



Minutes

Students' Representative Council Meeting

Date: 2022-05-04 | Time: 18:00 | Venue: Tygerberg Campus and
Microsoft Teams

Welcoming

- Presented by **Viwe**.

Attendance and Apologies

- Presented by **Alysa-Abby**.

Attendance:

- Viwe Kobokana
- Philip Visage
- Alysa-Abby Kekana
- Chris Briel
- Takadiwa Chipfumbu
- Andre Zander Niemand
- Toni Solomon
- Christo Van Der Bank
- Eugene Nell
- George Van Dyk
- Tamara Wicomb
- Vhudi Ravhutsi
- Wandile Sebothoma
- Alok More
- Josiah Aiyer
- Gerrard Damons
- Thimna Sotyato
- Anna Pansegrouw
- Tessa Brooke
- Fadeelah Williams

Absent:

- Precious Nhamo
- Tanyaradzwa Chiza
- Pule Lebaka (without excuse)



Setting of Agenda:

- Presented by **Alysa-Abby**. The following Agenda points were added:
 - Muslim Students Assessments on Eid (Josiah)
 - Office Etiquette and Office Duty (Takadiwa)

Internal Affairs:

- SRC Member of the Week: **Tanyaradzwa Chiza; Sport.**



Eugene Nell; Chairperson: Senior Prim Committee

- Eugene met with the **Senate Library Committee**.
- Main point of meeting: **You are no longer required to book spaces if you want to study.**

George Van Dyk; Chairperson: Academic Affairs Council

- **The Academic Planning Committee** met and the following matters were discussed:
 - The Africa Centre for HIV and AIDS Management's constitution was reviewed and the APC made the request that student representation be included and this recommendation was accepted.
 - The assessment rules from all the faculties were looked at with an argument being made for things to be rigorous and sensible therefore easy to read and accessible to students.
 - The Program Advisory Committee and the Committee for Bursaries and Loans were looked at.
 - The proposed year programme for 2023 and 2024 is looking to move away from being restricted by the matric results coming out and being freer in terms of constructing the year program and allowing more time for it to be planned with stress.



Portfolio Feedback:

Philip Visage; *Vice-Chairperson, Policy Officer*

- The Vice-Chair has emphasized that the Code of Conduct is to be taken more seriously.
- Formal recommendations for the Resident Placement Policy and the Communications Policy have been submitted and the Intellectual Property Policy is currently being worked on.
- Philip further mentioned that there is no rule about having events during exams or right before exams as the only rule which is in effect regarding this situation is the residence rules which restrict events from taking place on residence premises.

Alysa-Abby Kekana; *Secretary-General, Student Financial Access*

- The Action4Inclusion Committee had a meeting on the 3rd of May to discuss a fundraiser for student debt. The timeline for this fundraiser was solidified as well as the delegation of duties was assigned to different members.
- Alysa-Abby Mentioned that at this point of the timeline there is a need for information to be distributed to the different structures.
The ex-officio structures will be contacted by someone in the committee by the end of the week to request to have a presentation in their meetings.
- Action4Inclusion: 16th of June a social justice work is happening and would like SRC representation there It will be a walk around Stellenbosch explaining the history of the town as well as highlighting Youth Month.
- An issue with senior NSFAS students and “double dipping” (Students using meal quota and receiving allowances) has arisen. Alysa-Abby is currently in talks with the registrar’s division and the Centre for undergraduate Bursaries and Loans to resolve this.

Chris Briel; *Student Wellness*

- Wandile and Chris had a great pop up stall at Tygerberg.
- Collaborations with other portfolios will take place as new budget measures are put in place.

Takadiwa Chipfumbu; *SU International*

- Budget changes have occurred due to the emphasis now being placed on collaboration with other portfolios within the international and national societies.
- Too many clashes are occurring with the events leading to the collaborations being the more conducive option for events.
- A meeting to form the AB (not sure of name as sound was a bit unclear) which is a society for African National Societies. It is a board to guide and advise the international office in terms of African students.
- A hike in Jonkershoek Nature Reserve takes place on Saturday in collaboration with (name) society.

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- A presentation to the International Advisory Council regarding the subcommittee on Internationalization takes place on the 5th of May.
- The International Office wants to partake in the Wellness Initiative which would mean that it would take place in June. A date by Takadiwa has not been set.

Andre Zander Niemand; *Transformation*

- The final stages of the planning for the pride events are taking place.
- Most celebrations have been postponed to the third term due to exams.
- There is hope for a picnic taking place on the Rooi Plein on the 20th of May and this is awaiting final confirmation from Ms Nicki Adams.
- The last meeting of the Rectors Award task team took place today. Those draft regulations will be sent to Prof Deresh and hopefully by the mid to end of June/ beginning of July, those regulations will be up to date and students may be updated that applications are open.

Toni Solomon; *Chairperson: Prim Committee*

- Prim committee task teams have met and identified some problems in their respective categories and identified some key roleplayers that will help in finding solutions to help with the incoming Prims.
- The relevant portfolio holders will be contacted as soon as they are able too.

George Van Dyk; *Chairperson: Academic Affairs Council*

- With regards to the AAC Constitution, both the AAC and TAAC are happy and 34 of the 36 comments the TAAC submitted, were accepted. One was modified and one was rejected but incorporated into their constitution. The Constitutional Review Committee has incorporated these changes. The 5th of May will see a meeting take place to discuss general comments from the faculty student committees.
- A special meeting of the AAC will take place on the 10th of May to vote and ratify, so please expect the AAC constitution as an agenda item of the 11th of May.
- Constitutional literacy training for the AAC from student court is taking place on the 16th of May.
- The AAC is working closely with co-curricular office to develop their own co-curricular.
- Establishing connections with equivalents at Oxford and Cambridge Universities:
 - The AAC's equivalent does exist at these institutions and George has obtained the necessary contacts but wants one for each continent. This strategic relationship will be built during recess.
- Faculty mentors and deans committees have been approved in principle in each faculty and communication to the deans, vice deans and faculty managers will be done soon,
- Prof Deresh and George will be chairing a vice dean and AAC forum which will meet termly.

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- The grievance procedure is being reworked to make it more streamlined in order for complaints to be solved more efficiently and more effective support can be provided to students.

Tamara Wicomb; *Chairperson: Societies Council*

- Chairpersons Day did not take place as there were too few RSVPs.
- It has been postponed until the third term.
- The first in-person Societies training takes place on the 7th of May.

Vhudi Ravhutsi; *Chairperson: Tygerberg Students' Representatives Council (TSRC)*

- The process for the honourary awards has begun.
- Applications are officially open now with the TSRC being aware of this.
- Special invitations have been sent out.
- The issue regarding Societies Room that was raised by Vhudi in the previous general SRC meeting was discussed in a DSAF meeting resulting in a task team being formulated. An office meeting takes place on the 5th of May.
- A tangible solution for the WiFi issue for the TSS without affecting the Societies Room is being looked into.
- An invitation to the SCAS task team; that is looking into the second dining hall on the Tygerberg campus as well as diversifying the food on the Tygerberg campus; has been seen by Vhudi.
- Vhudi is halfway in his process of One-on-Ones with the TSRC. Jugular points were focussed on as well as increasing efficiency.

Wandile Sebothoma; *Branding*

- A thank you to everyone who has come through for the meet and greets.
- The various portfolios that people have queried about will be approached by Wandile.

Alok More; *Communications Officer*

- The mass mailer's translation has been sent to Anele and should be sent out next week, provisionally Tuesday, after it has been accurately translated.

Josiah Aiyer; *Marketing*

- The sub-somm has been set up and have undergone training in Canva.
- The two Takealot vouchers have been given away and this has been announced via Instagram.

Gerrard Damons; *KuKo (Culture Committee)*

- It is the week of Palesa festival.
- The final takes place on the 7th of May at 5 o'clock and will run until about 10 o'clock.
- Tickets are R100 each. For SRC members, please let Gerrard know before Friday 1pm if you want a ticket set aside.
- The theme is your favourite fictional character so please come dressed accordingly.
- The WAQE collaboration is in full planning and will take place on the 16th of May.

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- The variety show's music category is in full swing after a bit of a set back in getting the posters out on time. The entries have improved since the posters have gone out,
- Feature Fridays: should it be once a month as it is difficult to find artists on campus keen to approach the SRC.
- Culture communities are encouraged to encourage the relevant communities in order to get people to enter.
- Tygerberg Culture Project is in full swing and will take place in the same week as the WAQE collaboration. The voted name for the event: the Glitter Ball. It is a queer ball with access for all students.
- Transport shall be communicated with the relevant stakeholders in due time.
- Various hubs are being looked at for a location.
- The scream will take place and security has been communicated with.
- The actual presentation of it is being developed and will probably be handed in well in advance to exams.
- A suggestion for a celebration square, a space on the Rooi Plein or the library steps where people can stand and cheer others on for getting through exams was made by Fadeelah.

Thimna Sotyato; *Safety & Security*

- Houses have to budget for CCTV cameras.
- A meeting was held on the 4th of May with NGO wherein a presentation on Human Trafficking was observed.
- The 12th of May will see a presentation for student leaders and the rest of the student unions. The presentation takes place via Microsoft Teams. The link to the meeting will be shared via a post.
- First aid training for the Tygerberg campus has started with the online portion of the two weeks taking place first.
- Kayamandi evening shuttle: there is no communication on the groupchat since its inception.

Tessa Brooke; *Sustainability*

- Earth Week went well.
- A lot of project funds were used for transport which played a large part in the accessibility of the Tygerberg students.
- The biggest successes: the Market.
- The Campaign for Accessibility for Reusable Menstrual Products is still being worked on.

Fadeelah Williams; *Leadership Development*

- This week the LSAL Summit is taking place
- The pre-summit process opened on the 2nd of May and has been going well with lots of engagement being observed.
- The Summit day falls on Saturday the 7th of May.
- Fadeelah will be working with the societies fair on their training as their speaker.

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- Talks with Mr Quenton Apolis and the CSC have started in regards to reviewing the training plans for the next intake of leadership.
- The process will be continuous for the entirety of this term and next term.
- The relevant stakeholders will be clued in when it is necessary.
- As for now, it is just the review process and once new programs have been formulated that will be included at that stage there will be further consultation.

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Matters for Discussion:

SRC Benchmarking:

- The executive committee had a discussion on Monday regarding benchmarking.
- DSAF and Prof Deresh have been spoken too and are onboard. They are awaiting the final program in terms of who is attending, dates, times and other logistics.
- 10 people will attend. Six being the executive committee and four for any other SRC members.
- A template will be sent out for a link for people to apply for benchmarking.
- The application is a motivation of why you think your portfolio is relevant to the benchmarking or what will the student body gain from your portfolio attending the benchmarking.
- SRC support and SRC Honoriums will be looked into at the other institutions.
- The benchmarking will take place in Gauteng with stops at TUT, UJ, UP, WITS and prior to leaving, UCT.
- Two preliminary date options:
 - 25 June – 1 July
 - 10 July – 16 July
- Dependent on the availability of everyone, those dates will be finalised.
- Other SRCs have been reached out too for availability.
- Philip will email the applications to everyone after the meeting and there is a date as to when applications need to be in, 11th of May
- Feel free to come to Philip or Viwe with questions.
- It was expressed that the entire executive will be going as they work with all the portfolios and should attend benchmarking as it makes the most constitutional sense for the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer to attend.
- Toni has voiced frustration with the lack of transparency regarding the justification of the other two members of the executive committee having an automatic place for benchmarking.
- Constitutionally, the SRC has every right to overturn any decision the executive committee makes.
- Fadeelah has motioned for the two seats to given to George and Vhudi as the executive committee is in essence the governing body of the SRC. Limiting information to four of the six executive members limits the ability of benchmarking based decisions being made.
- George has mentioned the executive as a whole has started the preparations for this benchmarking to take place through delegation of tasks but nothing is finalized.
- Eugene has mentioned that the manner in which the option was presented was slightly concerning.

- Gerrard has suggested an SRC member take queries as to anything they may have questions about for benchmarking to allow for everyone to have the relevant information.
- An unofficial vote took place for members to decide how many of the executive members should be guaranteed to go. The outcome of the vote was 9 votes for 4/6 members and 10 Votes for 6/6 members.

SRC Language Implementation:

- Language policies have been voted in by the Council.
- Part of the implementation plan is that the faculties explain how they are able to deal with diversity, how they promote multilingualism and how they deal with concerns and issues coming to them.
- From this year on, the SRC will be reporting on language implantation in student structures.
- Philip will send out templates that have been created based on the current templates. Please add ideas as to how you want this template to look.
- The following four points will be discussed:
 1. Progress in promoting multilingualism
 2. What is our current language used in internal communication?
 3. What is the effectiveness of our feedback mechanisms?
- Philip is also sending out the faculty whose language report was best written as an example.
- Specific stakeholders will be approached in due time.
- Any ideas regarding mass engagement regarding this point are welcomed.

Convocation Engagement:

- Suggestions for more convocation engagement with young people was reaching out to the landmark office and get them to educate alumni as to what convocation is.
- Fadeelah has suggested a task team reaching out to postgraduate students regarding convocation engagement.
- Convocation one of the five statutory bodies created in the university statute and their purpose is to align the broader community stakeholders with the university.
- Philip has suggested the AAC indicate a good time in the year to educate final years and postgraduate students as to what convocation and the statute is in order to gain critical and mass engagement.

Muslim Student Assessments on Eid:

- Students from the Entrepreneurship Class 318 were supposed to write AIs on Eid with no special compensation to write after.
- Students emailed the lecturer two weeks before and were ignored and were told to write A2 or A3.
- Josiah followed up with George who attempted communication with the relevant parties via EBSK.

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- There are other cases in the science faculty where considerations were not made for Eid.
- Fadeelah has suggested Prof Deresh to automatically make Eid an off day for all students as per the initial language policy.
- George has requested an urgent meeting with Prof Daresh to discuss this issue and solutions moving forward.

Office Duties and Office Etiquette:

- The cleanliness of the office is to be enforced more strictly by Philip.
- Please contact Philip regarding the computers not working.
- Office duty is a physical opportunity to help students not a chore.

Closing

- Presented by **Vive**.

Meeting Adjourned at 21:00.

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