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**MINUTES OF STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT
PARLIAMENT**

**Committee MEETING HELD ON Friday 16 FEBRUARY IN THE
STUDENT**

GOVERNANCE BOARDROOM AT 18H00

In Attendance:

A Andrews (Chair)

MHugo

N Poee


M Mango

(Quorum is met)

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<u>Absent Reason:</u>	<u>With</u>
N/A	
<u>Absent Without Reason:</u>	
N/A	
<u>Other Attendants:</u>	
KN Groom	
RS Shadwell	
MT Khumalo	

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T Leak

A Snyman

C Visagie

NA Matuuch


B Oberholzer

No.	<u>Description And Discussion:</u>	<u>Motions/Actions:</u>
1.	<u>Opening</u> Meeting is opened at 18h04.	N/A

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2.	 <p><u>Welcoming</u></p> <p>Chairwelcomes all to first Student Parliament Committee (SPC) meeting following well deserved break.</p>	N/A
3.	<p><u>Approval of previous meeting minutes</u></p> <p>The Secretary General (SG) summarizes the minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 7 February, as received by the SPC prior to the current meeting.</p> <p>The minutes are unanimously accepted by members as they contain no lack of clarity.</p>	N/A

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4.	<u>Item(s) from previous minutes</u> N/A	
5.	<u>Setting of agenda</u> 1. Consolidation of each committee within Student Parliament (SP) 2. Resignations from SPC 3. Any further points	
6.	<u>Discussion and feedback</u>	

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1 Consolidation of each committee within Student Parliament (SP)

Background: There are a number of committees within SP that need to be filled to optimize the functioning of SP. These committees include:

The SPC itself

Chair:

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- The Accountability Committee
- A Disciplinary Committee
- The Policy Unit

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- A Constitutional Review Committee

While Addendum J1 of the Student Parliament
Constitution prescribes a procedure for the

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	<p>appointment of a Student Parliament Committee, it does not take into account the fact that SP was not present for two years prior to the current SPC. The Student Court, as a result, prescribed a manner of appointment of members as a result of this absence. <u>Secretary-General:</u></p> <p>In terms of section 10 of the SP Constitution, when a vacancy arises in the SPC, the Committee must determine whether or not to fill this vacancies and, if the decision is to fill them, section 10 is read with Addendum J1 to prescribe the procedure for advertisement of said positions.</p> <p>Addendum J1 is relevant only to the extent that the advertising of positions must be done in the manner prescribed in the Addendum. The rest of Addendum J1 is irrelevant for purposes of appointing new members, thus the SPC must decide on a procedure to do so.</p>	
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	<p><u>Chair:</u> The question arises; how do we fill these positions?</p> <p><u>M Mango:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Suggests we deal first with the vacancies in the SPC – by first deciding on a procedure to	
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	<p>follow and then deciding on a date by which these positions should be filled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Asks whether it is constitutionally permissible for candidates, who previously applied, to be considered.- We can use Addendum J1 as a guide insofar as the requirements as well as to indicate who is ineligible to apply.- We can then use a process, similar to that which was used in appointing members of the Accountability Committee (AC), to fill these positions. <p><u>Chair:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We must first appoint SPC members and then decide which of those members are to sit on the SP Executive Committee.- In terms of the Executive minutes, the portfolios requiring filling are compulsory, thus the discretion provided in section 10 should not be considered. These positions must be filled.	
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	<p><u>M Hugo:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- It is important to draw the distinction between compulsory positions and sub-committee positions.	
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	<p><u>MT Khumalo:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In terms of the compulsory positions, will these be filled internally or by directly advertising these positions? <p><u>Chair:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- An internal approach to appointments is not a transparent one and cannot be said to be constitutional thus cannot be entertained. The positions must be advertised.- In terms of the position of the Communications Officer (CO), the outgoing CO recommended for a member of his sub-committee to be appointed as interim CO.- Would it be constitutional to temporarily appoint this person internally? Section 54 of the Student Constitution allows for this. It must also be determined whether, in doing so, this person is given an advantage over other	
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	<p>applicants should they elect to apply for the position of CO.</p> <p><u>M Hugo</u> makes note of the fact that the recommended person is not constitutionally recognized as a member of the SPC.</p>	
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	<p><u>M Mango:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- It would be unfair to have impediments on a member wanting to apply despite the advantage of having served as interim CO. This experience is one of many other factors to consider in deciding who to appoint and undue importance should not be placed hereon.- We should rather have a person within the SPC to take on this existing portfolio on an interim basis, pending permanent filling of the position – perhaps providing oversight over the sub-committee.- This suggestion is the most practical for accountability purposes and we should not consider the previous CO's recommendation to avoid any issues with the constitutionality of an appointment based on such a recommendation. <p><u>NA Matuuch:</u></p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Is the Communications Sub-Committee a constitutionally recognized body, under the SP Constitution? <p><u>Chair:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The existence of the sub-committee can be	
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	<p>substantiated using section 54 of the Student Constitution however there are certain procedures to be followed in appointing such a committee which should be set out in writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- As it stands, there are no written records of the <p>Would the interim CO be part of the Executive Committee?</p> <p><u>Secretary General:</u></p> <p>In terms of section 54 of the Student Constitution, yes, however their voting power can be curtailed for as long as the position is temporary</p> <p>We should look at it from the perspective of appointing a member of the SPC and not necessarily the specific portfolio being filled. suggestion and ratification of this subcommittee.</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- It is important to note that the person appointed in the interim is not compelled to work with the existing sub-committee. <p><u>M Hugo:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">--- <p><u>Chair:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Executive does not need another member	
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to meet quorum thus we should be weary to have a person on the Executive who has no voting power, especially considering the nature of the Executive.

- It is thus not necessary to have this member on the Executive.

MT Khumalo:

A reiteration of the suggestion made by Mangena and that discussion should be had regarding how to do this.

Furthermore, if the ~~sub~~committee is not considered to be constitutional, it would automatically be dissolved.

It is not necessarily the case that the subcommittee is unconstitutional as it is not in breach of the Constitution.

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	<p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p><u>A vote on whether to consider the recommendation made by M Mango to temporarily appoint an existing SPC member as interim CO:</u></p> <p>Members in favour: 3</p> <p>Members against: 0</p>	
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Chair:

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	<p>Important to note that the interim CO will not be providing oversight over the position/sub committee but rather would be taking over the position in the interim until position is filled.</p> <p><u>A vote on which SPC member to appoint as interim</u></p> <p>M Mago, seconded by M Hugo, nominates N Poee, who declines this nomination.</p> <p>M Hugo, seconded by A Andrews, nominates M Mango, who accepts this nomination.</p> <p>Members in favour of M Mango being appointed as interim CO: 4</p> <p>-</p>	
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Conclusion: M Mango is appointed as Interim CO in addition to his position as Deputy Accountability

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	<p>Chair</p> <p><u>Vote on whether to appoint an interim treasurer:</u></p> <p>Members in favour: 1 (M Mango)</p> <p>Conclusion: An interim treasurer will not be</p>	
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<p>appointed</p> <p><u>M Mango:</u></p> <p>Who will take financial decisions in the interim?</p> <p>In terms of section 8(1) the SP Constitution, the Chair of the SPC is also the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in addition to being the Speaker. Thus the Chair is mandated to make financial decisions in the interim.</p> <p>For background, the previous treasurer submitted a budget which has yet to be ratified by Student Affairs. Student Governance has agreed to compensate Sanyo's expenses and will cover necessary expenses for the execution of office.</p> <p>Note that all budgets are being reviewed by the Financial Department and we are yet to receive feedback in this regard.</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Chair:</u></p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">----	
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<p><u>M Hugo:</u></p> <p>- Note that vacancies on the AC will be dealt with in that particular committee by its Chair.</p> <p><u>M Mango:</u></p> <p>A suggested model for filling vacancies on the SPC (and all subcommittees) is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">We have a panel constituted like one used on the Accountability CommitteeAdvertise positions externally as per section 10 and consider the CVs submittedUse Addendum J1 as a guide insofar as it is applicable <p><u>A vote whether to follow such a model, using Addendum J1 as a framework:</u></p> <p>Members in favour: 4</p> <p>Members against: 0</p> <p>Members abstained: 0</p> <p>Conclusion: The above model will be used to fill vacancies.</p>	
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Agenda point closed at 19h14.

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2 Resignations from SPC

Chair:

- Should the reasons for these resignations be disclosed to the student body at large?

The member on the AC who resigned asked that her reasons be shared only with the sub committee i.e. the AC.

MT Khumalo:

Confidentiality is imperative in this regard and the rights of these previous members to their freedom of expression should not be violated. Where reasons given are personal, they should not be disclosed.

M Mango:

Seconds the suggestion that reasons should not

M Hugo:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">---- <p>be disclosed.</p> <p><u>M Hugo:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- For purposes of transparency, the reasons for resignation should only be disclosed where those members have given consent for such	
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	<p>disclosure.</p> <p><u>Secretary-General:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no need for such disclosure. - Disclosure should take place, in the name of transparency, only where members have given <p><u>A vote on whether to disclose reasons given for resignation of members to the student body:</u></p> <p>Members in favour of disclosure: 0</p> <p>Members against disclosure: 4</p> <p>Members abstained: 0</p> <p>Conclusion: These reasons will not be disclosed to the student body at large.</p> <p><u>Agenda point closed at 13h32.</u></p> <p>consent for such disclosure and upon a specific request by students for such disclosure.</p>	
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<p><u>Any further points</u></p> <p>(a) <u>Role of SP in holding the SRC accountable:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The SP must be vigilant at all times to protect students and there are concerns that students are not being protected, looking at the conduct	
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	<p>of the SRC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How will SP hold the SRC accountable, especially with regard to engagement with students?- Furthermore, SP can institute a motion of no confidence in the SRC. What is the process in doing so? <p><u>Chair:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- It is true that the SP ought to hold the SRC accountable and measures to do so are contained in section 60 of the SP Constitution.- Furthermore, a brief outline of the powers of SP is contained in section 54 of the Student Constitution.- Section 60 highlights procedures to be followed in instituting a motion of no confidence in the SRC but it must be noted that such measures are drastic and should be used as a last option.- There are other measures existing which can be used to strengthen the	
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	<p>grounds on which section 60 is based, should that route be followed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In terms of SP's plans to hold the SRC accountable, it is important to note that SP can only act proactively in terms of the Student	
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Constitution thus must await documentation from the students.

- Students must therefore bring forth suggested agenda points to SP to be discussed.
- SP amplifies students' concerns and is thus

M Mango:

Explains the proactive approach taken by the AC to inform the PK about the policy on welcoming practices. Issues that arose after welcoming were then reported to the AC to investigate.

Take further note that the AC cannot investigate personal issues concerning SRC members, which is what many of the complaints received have entailed activated by the students. Students must bring the matters to us.

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	<p>-</p> <p><u>M Hugo:</u></p> <p>-</p> <p>A prospective date for the Extraordinary sitting is discussed as it is constitutionally mandated to take place:</p> <p>- A question regarding the relevance of these matters today, considering the circumstances of</p>	
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	<p>some SRC members having graduated and so on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- We should rather have the sitting as part of a reflection on these events – looking at government statements regarding free education and the university's position thereon.- While the content of this discussion cannot be pre-determined, SP must create the platform for such discussion.- <u>M Mango</u>: We must first communicate with the persons who brought the motion to determine whether or not to go forward therewith, or to alter the discussions to be had. <p><u>(b) Dates: Opening of SP and First Sitting:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The extraordinary sitting must first take place.- This can be done simultaneously with the filling of the vacancies. <p><u>A vote on the dates for filling vacancies to be determined by M Mango as Interim CO:</u></p>	
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	<p>Members in favour: 4</p> <p>Members against: 0</p> <p>Members abstained: 0</p> <p>Conclusion: M Mango to determine these dates and</p>	
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	<p>communicate them accordingly.</p> <p>(c) <u>How do we differentiate between members of the SP and those of the SPC?</u></p> <p><u>Chair:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addendum J1 assists in making this distinction – all registered students are members of Student Parliament while members of the SPC are elected. - Blazers provide differentiation. - The current blazers were sponsored for the SPC members by the Neelsie. While it would be ideal that all sub-committees also have blazers, this creates a logistical nightmare and it must be considered that the cost may then be for the account of those individual members. - Notes that SP currently does not have a confirmed budget and it is unclear how SP must account for expenses. Communication from 	
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	<p>Student Affairs is still pending.</p> <p><u>Agenda point closed at 20h06.</u></p>	
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7.	<p><u>General</u></p> <p><u>Summary of duties:</u></p>	
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	<p>1. Interim CO to give a framework of the dates for the appointment of persons into the vacant positions.</p> <p><u>Summary of decisions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Previous minutes are accepted by the SPC. 2. An SPC member is to be elected as Interim Communications Officer. 3. M Mango is elected to temporarily fulfil the position of Communications Officer. 4. SPC will not be appointing an interim treasurer. 5. Filling of vacant positions will be done using a model suggested by M Mango. 6. SPC will not disclose to the student populace the reasons given for resignations of committee members. 7. Dates of vacancy filling to be delegated to M Mango. 	
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8.	<u>Questions and varia</u> N/A	
3.	<u>Closing</u> Chair notes that it has not been an easy road for SP at all, thus far, but SP will execute its constitutional	
	mandate as far as it is possible to do so. Chair wishes all present good luck for the academic year. Meeting closed at 20h07.	

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