Minutes  
Students’ Representative Council Meeting

Date: 2020-10-20  
Time: 17:30  
Venue: Microsoft Teams

# Attendance

Nomzamo, Jarryd absent

# Apologies

Unathi, Viwe may need to leave early

Jarryd (AAC Meeting) (Proxy Vote to Kira)

# Voting: Financial Policies

Votes sent to Xola, proof of votes sent to Luigia

Options are Yes, No, Abstain, and apply to all policies

Votes checked by

Outcome: Unanimous ‘Yes’ Vote

# Budget

Budgets were received by Philip, analysed in the context of financial policy and with financial sustainability in mind, and finally discussed and amended by the Executive Committee and brought to this meeting.

Budgets were adjusted in the SRC EC meeting of 2020-10-09

R1,000.00 discretionary fund per portfolio

* + Any miscellaneous or other expense was removed from the budget, as discretionary funds can be used for this.

The Short Term Strategic Fund was removed with the intention of using the SRC Reserves instead.

During the Executive Committee meeting on the budget, it was decided to set a maximum value for speaker gifts and committee functions / dinners.

Disproportionately high or unjustified expenses were cut.

## Budget Queries

Fadeelah queried the SRC General “Communications” expense

* + Clarified as being for mass mailers, as per pricing from SU Corporate Communications Division (6x R1,500.00)

Joshua queried the large total expense of Food & Drink

* + Philip highlighted the various Food & Drink expenses within various portfolios and for various events.
  + Xola clarified that significant cuts had already been made to this amount

Significant reduction in Societies Council budget, in light of how expensive an event like Societies Fair is. Reasons included:

* + Large opening balance of nearly R80,000.00
  + Additional income from events
  + SRC budget cannot include events that were not explained, not justified and did not have a breakdown. This was not received on time for certain SC events

Leone questioned whether the SRC currently has and should have the authority to check other structures’ costpoint balances, and dictate how they should spend their funds.

* + She highlighted that the Societies Council and Maties Sport are each expected to pay one half of the cost of the Societies Fair, which historically costs about R90,000.00 – as such, the Societies Council’s expected contribution is almost their entire budget.
  + She added that Societies council is a vital part of how the houses within SU interact. An example of this is when the EFF Society needed capital in the past, they approached the Societies council for financial assistance to keep the society going.

Philip corrected that the SRC’s allocation to the Societies Council is ~R52,000.00 and that the entire budget of the Societies Council is in fact ~R152,000.00 – the largest budget of any SRC affiliated structure.

* + The budget was lowered given Societies Council’s income-generating event, their large opening balance, and was based on the decisions of the SRC Executive Committee in the interest of financial sustainability and with the requirement that all expenses should be defined and justified (Societies Council failed to provide a breakdown for certain events)

Xola offered the following considerations:

* + That this is an integrated budget, that involved much reconsideration and processing, not only by the SRC Executive, but also portfolio holders in consultation with the treasurer
  + Throughout the budgeting process, it was important to ensure that all portfolios have sufficient funds to do what they *need* to do.
  + The quality of budgets submitted to the treasurer varied, which posed a challenge when drafting the budget in line with financial policies. Nevertheless, all portfolio-holders were consulted in this process.
  + The SRC will have access to its reserves this year, so in theory, it is possible for a portfolio to use all its allocated funds and still have access to more, provided the expenditure is valid. As such, it is not necessary or useful to dwell on how limited a portfolio’s budget may be.

Philip clarified:

* + It was possibly incorrect for the SRC to receive costpoint balances of other portfolios from SU Finance.
  + The SRC does not have control over the costpoints and budgets of ex-officio committees, however:
    - The SRC does have full authority over its own funds and by extension the funds it gives to ex-officio committees.
    - The SRC and ex-officio members should strongly consider having transparency both ways, for ensuring collaboration and financial sustainability.
    - The notion that the SRC is expected to provide funds for ex-officio committees, but then has limited influence in how that money is spent, whilst still having to be financially transparent, is a constitutional grey-area.

Fadeelah queried the Leadership training budget, considering that training becomes significantly more expensive if more people become involved and if the sessions are offered across all terms.

* + Philip explained that a more flexible budgeting approach was adopted, wherein the SRC only budgets for expenses that it knows it will incur, with strategic access to other funds as necessary.
  + Kira explained that many training sessions are hosted in collaboration with other leadership structures, which also contribute financially.

# Voting: Disciplinary Committee Member

Candidates: Leone, Philip

Each candidate provided a brief motivation on why they are interested in and suitable for this position

Philip obtained 9 votes, Leone obtained 6 votes, with no abstain or spoiled voted

* + Members who needed to leave the meeting and did not assign a proxy beforehand were excluded.

# Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct has been shared with the SRC and is open for comments, inputs and amendments. It will be finalised at the next SRC meeting.

* + Xola encouraged all members to engage with this document thoroughly, as it will guide the SRC’s actions and decisions throughout its term.

# Next SRC Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 28 October 2020

It is the last mandated meeting of 2020, and unless circumstances necessitating a special meeting arise, no further SRC meetings will be held in 2020.

# Closing

Xola adjourned the meeting