



## Minutes

### Students' Representative Council Meeting

31 July 2019, 18:30 @ SRC Boardroom

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#### Prologue

A regular Students' Representative Council meeting of Stellenbosch University was held on 31 July 2019 in terms of section 38 and section 39 of the Stellenbosch University Student Constitution which mandates the SRC to meet at least at least once every two weeks. The following are the minutes thereof.

#### 1. Welcoming

C. van Wyk welcomes everyone to the SRC meeting and states that the meeting will take place from 18:46-20:30

#### 2. Attendance

##### Present

Jane Fourie

Alex van Greuning

Carli van Wyk

Leighton September

Lauren Stevenson

Mthunzi Matshabane

Paulu Joubert

Eduard Beukman

Marcelino Pieterse

Mariné Bothma





## Managers in attendance

Kristhoff Krige

Minenhle Nxumalo

## Absent

Thembeke

Melt Hugo

John Kachoko

### 3. Approval of previous minutes

L. Stevenson and E. Beukman approve minutes of previous meeting

### 4. Setting of the agenda

There have been changes to the agenda and the minutes will be a reflection thereof.

### 5. Feedback

#### a) Prim committee

P. Joubert explains that the first Prim Committee (PC) meeting for the semester took place on the first Tuesday of the term along with an extraordinary meeting. During both meetings, the recent incidents on campus were discussed as well as the potential constitutional amendment which is being posed to the SRC today. J. Fourie also announces that Libertas PSO's name has officially been changed to Capri in the PC Constitution.





b) Academic affairs council

No feedback

c) Societies council

First meeting will take place on the 13 August 2019. The meeting will discuss the end of year event and any issues surrounding societies.

d) TSR

No feedback

e) Military academy

No feedback

f) Managers feedback

K. Krige states that the critical engagement portfolio is running successfully. He also announces the portfolio's last event with the theme *multiculturalism* will take place in collaboration with the res-ed center on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The African film week is also running well, and says he is looking forward to the Week against Discrimination. In terms of the woman empowerment portfolio, M. Nxumalo elaborates on the events taking place leading up to Women's day on 9 August 2019. She explains that almost everything was sponsored for the events and there will be free entry to the event on the 9<sup>th</sup> which will focus on the topic *the future is female*.

**C. van Wyk asks both managers in attendance what their highlight was as SRC manager?**

K. Krige said his was the second day of the *Sex stereotype* series held last semester as well as the committee he worked with in his portfolio.





Minnie reflects on the successes of her portfolio as it has done more than ever before in comparison to previous reports that she has read. She also mentions that there were lots of collaborations this year and that contributed to the success of the portfolio.

#### g) Shuttle task team

C. van Wyk explains the legal aspect regarding the matter is quite technical and a solution is being looked at. The rectorate approves of the proposals presented by the Shuttle Task Team.

An institutional committee will be developed to ensure access to services like the night shuttle service, and will be responsible for ensuring services cater to the ever-changing needs of students.

### 6. Voting

#### a. Constitutional Amendment

P. Joubert provides feedback on the amendments of the PC Constitution that took place on 30 July 2019 at an extraordinary PC meeting. Previously the chair and vice-chair had to come from either a PSO or a residence community respectively. In light of more interaction and unity between the two communities the PC thought it would be best to remove the limitations on who would be able to run for the respective roles. The limitation existed to ensure PSO's had representation but due to the change in the dynamics, its removal will ensure stronger leadership within the committee. Representation will not be hindered as PSO's have representation through their respective prims. Those who choose to apply for the positions will have to assume responsibility over the PSO and residence. J. Fourie mentions concerns were raised that the change could lead to less representation but after a thorough conversation, the PSO community is more at peace with the amendment.





Questions by SRC members with regards to the amendment:

**L. September seeks clarity behind the reason for the amendment?**

P. Joubert explains that the change will allow for those to be elected based on their strengths and capabilities. It will also create a more united front and more responsibility will be assumed by the chair and vice chair.

**Does this require a constitutional change, or can it be fixed by adjusting the responsibilities between the chair and the vice chair?**

C. van Wyk provides context and stresses that although the different communities have different needs, the conversation has shifted from operational needs to issues that affect the broader community. P. Joubert adds that the shift creates a more united front and the change removes the constraints for those who wish to apply for the positions. J. Fourie states the progress made allows for anyone who has the passion to now be able to fulfill the roles.

**E. Beukman requests clarity because the amendment may remove the restriction of who can apply but it does not state the responsibilities.** He understands the reason behind the change but does not think it requires a constitutional change. Needs change and in the future the rule could be called in again by PSO's or residences that might feel underrepresented.

P. Joubert states the constitutional change is required to allow for the change in terms of who can avail themselves. In a few years the committee could change the rule but the decision is also based on being dynamic.

**How will the change improve the structure?**





J. Fourie expresses that her PSO background limited her perception. Her involvement with the committee has exposed her to other views and similar challenges shared. The change allows for stronger candidates to run as opposed to limiting the positions to specific people.

**L. September points out that the proposed constitutional change can result in one chair lacking the experience of one of the spaces. He understands the change allows for stronger leadership, however he proposes in a situation where one individual does not have experience of the other space, it can be opened to the other committee members from the other community, but preference should be given to those coming from the respective communities.**

P. Joubert thanks L. September for his proposal but states that the committee has voted it in due to their confidence in the change. The different communities are constantly engaging with one another, so he believes the situation described by L. September is not likely to occur. If you do lack the experience you will learn similar to those who step into the SRC space and lack the experience.

A. van Greuning and M. Bothma both state those involved within the committee are more familiar with the structures than the SRC. The decision was made with careful consideration so the SRC should trust the decision.

C. van Wyk clarifies the positions. All prims from various communities attend meetings where they have a platform to express their needs. The chair and vice chair of the PC are responsible for representing both PSO's and residences. The change will remove the limitations for leaders who wish to apply and it will remove preferences.





P. Joubert once again stresses that the change was voted in by the PC after lengthy conversations within the Committee. The belief is that the change will improve the overall wellbeing of the structure.

Vote commences and the result was as follows:

Yes: 6 votes

No: 4 votes

Resolution: The Constitutional amendment is NOT voted in because the relevant section of the Constitution, in terms of chapter 13, section 105, can only be amended when accepted by ten (10) members of the SRC.

After voting E. Beukman was excused from the meeting.

## 7. Discussion

C. van Wyk requests members of the house to recognize the rules of engagement. In accordance to chapter 3, section 41 (1) of the Student Constitution, a student that is not a member of the SRC is only allowed to speak if they submit a written notice 24 hours in advance to the SG and it is approved by the Chair.

### a) Week against discrimination and human chain against racism

A. van Greuning explains that the event was started by Frankly Adams, a member of the community, who had the idea of creating a human chain against discrimination. The MGD has been working on the project with the former SRC Transformation Officer before their resignation. It was meant to be held in April 2019, but the idea fell through due to the resignation of the transformation officer. Since then F. Adams approached





the SRC with the idea and weekly meetings have been taking place ever since to restart it.

It was then decided to have a week catered to addressing discrimination by having a three-part lecture series with different speakers. Lunch hour discussions will take place in addition to the evening discussions to ensure access for all students. The first step will be talking about equality in order to understand discrimination. Speakers for the lunch hour discussions are still being sought for, and suggestions are welcomed. The Human Chain will start at the Idas Valley Library and end on the Rooiplein. The aim is not to only attract students but the broader community as well as businesses.

#### **A. van Greuning then opens up the idea to the house for criticism or thoughts**

A student expresses a reality check is required. Critical engagements held by the SRC have had no purpose or cultivated change. The speaker for one of the events, Prof Liebenberg, creates international change not the SRC. Introspect is also required by the SRC with regards to their disregard to the constitution and what they are leaving behind. A shift from intention to effect is urgently needed in the SRC with regards to this event.

A. Greuning notes the point and states the week has purpose and it is not cosmetic. Focus will be placed on high school students to assist in the transition from school to tertiary institutions. He also agrees with the student's point that a shift is required from intention to effect. With this said collaborations should be held with other institutions like the Launch Lab. He also states Prof Liebenberg was delighted to partake in the event and engage with students.







**Student requests clarity regarding the chances of success for the event and the direction of the conversation.**

A. van Greuning states that the conversation will address racism from various fronts. For example Prof Liebenberg will speak on social access and her work with the United Nations. The other speaker's content has yet to be determined but have free reign to decide on the topic. The content will focus heavily on historical trauma and racism. In terms of success, the project is a risk which is why they need as much participation from everyone. The event will take place a month from now at the end of the term. Permission will be requested for staff and students to allow for participation in the human chain.

**M. Matshabane asks if engagement will be occurring with the work force. He specifically asks about the cleaning and maintenance staff as they often experience the most racism.**

A. van Greuning notes the point and requests the help from M. Matshabane to follow up on the different staff structures.

**A student suggests the SRC should reach out to schools in Kylemore and Idas Valley as it will touch on different dimension's rather than solely focus on more privileged schools.**

A. van Greuning notes this point.

L. Stevenson states transportation will need to be organized for this.

**L. Stevenson asks A. van Greuning when advertisement for the project will start?**





A. van Greuning states he has been working closely with Anna Durheim, SRC Branding and Marketing manager, with regards to this. Before advertising could start, he explains that municipal forms had to be completed. He also states he is responsible for the event and has had assistance from various SRC members.

P. Joubert suggests school visits should take place prior to the project to brief them about the project. He also stresses the project is not a photo opportunity which is why the lectures are included. The project aims to make an active change. He also gives recognition to the support received from the MGD.

C. van Wyk also stresses that this is not A. van Greuning's project alone. It is the SRC's as a whole.

A word of thanks is then given to A. van Greuning and L. Stevenson for the work invested into the project.

#### b) Substance abuse

C. van Wyk expresses her condolences to all those affected by the incidents that have occurred over the past few weeks. She then raises concern to how alcohol abuse has been normalized despite the existence of a policy. A stance needs to be taken by the SRC to address the drinking culture. This is an opportunity for the SRC to reflect on their role and to question if alcohol should be catered for at SRC events.

P. Joubert expresses a cultural change is required. Without shifting blame, he also stresses that it is the individual's choice and a policy cannot control alcohol consumption. Drinking culture is a global problem. The question that needs to be asked is what can be done moving forward. A suggestion made is to help the person next to you





even if, for example it is by getting an uber for someone. He thinks the reason for the policy not being circulated is because it has not been approved by Council yet. Residences have also had cultural shocks as a result of recent incidents which has led to the organization of events in the future being evaluated. A Res-ed session will also take place regarding this matter last week.

C. van Wyk also expresses that students have been conditioned that alcohol is needed to have fun. This culture should be addressed by showing alcohol is not needed. More people and institutions should mobilize to discuss this serious matter. M. Nxumalo states that the upcoming events for woman empowerment does not include alcohol.

P. Joubert suggests having a *Sober October* event to tackle the drinking culture on campus. C. van Wyk concludes the point by saying that the SRC can sign a document by the next SRC to create an obligation to tackle the problem. Further states that despite the current SRC term coming to an end, non-positional leaders could plan a *Sober October* event as suggested by P. Joubert. L. Stevenson cautions a balance needs to be in place because one cannot enforce policy on students.

## 8) General points

A. van Greuning stresses if SRC members are not preoccupied with individual projects they should approach him as administrative help is needed for the Week against Discrimination.

## 9) Next meeting

14 August 2019



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## 10) Closing

Meeting adjourned at 20:25

