

### **Constitutional changes made on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014:**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 the Student Representative Council met for their last meeting of the second term. The meeting marked two significant changes in the constitution, which as a result will shorten the constitutional term of the SRC representatives and see the SRC election happen early in the third term. The changes are as follows:

**Chapter 3 section 20**, where it previously stated:

The term of office of the Student Representative Council starts on the first day after the last meeting of the University Council in the year that the Student Representative Council members were elected, and continues up to the last meeting of the University Council in the following year.

It now states:

The term of office of the Student Representative Council starts on the first day of *the fourth term of the academic year* and continues up to the *day before the start of the fourth term* of the following academic year.

Furthermore in **Schedule 1 Part S2 item 8(1)**, where it previously stated:

The nomination period must last for a period of ten (10) University days, unless extended in accordance with item 8(3) or item 9.

It now states:

The nomination period must last for a period of ten (10) *calendar* days, unless extended in accordance with item 8(3) or item 9.



The change was propelled by the need to align the SRC with the other leadership structures on campus. The SRC also felt that the shadowing period as provided for by the constitution is ineffective. Thus, the shadow period will now be condensed and the hand over will be earlier. Thus, the current term only ends at the beginning of the fourth term to provide time over the recesses for handing over. Furthermore, the document drafted by the PK task team regarding the new leadership structure was a contributing factor, as it is a possible structure the SRC would adopt in future. The document can be found on the SRC website.

The changes in the constitution are well justified. However the main point in this regard was that the SRC term and election are now aligned with the other leadership structures on campus. This will allow for all campus structures to be in sync, resulting in a greater efficiency between the structures. The SRC election happening before the other structure elections also allows for a wider spectrum of opportunities with regards to student leadership positions. The consequences of the changes have been considered and one can refer to the minutes of the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 for more details.

We as an SRC are excited about the changes to come and believe in efficient student governance. We trust that campus will support us in this venture and will be having a feedback session early next term where campus inputs on both the new leadership structure as well as MAD<sup>2</sup> will be documented.

The only constant in life is change; we as the SRC believe this change will ensure dynamic, holistic leadership especially with regards to leadership opportunities on campus.

Students' Representative Council 2014