

Student Parliament

*Accountability, Transparency and Consultative Governance*

UNIVERSITEIT iYUNIVESITHI STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

**MINUTES OF STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY’S STUDENT PARLIAMENT EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**HELD ON** Thursday 2 May **IN** Serruria **AT** 20h00

**ATTENDANCE:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

KEITUMETSE LEBESA Speaker of Parliament

NHLAKANIPHO MKHIZE Deputy Speaker Internal (Accountability Chair)

THATEGO SELAHLE Deputy Speaker External (Secretary General)

PHILASANDE SHONGWE Treasurer

TSHENOLO NTWAGAE Deputy Accountability Chair

**ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:**

N/A

**ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:**

N/A

­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AGENDA:**

1. Picture taking Keitumetse
2. Code of Conducts Thatego
3. Critical engagement session Keitumetse
4. Second Annual Sitting of Student Parliament Keitumetse
5. Orientation of new members Keitumetse
6. Co-curricular feedback and reports Thatego

g) General feedback Open ­­­­­­

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**OPENING BY THE SPEAKER.**

Þ Sitting opened at 20h15 by the Speaker.

Þ All members formally welcomed to the meeting

Þ This meeting is being recorded and the minutes shall be released.

# PICTURE TAKING

JD has been asked via email regarding taking our pictures.

Proposition: Can we agree on a date?

Response: Well the last day for co-curricular activities is the 7th and there’s a lot happening until then. Members are mandated to meet every two weeks but do not have to meet during exam time, but we CAN should we desire this. With that said, may we decide whether we are willing to meet for pictures thereafter.

Proposition: Can the members please pick a date next week or a week after because we are free that time.

The floor is opened to allow for feedback. The following dates and times are proposed:

-Monday the 6th of May 1pm-2pm.

-Wednesday the 15th May at 2pm-3pm.

-Friday the 10th May at 2pm-3pm.

The members all agree that they are available then. All times are to be communicated to JD and then a date will be set from the timeslot he chooses.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct for the Treasurers forum is submitted and with the SG to be included as policy.

The Code of Conduct for the Accountability Forum: Unable to get reference from their leadership structures on what the code of conduct for the accountability forum could be due to separation of powers.

Suggestion: Please only approach other branches of leadership if you are applying to them, not to get advice from.

The Accountability Chair decided to use addendum F as a framework for the code of conduct. The Disciplinary Committee has prescribed code of conduct from Central Disciplinary Committee and Student Court.

# CRITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Again, lets prioritise establishing individual sub-committees. Not saying that there will not be one, but after we have fulfilled the constitutionally mandated duties, Parliament can look into holding a session. There was a meeting with Babalwa from the Transformation office to still host a critical engagement session. Refreshments and funding were discussed and obtained from the Transformation Office. These will still be available to Parliament in the Second Semester.

# SECOND SITTING

It is on the 7th of May in Wilcocks 1001.

Agenda points went out yesterday via email after getting SYMPA 19. Point of contention is with Student Governance. They were not informed of the fact that the matter is going to be tabled as an agenda point. They clearly stated that he is not available and that students with questions should approach them directly. The Speaker has asked Student Governance to write a response stating what their role is with regard to the Student Representative Council, Student Parliament and Student Court to address this matter and uphold anonymity. The agenda point tabled accuses them of micro-managing the above committees so this should be addressed.

* Mental health point:

Persons from the CDSC has declined to come speak at the seating. SRC member with portfolio on mental health has declined to present at the sitting because he has a different even on that night.

* Food insecurity point:

Still in talks with the relevant member regarding their policies on food security on campus, as well as the SRC to stipulate what their policy is to deal with this matter effectively. There is uncertainty as to whether the parties will commit to presenting at the sitting.

* #NotAllMen topic:

Students felt that this event was ‘clearly’ in violation of S5 of the Student Constitution. The counter point to that argument was based on S2(10) - which gives the right to freedom of expression. The students feel that this event stemmed from an unequal standpoint and wish to have it addressed at the sitting.

* Register all policy:

The Accountability Chairs investigated this matter. The report is available upon request. The SRC has estimated the number of affected students at about 100 students. The findings were that the SRC handled the matter in violation of student 20(f) of the Student Constitution which mandates that students need to continuously be notified. The students were not notified of the decisions made in relation to this matter. S42 of the Student Constitution mandates that the minutes must be made available to students. The minutes of the meeting of the 27th of February were not made available to students. Accountability Chair asked the SG of the SRC to please send through the minutes of the meeting of the 27th. He needs to investigate the fact that these minutes were indeed not made available

Question: Is this not a basis of asking students to account in terms of Addendum E?

Response: Yes, it appears so. The mover of the motion was informed of the requirements in Addendum E and the Committee has not heard back since. Thus, it cannot be tabled at the sitting as asking the member to account. The requirements of Addendum E must first be fulfilled.

* The lack of halaal meals:

This matter violates a few rights in the Student Constitution including S9 of the Student Constitution. All students have the right to practice their religions freely and the university must make this possible. The agenda point addresses the lack of availability of meals affects the safely of the students because they must travel to Metanoia to collect their meals- which isn’t reasonable. This is not in line with the university values of diversity and inclusivity.

* The controversial article:

Students do not know how it passed the university ethics committee. They have been emailed but have not yet responded. S51(1) allows Student Parliament to request management to come and address the students.

# ORIENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

One newly elected member has still not responded to the announcement email. Student Governance has been informed of the newly appointed members of Student Parliament. Student governance is looking forward to seeing them at the meet and greet on Friday the 3rd of May. New members will be directed accordingly: Deputy Accountability Chair will be informed by Accountability Chair and the Communications officer by the Secretary General.

# CO-CURRICULAR FEEDBACK AND REPORTS

Can all members please fill out the ‘job description’ document sent to you by Sunday night at 8pm. They will be sent to Student Governance first thing on Monday. Everyone is to please draft reflections on all trainings and meeting had thus far. To be sent to SG along with term reports at the beginning on the third term.

# GENERAL FEEDBACK

The Student Parliament Constitution needs to be amended to ensure that it flows and that it recognises the powers that it gains. We have received emails from university management that have asked Parliament to restructure their policy to accommodate the new Student Constitution.

The Accountability Chair had a meeting with Student Court. Both are currently not really informed of their duties and are unsure how to proceed with the findings of the report. In the report, the Accountability Committee gave a summary of their findings and they provided the email of the person who is charge of disciplinary matters in Student Court. There is prescribed disciplinary procedure which must follow after the findings.

Question: Should we have a meeting with Student Court to find out about the disciplinary measures? This meeting would have to be next semester. There is no matter at present which requires this code, but its important that the committee remains informed of procedure.

The members agree to ask Student Court to send through documentation which explains procedure.

 The Policy Officer must sit with the executive in line with S7(e) of the Student Parliament Constitution to revise it. The committee agree to set a date after the first sitting.

The Policy Unit Forum has been established. Currently struggling to get the contact information of the Tygerberg Prim Committee and the details of the ABR and TABR policy officers. The emails sent to the relevant committees have been circulated and come back empty. The forum cannot wait any longer so the information will be sent out without the above information and then be made available at a later stage.

The Speaker met with SRC Chair who informed the Speaker of the SRC’s grievances regarding requesting SRC members to come speak at Student Parliament sitting. The Speaker is of the opinion that she erred in stating the fact that Student Parliament does not have the power to provide feedback and that SRC meetings are the better foundation to provide feedback to students. Student Parliament is a direct channel for students to connect with leadership. This matter is still to be discussed and resolved.

# REMINDER OF IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 4 May: Meeting with Student Governance regarding security at the sitting and accessibility by students.

Tuesday 7 May: Second annual sitting of Student Parliament

After 7 May: Student Parliament Policy revision with executive.

 Tygerberg Representative Council Meeting.

9 May: SRC Meeting

10/ 15 May: Picture taking with JD

16 May: Second Treasurers Forum

# CLOSING

All members are thanked for attending.

Meeting is adjourned at 22h35.