

# Student Parliament

*Accountability, Transparency and Consultative Governance*

UNIVERSITEIT iYUNIVESITHI STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

## **MINUTES: STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT PARLIAMENT SPEAKER'S JOINT SESSION WITH SRC CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF JUSTICE, 25 MARCH 2021**

Attendance: all (Speaker, Chief Justice, Chairperson SRC)

Date: 25 March 2021

Time: 18:00

Place: MS Teams

### **1. Communication between structures - Chief Justice, Speaker**

Speaker has reported that although communication with SRC has improved, communications with Tygerberg have been very difficult insofar as Tygerberg SRC and SP are unresponsive. This makes it difficult to fulfil the mandate as Speaker and collective mandate of SP and creates the fear that they might be excluded. As such, the Speaker has requested that Chairperson SRC ask for cooperation from Tygerberg. From the Chairperson it was suggested that a lack of responsiveness from Tygerberg could be due to a variety of reasons and will need clarification from Tygerberg Speaker before the Stellenbosch SRC can step in and provide more practical solutions.

### **2. Reachability beyond office hours - Chief Justice**

A request was made that important communication be done within office hours so that timeous responses can be arranged. This request was seconded by the Speaker. The Chairperson of the SRC has committed to raise this point within the SRC.

### **3. Notice periods for invitations - Chief Justice**

Invitations extended to Court often occur on short notice, making attendance difficult. An example raised was the SRC's Mass Gathering which occurred on Tuesday with less than 24 hours' notice. Because members of the Court are

drawn from the same pool of students, this makes attendance difficult already. A request for 24 hours notice/invitation period was given. Again, the request was seconded by the Speaker and again the Chairperson of the SRC has committed to raise this point within the SRC.

#### **4. Language policy - Speaker**

Speaker wanted clarity on the process of revising the language policy and who serves on the task team.

The SRC Chairperson explained the composition and functioning of the group. 30 students serve on the task team, including Chairperson of SRC and head of Academic Affairs Council. Information on this process is available on the link in the email sent out, and most of the revision is focused on the Constitutional Court ruling and as such no great amendment is required.

All students have the opportunity to comment and the Chairperson encourages all branches of leadership to remind students that this opportunity window exists. Speaker of Student Parliament has committed to making this visible via social media.

#### **5. Increasing Constitutional engagement - Speaker**

Among Student Parliament there is a concern that the process of student engagement in relation to the constitutional amendment process is lacking and the Chairperson of the SRC has recognised and echoed this. The Speaker of Student Parliament has committed to hosting a special sitting to facilitate debate and to aid the Constitutional Review Task Team in creating further spaces for engagement. Because doing this would encroach upon the Court's impartiality, the Court is unable to either encourage or facilitate engagement.

#### **6. Open point**

No points were raised here.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:30 and the next session will occur on the last Thursday of the next month.