

STUDENT MEMORANDUM

**OPEN-FORUM :
“MAKING SENSE OF THE RESTRUCTURING within the OFFICE
OF THE VR : TEACHING AND LEARNING”**

THIS MEMORANDUM IS COMPILED AS A DOCUMENTED SUMMARY OF THE PROCESSES FOLLOWED AND INTERACTION WITH THE VICE RECTOR : TEACHING AND LEARNING WITH REGARD TO THE RESTRUCTURING THAT IS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE WITHIN THIS OFFICE.

Context and Overview

Maxine Bezuidenhout and myself (Wayde Groep) decided to draw up a petition to establish whether or not the sentiments of fellow students were shared with regard to the restructuring within the office of the VR: Teaching and Learning. Furthermore, both Ms. Bezuidenhout and myself sent Prof. A. Schoonwinkel a letter wherein we tabled our concerns as students and requested that he shed light on the questions we tabled to him. (*see : Addendum A*).

We also invited Professor Schoonwinkel to an Open-Forum to address fellow students. After a meeting and consultation with the VR and other stakeholders which included amongst others, the current and incoming SRc chairpersons, (Mr. C. Du Preez and Mr. MJ Dippenaar) as well as a former SRc chairperson, Ms. A. Botha, Mr. P. Kloppers and Dr. L. Botha, he agreed to attend the forum which took place on 21 October 2013, at 17:30 in the Neelsie Gat.

The Open-Forum was facilitated by Nadia Marais and supported by both the current (2012/13) and the incoming Student Representative Council.

The primary outcomes of this forum were to provide a public space for students to engage with the Vice-Rector : Teaching and Learning with regard to the restructuring currently underway within this office. The VR was invited to also table answers that Ms. Bezuidenhout and myself tabled as well as to afford students to engage and establish clarity on some of the issues with which students were not certain of or where the motivations for decisions was not clear.

This memorandum is to summate the arguments and general concerns raised by the students who attended the forum. It (the document) is further supported by

- I. the letter emailed to Professor Schoonwinkel to request his presence at the Open-forum (*see : Addendum A*)
- II. the Petition as drawn up by Ms. Bezuidenhout and myself (Mr. Groep) which includes all signatures (*see : Addenda B*),
- III. the letter by the SRc 2012/13 to the Rector's Management Team dated 17 September 2013 (*see: Addendum C*)
- IV. *The stances by both the current and incoming SRC's (see : Addendum D)*

The OPEN-FORUM : 21 October 2013

The Open-forum was opened by Maxine Bezuidenhout and Wayde Groep, sharing with all attendees the reason for the event, why it took place and what the outcomes were. Prof. A. Schoonwinkel was afforded 20 minutes to address the audience where he presented answers to 6 of the questions that were previously tabled to him. After this, four rounds of questions* were posed to Professor Schoonwinkel. This document does not include the answers to each issue raised but moreover the questions tabled which is a more accurate reflection of the attendees' concerns.

***questions were documented by Ms. Renita Van Zyl. The names of the students were omitted.**

ROUND 1

Met verwysing na die 'single-entry-point' daaglikse interaksie, sal Mnr. Kloppers effektief toeganklik wees vir studente indien die groot hoeveelhede werk in ag neem word wat hy reeds huidige het?

Selfs as 'n lid van die huidige SR se uitvoerende komitee is die herstrukturering gevolg baie laat eers gekommunikeer aan studente, waarom was daar geen voorsiening gemaak vir 'n geleentheid van aktiewe deelname vanaf studente nie?

Die diversiteit wat nagestreef word in terme van toekomstige studente van Stellenbosch Universiteit kan nie gesien word in die huidige bestuur van die Universiteit nie. Wat is die huidige nadelige effek wat intree by voormalige werknemers van die SSG, spesifiek met verwysing na moontlike werksverlies?

Round 2

Waarom kan die gedeeltes van die Verslag/ondersoek wat spesifiek verwys na die studente se seining van die studente dekaan nie bekendgemaak word nie? Die bekendmaking van die hele geklassifiseerde verslag word nie vereis nie, slegs die gedeeltes wat verwys na die studente dekaan.

Dit lyk of die herstrukturering nie die proses van student verteenwoordiging vergemaklik het nie, maar 'n langer skakel van mense waardeur gekommunikeer moet word veroorsaak het. Mnr. Kloppers was vir die begin van die ope forum teenwoordig, maar moes voor die einde van die bespreking verdaag. Is dit nie 'n aanduiding van die beperkte tyd wat aan student gewy kan word nie?

Deurdat Prof. Schoonwinkel, Prof. Botha en mnr. Kloppers geag word as toeganklike kommunikasie lyne vir studente, blyk dit dat die rol van die studente dekaan verdeel word en kan onsekerheid veroorsaak onder studente. Is daar 'n proses van evaluasie in plek om in die toekoms ondersoek in te stel oor die sukses van die verwydering van die student dekaan en die moontlike negatiewe gevolge?

Round 3

Dit is belangrik om die verskil in ag te neem om studente in te lig, en betrokkenheid te verseker by 'n proses. Is daar voorsiening gemaak vir studente om op die besluitnemingsraad te dien (aangesien studente direk deur die besluit geraak word), en nie net aan studente gekommunikeer wat die proses behels en die uiteinde daarvan is nie?

Waarom kon die rol van die studente dekaan nie behou word in die nuwe struktuur van die universiteit nie? Die aanstellingskontrak van die dekaan kon hernu word, die studente dekaan kon steeds sy rol vervul het in die nuwe struktuur, of die rol van die nuwe studente verteenwoordiging kon duideliker omskryf word.

Aangesien die meeste van die aktiwiteite by 'n Universiteit student betrek, waarom word daar bepaal dat Prof. Botha slegs by sekere bedryfsvergaderings betrokke sal wees? Wie bepaal watter sake student raak ten einde sy betrokkenheid by hierdie vergaderings te verseker?

Round 4

Waarom is daar nie direk aan studente gekommunikeer (en nie deur die SR wat nie die huidige situasie aan studente kon openbaar nie) wat die herstrukturering behels nie?

Waarom word die belangrike rol van studente verteenwoordiging aan mnr. Kloppers toegeskryf wat reeds 'n groot hoeveelheid tydwende verantwoordelikhede het? Dit blyk vir studente of 'n direkte kommunikasie platform weggeneem is en vervang is met 'n komplekse, ontoeganklike en potensiële oneffektiewe stelsel.

Waarom word daar deur die permanente lede van die bedryfsvergaderings bepaal watter sake studente raak, en nie deur Prof. Botha wat die direkte verteenwoordiging vir studente by hierdie vergaderings behoort te wees nie?

The essence of the questions raised can be seen to reflect the very same sentiments and arguments as raised by the current SRc. Students are still very concerned with the model not ensuring guaranteed :

- I. Accessibility and effective communication
- II. The motivations for the removal of the position of the student dean (transparency and in particular the report as part motivation for the decision)
- III. Consultation with students and whether this was thoroughly considered.
- IV. The issue of representation at management level is not 100% clear to students

Concluding remarks

Ms. Bezuidenhout and myself would herewith like to thank the Vice-Rector: Teaching and Learning for engaging with us and fellow Matie Students on the issue of restructuring. We would also like to thank both the current and incoming SRc for endorsing the petition and supporting the independent Open-Forum hosted on the 21 October 2013.

We maintain our stance as highlighted as two independent students and would like to in the interest of the process and all the above given information and attached addenda request that both the Rector's Management Team and The Office of the Vice-Rector: Teaching and Learning release commentary on the this memorandum.

Maxine Bezuidehout

Wayde Groep

Addendum A: LETTER TO PROF. SCHOONWINKEL

Dear Prof. Arnold Schoonwinkel

We trust this email finds you well.

In light of the diversity week celebrations we feel that we find ourselves in a very interesting time at Stellenbosch University. The coffee with the Rector session on the Rooiplein a few days ago was an insightful engagement where both staff and students were afforded the opportunity to engage with him about the more pressing issues on campus.

So to provide some contextualisation for this email allow us to highlight some of the issues raised at this conversation.

- **It is very evident that students are not aware of the changes that have been implemented and moreover what we feel may hinder communication with management and possibly this university's biggest stakeholders (students)**
- **The staff also portrayed a deep sense of hopelessness around the vagueness of their redeployment and subsequent policy / administrative changes**
- **The concern with regard to deep rooted bureaucratic practices that still exist within various spheres of staff employment, classrooms and the lack of innovation that exists within these spaces**
- **The evident lack of communication between staff and management which has a subsequent effect on students**

The issue of restructuring was also raised and the rector encouraged us to contact you as with regard to the ill-communication of the process and what the implications of these proposed changes will have on the larger student populous. Even though student representatives were consulted, we would have strongly encouraged more ground level conversations.

We feel that not enough opportunities for engagement in particular with students around these changes were provided. As it stands, many students are still uninformed and unaware that the position of the student dean is no longer in effect and the restructuring model has not as yet been communicated to broader campus. Upon inquisition to staff members about this, not much clarity can be provided as many are at this stage unsure of what will happen within the next few months.

These changes will impact many parties and we feel that such drastic plans need more concrete motivations to be provided.

The importance of student dialogue in this very radical changes within the office of the Vice-Rector : Teaching and Learning was somewhat side-tracked, and one of the major factors to have been taken into account was the ***broadening of the gap between management and students (Student Dean post removed)*** which seems to have not been extensively considered before finalization. We would thus like more robust debate around this restructuring for finalization of other components of the process.

We, as two engaged Maties, would thus like to invite you to an open forum where we can facilitate meaningful dialogue and where the reassessment of the model in question can take place.

As part of this invitation we would like to table the following questions to you as well as open this up to campus, both staff and students.

1. **How the role of Student Dean in an ever-changing Matie demographic will be fulfilled given the largescale benefits of this invaluable position seen at some of the best universities around the world? [Given the nature of the position of the Vice-Rector teaching and learning, how will this direct link be filled with the absence of the student dean?]**
2. **More information around the new restructuring model?**
3. **What are the implications of changes happening at such an intermediary level (between students and management) with many students not aware of the changes that have already taken place?**
4. **The motivation for these changes? Where this model has been used, in particular, the South African context? Is it relevant? The prospects of successful output of such a major plan yet remaining in-line with the University of Stellenbosch's vision to create a more inclusive community?**

We look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

Maxine Bezuidenhout and Wayde Groep

Addendum B: THE PETITION AND RESPONSES

PETITION

SU STUDENT DEAN PETITION / US STUDENTEDEKAAN PETISIE

The importance of student dialogue regarding the changes within the office of the Vice-Rector : Teaching and Learning was not adequately incorporated during the restructuring process. One of the major factors to have been taken into account was the broadening of the gap between Management and students (Dean of Students position no longer in effect) which seems to have not been extensively considered before finalization. We would thus like more robust debate around the restructuring before the finalization of other components of the process. With this petition, we also call on the Rector's Management Team to re-evaluate and reconsider the decisions that have already been finalized in terms of the Student Dean position.

Die essensie van studentedialoog met betrekking tot die verandering binne die kantoor van die Vise Rektor: Leer en Onderrig is nie geïnkorporeer in die herstruktureringproses nie. Een van die hoof faktore is die vergroting van die gaping tussen Bestuur en studente, aangesien die Studentedekaan se pos nie meer van krag is nie. Die verwydering van die posisie is nie behoorlik deurdink voor finale besluitneming plaasgevind het nie. Daadwerklike debatvoering rakende die herstrukturering moet gevoer word voordat verdere aspekte van die proses gefinaliseer word. Deur middel van dié petisie word daar op die Rektor se Bestuurspan 'n beroep gemaak om die besluite wat reeds gemaak is, te herevalueer en te heroorweeg, in besonder aangaande die amp van die Studentedekaan.

RESPONSES

Name / Naam	Surname / Van	Student Number / Studentenommer
Clinton	Du Preez	15485544
Tyla Leigh	Tobin	17033462
Sarah	Marx	16214064
Cornel	Steyn	16127005
Asma	Isaacs	17141176
Jaco	Botha	16545184
Marius	Louw	16428188
Imé	Vorster	17051916
Robyn	van de Rhede	15865282
Jani	Hattingh	16527445
Mnqobi	Zuma	16782879
Lizzie	Witbooi	14157195
Robin	Meyer	17602343
Jessica	Du Preez	16107594
Liam	Van Zyl	15299910
Tafadzwa	Chiyangwa	16989317
Cerwyn	Majiedt	16194772
Hans-Peter	Klink	17018722
Noelle	Snyman	16429303
Dion	Salmon	16599098
Cecile	van den Berg	16704835
Reinard	Botha	16431073

Jana	Stofberg	16502612
Stefan	de Villiers	16444124
Leone	Steenkamp	16454944
Leone	Steenkamp	16454944
Stefan	Strauss	17095298
Lizahn	Botha	16105656
Lerato	Isaacs	14579650
Uwais	Adonis	17532930
Euan	Klassen	16570022
Michiel	de Villiers	15309940
Danae	Bezuidenhout	17568943
Deidre	Baartman	15579387
Baphiwe Sisanda	Gqiza	17246598
Christi	Thirion	15530191
nicole	goldbeck	16004841
Ashtyn	Areal	17673577
Mienke	Knipe	17171423
Lurwin	Jeneke	16085272
Ziyanda	Stuurman	15190293
Anina	Botha	15301486
Lenois	Stander	15314170
Dewald	Hoffmann	16920945
Maxine	Bezuidenhout	16990897
Wayde	Groep	16646355
Nozipho P	Nyoni	16314379
Nozipho P	Nyoni	16314379
Christopher	Edyegu	16298985
Khomotso	Makhafola	16745981
Sinovuyo	Flatela	16453905
Tamsyn	Lunt	16429591
Douglas	Heale	16429567
cheryl	faro	15716929
Olivia	Krouwkam	16073576
nazli	petersen	16088301
Henri	de Wet	16039025
George	von Berg	16048652
isak	kellerman	16727681
Sinenhlanhla	Sithole	151922253
Yaseen	Carelse	16443209
Louis	van der Riet	15385124
Lindy	Brits	15990249
Adrienne	MacMaster	17637562
Llewellyn	Stevens	17525950
Annalien	Davin	17145791
Natasha	Kitchin	15812502
Terzel	Rasmus	16277325
Asanda	Mditshwa	16038797
Jastelle	Hugo	16954785
Monica	Santana	15674452
Chelsea	Johnstone	16589270

Phillip	Titus	14659999
Chad	Philip	16511867
Robyn	Troskie	17689732
Lee-Ann	Whitehead	17059402
Amanda	Stone	15647250
Heike	Morkel	17575885
maxine	McCoy	16504453
Tosca	Ferndale	16458966
Dayne	Nel	15111687
Chad	Duthie	16493656
Rugail	Joshua	17520819
Zamalisa	Mdoda	17846935
Sara	De Cerff	16990102
Takudzwa	Mawire	17408202
Simone	Williams	16520947
Michaela	Barthus	16147901
Danielle	Radloff	17555868
Konette	van Rooyen	16038312
Adele	Solomons	16151895
Adele	Solomons	16151895
Saskea	Jacobs	16591666
Shomane	Mathiba	16485173
Frederick	Bruwer	16434668
Adriaan	Dell	16950666
Gretchen	Busc	16717597
nokwanda	malumbete	16205863
Sandy	Majola	16445856
Daniel	Enslin	17205530
shagan	Balram	16354818
Tracey-Lee	Johnson	16558324
Kayla	Jacoby	17895413
Aidan	Landsberg	16579038
Timothy	can Niekerk	16443446
Timothy	van Niekerk	16443446
Tandolwetu	Madliwa	17779715
Kathleen	Kehoe	17101050
Kyle	Trotter	17117410
Dominique	Herbig	17012279
Mariet	Venter	16103068
Kayla	Alexander	16982746
Alida	Visser	16533208
Roxanne	Eastes	16010426
Wilna-Louise	Van der Westhuizen	16447239
Nigel	Zhuwaki	16881915
Quan	Piers	17620902
Taylor	Joseph	17865603
Eugene	Greyling	17093309
Naadirah	Grimsel	15855279
Anyia	van Graan	16591542

Angelique	Esau	16173198
Enzo	Jansen van Rensburg	17584744
Ewald	Bonzet	17528844
lauren	davids	17036461
Adriaan	Louw	16991834
SGR	Hamunyela	16596668
Vinolia	Keyne	18123643
Chantelle	Croeser	17569230
Lauren	Hess	17503477
Judy	Lombard	16563603
Letukile	Mashego	15741788
Megan	Damon	16181662
lucia	van der rheede	16643097
Karll	Abels	16831446
Renita	van Zyl	16458443
Nomahlubi	Gcilishe	17561132
Viwe	Smith	17733383
Thandi	Magodla	17720265
Willie	Ross	16091701
Anja	Morkel	16480406
Amanda	Chiro	17554624
Ishaarah	Arnold	16712447
Franco	Bassi	17784581
Anelia	Heese	16044150
Chrisna	Robbertse	15990559
Christeline	James	16528441
Simba	Rodze	16477596
Simone	Carolissen	16689100
Faith	Pienaar	16593804
Matthew	Andersen	17006414
Lesego	Mogomotsi	16622707
Madelein	Leukes	16502086
Kanyisile	Tukani	18027776
Jarred	Carolissen	17587328
Blain	van Wyk	16201027
Steve	Feris	16178408
Kelly	Brazier	17497922
kagiso	chitonho	17985390
Reshard	Kolabhai	17266106
Sabine	Erbe	17510074
naledi	mashishi	17137810
Jason	Abrahams	15967905
kudzai sandra	ramhewa	16598261
Sindiswa	Mathebula	17955165
Chantell	Visser	16353005
Daniel	Sauer	16184378
Sir Fritz H	Dausab	15161269
Calvin	Ullrich	16567552

Theltom	Masimila	16928997
Alexander	Stander	17258560
Norman	Luyt	15501787
Willem Johannes Naude	Steyn	16540050
sané	van der Merwe	17026474
Rosie	Allanson	16975189
Dalene	Kotze	17117763
Leanne	Barnard	15294889
Thalia	Carstens	16974921
Amina	Raziet	17911443
Pulane	Mamabolo	17617626
Jamie	Heradien	17726042
Mishka	Jugnundan	17708605
Pieter	van Rooyen	16436377
Mellissa	Smith	17239834
Tapiwa	Dete	16629299
Ruan	Haarhoff	17556740
Emily	Van der Merwe	17836239
Nick	Lawrenson	17108268
Corli	Joubert	15082822
Jannie	Kirsten	14797070
Martin	Carstens	17008352
Irene	Kim	15623068
Francisca	Heese	16146360
Anneke	Roux	16643232
Marli	Swart	16489950
Jeandré	Kritzinger	16688422
Inge	Leonard	16008995
Juenesse	Joubert	17223164
S'thembile	Cele	16439252
Monica	Clements	15989384
Leonora	Muller	16697316
Lana	Dauids	15095398
Kirsten	Hill	16017218
Maé	Du Toit	16969669
Delena	Malan	17524695
Philanie	Du Toit	17055008
Pauline	Como	15968286
janine	daniels	17539145
Joshua	Chigome	16958861
Candice	Murray	16050517
Bronwen	Aspeling	16098161
Lizanne	Mentz	15345548
Arianne	Shaw	16089928-2010
Lisa	Lottering	17217555
Jessie	Bester	16091043
Zamalisa	Mdoda	17846935

Lauren	Ulyate	17207789
Kristin	Louw	15640442
Ryan	Fortune	16138171
Steffi	Davison	15995437
Nadia	Mohamed	16256816
nandi	pretorius	16054946
Peter	September	15122735
Tess	Godden	17688272
LELETHU	STUURMAN	17506077
Roxanne	Mooneys	17648130
Kendal	Conradie	16809556
Emma	Johannes	16537408
astrid	radermacher	16672496
Vistorina	Namene	17024838
Erin	Koks	17635934
Lujané	Sieberhagen	17640776
Phindile	Zulu	15751139
Stephanie	Hattingh	16472993
Sean	Grobler	16003535
Thotsana	Dithipe	15267083
Dumisani	Majombozi	16471563
Sonja	Strydom	15999343
Yolanda	Mnyandu	16178300
JC	Landman	17579023
IVY	HOFFMAN	17658497
Sharna	Hayes	17830648
Tanyaradzwa	Mushohwe	17292727
Beverley	Fanella	13481444
Robyn	Van de Rhede	15865282
Gordon	Mokgoroane	16155386
Marvin	Ngcongo	16757564
Shelley	Haupt	16535553
Ute	Francke	16454596
Melissa	Schoeman	16799135
Keagan	De Kock	16734920
Leighton	Lombard	16694392
Kino	Titus	17258332
Christina	Pitt	17907519
Tendani	Sidogi	17345685
Curtley	Solomons	17269814
Danielle	Sterrenberg	17152615
Zander	Horn	16147405
Siobhan	Kehoe	16154134
Chrissie	Roux	16070674
Chrissie	Roux	16070674
Jacobus	De Wet	17002168
Thinus	Appel	17229499
Kaylene	Baron	17132320
Lize-Mari	Theron	17686016
Whilber Jon	Evans	16638069

Keegan	Titus	17756839
Eugenia	Nyika-Makore	17326117
Spencer Markus	Austin	17148014
Sasha-Leigh	Williams	16611926
ankia	rabie	15323315
Tarien	Lombaard	16950909
Bryan	Bergsteedt	16786610
Imé	Vorster	17051916
Robyn	van de Rhede	15865282

Addendum C: THE SRC LETTER 17 SEPTEMBER 2013

Addendum D: FINAL STANCES BY CURRENT AND INCOMING SRC

SRC 2012/13 in email sent to campus 21 October 2013

Beste Matie

Jy is dalk reeds bewus van die herstrukturering wat plaasgevind het in die afdelings onder die Vise-Rektor (Leer & Onderrig), soos dit in die vorige uitgawe van Die Matie gerapporteer is. Die Sentrum vir Studentesake en die Sentrum vir Studentegemeenskappe is onder andere saamgevoeg. In die proses is die Studentedekaanspos vervang met die van die Direkteur: Sentrum vir Studentestrukture en Gemeenskappe. D.w.s. Stellenbosch Universiteit het nie meer 'n Studentedekaan nie. Die Studenteraad het sterk kapse aangeteken teen hierdie besluit.

Vanmiddag om 17:30 in die Neelsie gat, is daar 'n ope forum met die Vise-Rektor (Leer & Onderrig), Prof. Schoonwinkel, om direk met studente te gesels oor hierdie besluit. Studente is dus welkom om vrae te vra oor die herstrukturering direk aan die Vise-Rektor.

Ek moedig jou dus aan om 'n paar minute af te staan aan hierdie belangrike saak. Die amptelike hutshekkie (hashtag) vir die Twitter-gesprek is #StudentDean.

Groete

Dear Matie

You may be aware of the restructuring that has taken place in the departments under the Vice-Rector (Learning & Teaching) as was reported in the previous edition of Die Matie. Amongst other changes, the Centre for Student Affairs and the Centre for Student Communities have been combined. In the process the Dean of Students has been replaced by the Director: Centre for Student Structures and Communities. This means that Stellenbosch University no longer has a Dean of Students. The SRC has objected profusely to this decision.

Today, at 17:30 in the Neelsie atrium, there will be an open forum with the Vice-Rector (Learning & Teaching), Prof. Schoonwinkel, to engage directly with students on the matter. Students are free to ask questions directly to Vice-Rector regarding the restructuring.

I encourage you to attend the open forum to engage on this very important matter. The official hashtag for the event is #StudentDean.

Kind regards

Clinton du Preez

SR Voorsitter 2013 | SRC Chairperson 2013

SRC 2013/14

We as the incoming SRc fully support the initiative taken by Maxine and Wayde. We believe that all students must be afforded the space to engage on issues that affect the broader Stellenbosch University community and commend them for being proactive as student leaders. We encourage students to voice their concerns and organize student-driven events like the Open-Forum. Furthermore we strongly understand and share the concerns raised and believe that the Open-Forum was a step in the right direction. The role of the Student Dean is still very relevant and even though the information provided by the VR : Teaching and Learning was sufficient we feel that the motivations shared at this event didn't provide enough clarity to those present as the questions posed reflected a lot of uncertainty from attendees.

Furthermore, as the SRc we will continue to engage with management on this matter, assess the current situation and ensuring that all students are aware of the outcome post this memorandum.