Minutes  
Students’ Representative Council Meeting

Date: 2021-02-17 | Time: 15:00 | Venue: Microsoft Teams

# Welcoming

Xola welcomed all members present.

# Attendance & Apologies

Present: Eduard, Luigia, Xola, Almé, Phillip, Kira, Precious, Masixole, Sarah, Jarryd, Rewaldo, Kristin, Ayesha and Viwe.

Apologies received from: Nomzamo and Unathi

# Setting of the Agenda

No added agenda points.

# Friend of a cluster initiative

Phillip gave a brief summary on what is in the memorandum and what we want to achieve with this initiative.

* + The vision and goal is to represent the students through being aware of what happens in all the communities, using the cluster structure. If a problem is identified, the SRC can actively work to find a solution.
  + This is not a representational structure, but just a way to improve the SRC’s presence and engagement with the students.
  + This does not mean that students should raise all issues within their communities, towards the SRC. Those concerns will be taken to the PK. This initiative is just a way of communication between all students and the SRC.
  + The friend of a cluster has the following roles: Communication channels, Direct Assistance, presence in cluster events, meetings and PSO/Residence engagements.
  + The pairing will happen as follow:
    - All SRC members who are willing to partake will be added to a list.
    - The amount of friends per cluster determined by amount of willing members.
    - Cluster convenor executive and SRC convenor for this initiative will pair members to clusters. Criteria will be applied for success of initiative.
    - Friends are put in contact of relevant convenors.
    - First meeting is held between the friend and the convenor to plan for the year.
  + All members who are willing message Phillip before 19 February.
  + Allocations done next week.
  + Members be put in contact with their counterparts by 26 February.
  + At end of term an evaluation form will be performed to determine the success of the initiative.

This year it is not compulsory for SRC members to partake in the initiative, because for the initiative to be successful we want members who are willing to put in the effort. When the report is done at the end of the term and this initiative was a success, we can maybe recommend that it be compulsory in the years to come.

Phillip will discuss with the other convenor on whether it will be better to a mid-term report and end year report or just an end of the term report.

# Financial Update

Most of the financial decisions are made in the executive meetings, therefore there will be regular “Financial Update” sessions just to keep all members in the loop, to be transparent and to give members an opportunity to raise their concerns.

The SRC members had a chance to look at the cost centre balances and budget amendments.

A training session will be held in the start of April, to train members on how the financial system works. Let Phillip know if interested in that session.

# SAUS Disability Sub-Committee

At the end of October last year, the chair and Luiga attended a SAUS event that focused on higher health and student’s with disabilities. They raised a lot of issues students with disabilities are facing around all 26 universities. They then started a SAUS Disability Sub-Committee to ensure that students with disabilities are represented in all 26 universities in South Africa.

Luiga is standing as the Deputy Chair of the committee.

The main goal of the committee is to ensure that each university at least has the basic structure of disability unit within the university and some student representation, either through a student organization or representation within the SRC body.

This was brought to the SRC to give some background on the sub-committee.

The sub-committee is currently busy with reviews on different policies, like the NSFAS policy review with the NSFAS Department.

Later we will be looking at creating an universal disability policy to run across all universities to ensure that all universitites have a basic policy for students with disabilities. They are impressed with Stellenbosch’s disability access policy and want to use it as a guideline for training and representation on the SRC.

# Universal Access Campaign

The campaign is run under the Division of Student Affairs. We are working with CSLEEC, the disability unit and the special needs manager.

The purpose of the campaign is to do research on the Stellenbosch community with regards to what they know about disabilities and what disabilities features has been implemented on campus.

The research showed that most students don’t know what all the disability features are for, which drove the start of the campaign.

The campaign will begin in March and end in June.

Tonia Overmeyer and the Division of Student Affairs asked Luiga to involve the student leaders especially the SRC to help assist in being ambassadors for the campaign.

Expect a comprehensive document with all the details of this campaign.

# Rector’s Awards

Happens late in the year with detailed categories of achievements from our student body including, leadership, sport, culture, academics, social impact and service.

There are various committees that sits with student representation who helps filter down all the applications and nominations until they get to a final committee.

They usually vote, but this time there will be no voting since only one student sent a message. Almé will sit on the committee.

Jarryd made the following suggestion which the members can give their input on.

* + An SRC award looking into alumni of the Stellenbosch University. Someone who excel in an industry we choose could join to present a speech.
  + SRC members should suggest an industry; perhaps something related to innovation medicine to tie into our current situation.
  + We need a guest speaker which falls into a specific topic. The topic can be very broad. Please suggest any topic and if you know someone who can be our guest speaker.
  + The deadline for suggestions is the 1st of March.

To sum up: Give suggestions on an industry, a topic and guest speaker by 1 March.

# Closing

Xola thanked everyone for joining and adjourned the meeting.