societies. Neo may need SRC assistance with regard to meeting space for upcoming meetings which she plans to host in hybrid format.

There was also an issue with the treasure which has been since sorted as we managed to find a replacement for the treasurer. Secretary replacements are currently underway.

Toni Prim Committee Chair

PSO Prims and Vice Prims are going on Strat con this weekend - where in they do their strategic planning.

Every prim indicated that they don't know what's going on with the vaccination drive. Toni and Christo will have a talk with Pieter to clarify and ensure that all communities know what they are doing on that front. Minerva was one of the only communities that reported having a successful vaccine drive thus they have been asked to provide some advice to the other communities.

With regard to the Res Ed 2022 program a Microsoft form will be sent out regarding selection of discussions they feel are most important as well as an opportunity to submit issues that they believe are important. There was a general indication of preference for a more standardized critical engagement program as currently C/E are not standardized. I was also noted that only of the prims on the prim committee were skilled in sensitivity training which brought some insight into the cause of the lack of standard in Critical engagements across the board.

The prim of Oslo raised the issue of internet connectivity on campus that is creating trouble for students to write tests and attend class. They were requesting the provision of data as a potential solution.

The question rose regarding the waving of half year Hemis again this year, the psychology department is trying to remove Hemis altogether for first year students based on the stress it causes vulnerable students.

For prim comm there is now sub committees that deal with specific issues. To determine what the issues should be a ms form was distributed. Daniels's analysis of these forms revealed important trends in popularity of issues in relation to communities. Daniel will send that data to the SRC.

Vive responds with assigning George the responsibility of emailing Prof. Deresh about the eduroam issues. Regarding the streamlining C/E, it's disappointing that handover did not include the education on the Transformation critical engagement forum which existed last year as its purpose was to streamline critical engagement. Its disappointing that despite it existing throughout the entire year it hasn't been properly utilised. Viwe asks Zander to work with Toni in informing and upskilling the

crit eng house committee members and prims of the forum to maximize its efficiency.

Toni recognizes that there has been a huge gap in the quality of handovers in the past few years and plans to address it at strat con. There needs to be better education for the prims themselves. The prim should be equipped to hold them accountable thus they need to know where the portfolios need to be/ what they need to do. Toni commits to working with zander Christo and the prims on addressing this issue.

Engagement on Portfolio Feedback

Chris asks Toni: How far along in the process are the applications for visitors policy feedback?

Some communities are further along than other with regard to the process of adopting visitor's policies, so far 2 communities' policies have been approved. Deadline for alcohol policies submissions is the 31st of October. This deadline set by prim com to allow for time for the comm to ensure that policies are aligned and do not contradict one another.

Eugene to Alysa-Abby on financial access

Postgrad has a separate funding office; Eugene raised the issue of postgrad students that live privately with regarding to making the first few accommodation payments timely. This since the NRF is only paid out in March. Eugene requests that Alysa address postgrad concerns in future bursary and loans meetings involving the head of the postgraduate funding office Nugent. Alysa assures that Nugent has not been in any of the meetings she has had so far, however if he is she will. Philip informs that biweekly meets of the SRC rep with the postgrad funding office is meant to start at the opening of registration 2022 however if Eugene feels a need to begin the meetings sooner, he should contact Philip in order to compose a collaborative email requesting such.

Alme to Philip on financial access

SUI through Takadiwa should also provide input on the meetings mentioned in financial access. Takadiwa must consider points for inclusion and communicate them with Alysa and Eugene.

7. Matters for Discussion:

7.1 SRC Nomination to CDC and DAC

Philip

The SRC needs to appoint student centric students reps. How do we approach these nominations?

George recommends a task team with open applications who will be tasked with making a short list of candidates that will eventually fill up the 10 spots open for CDC and 5 for DAC.

A counter proposal made by Viwe involves a task team aimed at selecting

representatives through hybrid open applications and invitation. This since older students are less inclined to apply, and current reps the SRC may want to reappoint may be more inclined to accept the position if personally asked. This hybrid approach is accepted. George accepts the role of running the task team. A commitment is made to ensuring that all representatives are properly informed about the context of student life.

7.2 SRC Managers

Philip

The SRC decides as a team to treat the managers in all social respects as fellow SRC members simply without voting rights or the same responsibilities such as to attend every SRC meeting. Engagement at SRC meetings will be encouraged and expected along the constitutional responsibilities as well as through the bonus system of the previous SRC term which will carry over through to this one.

7.3 PPS Events

Alme

A google form to organize availability will be sent out after the meeting.

7.4 Institutional Projects

Alme

Alme asks whether there are any other projects that the SRC would like to get SRC members involved on. Ilan suggests getting involved in some welcoming proceedings to increase visibility of the SRC. George would like to offer the AAC as an assistant to involve the SRC visibility because he sees value in it. Viwe suggests structuring the project around the necessities of the time period i.e., registration.

8. Matters for Resolution:

On matters 8.1 and 8.2: The exec clarifies that; though they have made recommendations for the following portfolios (Alme for communications and Philip for Policy Officer) this does not mean that these portfolios have to be awarded to the recommendations. Due to the grey area created by the limbo of the old and new student constitutions the decision of the appointment will be left to the SRC to decide.

8.1 Communications Officer Election

Philip

Alme is the only candidate thus a Vote of confidence for Alme occurs. There is unanimous Approval. Alme is the new communications Officer

8.2 Policy Officer Election

Philip

Upon checking Phillip is the only candidate thus a Vote of confidence for Phillip occurs. There is unanimous Approval. Phillip is the new Policy Officer

8.3 Financial Policies

Ilan

Policy 1:

Adjust a typo

Vote: approved

Policy 2

Vote: approved

Policy 3:

Neo voices concerns over points 3 and 4 believing that it should be separated and divided into two parts. Concerns are addressed but no changes are made.

Vote: approved

Policy 4

Vote: approved

Policy 5

Vote: approved

Policy 6

Vote approved

Policy 7

vote: approved

Policy 8

Comment point 8

Removing point 8 completely. Point 8 removed completely

Vote: approved

Policy 9

Approved

9. Closing

Viwe

saam vorentoe · masiye pbambili · forward together