Minutes

Students’ Representative Council Meeting

Date: 2021-08-18 | Time: 18:00 | Venue: Microsoft Teams

# Welcoming

Xola welcomed all members and attendees.

# Attendance & Apologies

* **Present**
  + Eduard
  + Ayesha
  + Xola
  + Kira
  + Almé
  + Rewaldo
  + Kristin
  + Joshua
  + Maki
  + Sarah
  + Jarryd
  + Khwezi
  + Luigia
  + Thimna
  + Precious
  + Philip
  + Gina
  + Leoné
  + Viwe
* **Absent**
  + Unathi
  + Masixole
  + Avumile
  + Sine
* **Apologies**
* Sine
* Unathi

# Setting of the Agenda

The following agenda point was removed:

* + Portfolio Feedback

The following agenda points were added:

* + SAUS Feedback (Xola)
  + SRC Inauguration (Almé)
  + SRC End-year Function (Philip)
  + COVID-19 related matter (Leoné)
  + Student Governance Feedback Reports (Xola)
  + Academic Participation & Attendance (Jarryd)
  + Prioritisation of Cluster Hub Development (Leoné)
  + Transformation updates (Viwe)
  + Disability Indaba (Luigia)

# Approval of previous minutes

Previous minutes were approved.

# Uyinene Mrwetyana Foundation

Initiative where they collect letters from people and deliver them to Parliament. The SRC was asked if the SRC office can be used as collection point for students of SU. Wanted to check if that would be possible and requested assistance with the collection box. Member who will organize box can get details for the box, from Ayesha.

One SRC member to volunteer to be accountable for when Ayesha is not on main campus.

* + Viwe volunteered to help and mentioned that they can move the box outside with the event which Viwe and Maki have on Friday. Then Ayesha can send out notification that they can bring their letters to the box at the event.
  + Everyone at SRC office should be mindful of people bringing their letters.

# Anti-GBV SU Invitation to Student Leaders

The Anti-GBV SU Movement has reached out to have a meeting with the student leaders on campus, to talk about where we are on the matters of GBV on campus. The SRC and the Prim Committee was invited to the meeting and an official invitation will still be sent out. Ayesha requested that the Prim Committee share the dates with her.

* + Leoné will take it to the Prim Committee, but a formal invitation will be necessary.
  + Xola requested that Ayesha find out about what sort of questions they will ask at the meeting, as to prepare for the meeting, especially if questions are directed to specific portfolios.
  + Jarryd mentioned that previous ways of handling GBV has no means to measure results. Moving forward, more clear and measurable plans to prevent GBV on campus, should be put in place.
  + The conclusion was that the Anti-GBV Steering Committee should discuss beforehand what has been done so far and how the committee can do better.

# Feedback Forum

Maki thanked everyone for submitting their slides for the feedback forum. All member’s presentations has been received. The Forum will take place tomorrow from 4pm. Everyone has a set time slot. There is a change to the schedule: Thimna will now present before Maki. The order after 7 is now, Thimna, Maki, Xola and then the closing. Everyone to attend as much of the forum as possible, and may also ask questions. The schedule will be held tightly as timing will be tight. Maki will moderate the chat function, the questions asked and the timeslots. Maki will present the unified PowerPoint with all members’ slides in one format. When it is each member’s turn to present their slides, they will request to take over control of the presentation. After they have presented, it will go to a Q&A session and then the next person would start after that.

* + Viwe asked about the time for questions and Maki mentioned that the questions will be taken in rounds. The goal is to have 2 rounds of questions for each portfolio. Maki also requested that if questions is directed to a specific portfolio in the chat function, that members please answer the questions in the chat function.

Xola mentioned that Maki should just be prepared to take over the presentation if a member experiences technical issues.

# Women’s Month with Transformation

Viwe and Maki has worked hard to do something special for women’s month. On the student wellness Instagram page there is videos from some of the popular deans and lectures on campus, as well as some infographics.

On Friday they will be handing out goodie bags on the Rooiplein from 11:00 until 14:00. In the goodie bag there is sweets and infographics about women empowerment, breast cancer awareness and transgender awareness. Members are encouraged to support and to come by for a goodie bag.

# SRC Wellness

Maki informed the SRC members that DSAf has cancelled the Clay Café outing, but at least there will still be an End-year function, which Kira is currently planning.

# Priority Concerns for Handover

The Student Assembly is responsible for drafting a mandate with priorities for the next SRC. This is a duty often neglected. As such Philip has requested that the current SRC draft a policy agenda to submit to the Assembly with issues we think should be prioritised in the next SRC. This would allow for the Assembly to have a draft to start working on when proposing the mandate to the SRC. Philip requested SRC members to raise some topics they think should be included in this policy agenda.

* + Eduard raised the point of making more meals available to students in need. He also mentioned that social impact should help the community and students, by involving the students by actively helping instead of just handing out vouchers. For example having a sandwich drive.
  + Jarryd raised the following topics which he believes should be included.
    - Student Food Security
    - Mental Health
    - Communication and Consistency
    - Continued Active Transformation
    - Create google docs to get ideas from members
  + Xola mentioned that the SRC can have a google document where all members can include their ideas and discuss the different topics.

# SAUS Feedback

Xola was at the meeting at Mpumalanga and Luigia was also there as a NSC member from SAUS. The meeting was not too productive. They mentioned that NSFAS reopened their funding applications. It was discussed that the union is till asking the same questions and these encounters does not productively come up with solutions on a way forward. He suggested that all points should have a paper trail which can be specific to each university. They can then classify which issues are national, provincial and common issues which arises. This will be a better way of keeping track with what issues should be resolved where and prevent some frustration. All universities would then be requested to submit their common questions and issues they experience, the feedback can be given in the next week or two.

Luigia mentioned that they had a strategic planning and introduction session for the next 2 years and they had to setup their committees and programs. SAUS released a statement on what took place over the 3 days, who the committees are and what the plan of action is for the year. This statement can be found on the SAUS social media pages.

# Student Governance Feedback Reports

Xola mentioned that the SRC start an initiative where they write up reports with feedback, which they can give to Student Governance. This report will include positive feedback, such as what worked well and should stay in place in the future, and it will also include some improvements the SRC would like to see in the Student Governance. All ex-officio managers will write their own reports and the SRC can decide if they want to write one report as the whole SRC or have portfolio specific reports. The goal is to help the Student Governance help the next SRC going forward.

* + The overall feeling was that the Student Governance is supposed to be subjected to feedback from the students with whom they work on a daily basis, but it seems that such a platform does not exist. The hope for the reports is to provide a way forward to create such a platform in good faith, where concerns, frustrations and feedback can be shared.
  + It was also suggested to have an in person sit down meeting with Student Governance, to discuss the reports, rather than just sending them the reports. This way the intention cannot be misread within the reports, but rather a discussion on the topics, can happen.
  + Xola also believe that Student Governance should also then have the opportunity to provide feedback afterwards, on ways they think the next SRC can improve.
  + The Forum will include all SRC members, Executive Committee members, as well as Ex-officio members.
  + Xola also requested that when members address members in their reports, that they will be addressed on their titles (such as administrator etc.) instead of using names. Xola will write up a quick brief on this matter.
  + The reports are due within two weeks. Dates for the meeting to take place, will still be proposed and discussed.

# SRC End-year function

Kira discussed setting a date for the End-year function at the end of the term.

* + The 17th of September is provisionally the date and will be confirmed later on.

# COVID-19 related matter

Leoné gave feedback on the COVID-19 statistics and it appears that there is 2 residences on main campus who has 40 people in isolation. On Tygerberg there is only 3 people with COVID and 2 in isolation waiting for results.

It was encouraged that all physical activities such as house meetings and caucuses should be stopped and students affected on campus were encouraged to not go home, but to rather quarantine in residences or student houses.

CSC director will also request ICBC to make classes online again, since we are in the middle of a peak.

* + Xola provided the following link which provides statistics with the current amount of infections on campus.
  + <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Pages/COVID-19-infections.aspx>
  + It was discussed that the link to the COVID statistics as well as information on vaccination, can be added to the mass mailer.

# Academic Participation & Attendance

Jarryd had a meeting with Prof. Ramjugernath and mentioned that there is a mass concern about academic participation & attendance. In smaller groups they no longer have recorded classes, as a way to force students to attend their classes. He then requested suggestions on how to get students to engage and participate more in their remote learning activities.

* + Eduard mentioned that when a class is recorded, it gives you false security of listening to it later. Put system in place which will encourage students to attend for their own intellectual integrity. He also mentioned that the university should make the online learning more synchronous and the approach to ARTLA should be more standardised. The problem at the moment is that information is scattered across various platforms (SunLearn, Teams, SharePoint) that it is very difficult to keep track of it.
  + Jarryd also concluded that the departments should redefine and rethink on what they quantify as engagement during classes.

# Prioritisation of Cluster Hub Development

Leoné mentioned that the Prim Committee has released a statement with the hopes to affect the prioritisation of the cluster hub development. The statement will be shared with the SRC.

* + Philip briefed the SRC on what was discussed during the Rectorate meeting with regards to this agenda point. He raised the following points:
    - Prof. Ramjugernath confirmed that the Victoria hub will be completed at the latest in June 2023 but will hopefully be finalized at latest in 2022.
    - The nature of how hubs are build are based on the fact that the university works on a base of all capital budgets are cash budgets. Don’t buy on mortgage, first raise the cash before investing in construction. Current capital budget goes until 2027, until then only Victoria hub prioritised in that budget. After 2027 all other hub developments is in the framework and will be incorporated into the budget at some point.
    - They also indicated due to the way ARTLA is functioning now, they would rather open up the hubs to more than 1 cluster to allow more students access to these spaces. At the moment it is not possible to amend budget until 2027 to include hubs for all clusters.
    - Final goal is to have 7 hubs in total so that all clusters can have a hub.
  + Leoné mentioned that the main concern is at Tygerberg, where medical students with long hours, have no space to sleep over or work late at night. This causes a safety concern and they want to make sure there is a state of urgency to this and proactiveness to secure budgets.

# Transformation updates

Viwe gave feedback on the transformation portfolio. She mentioned that they weren’t able to convene SITC, so this year the Student Transformation Indaba will be hosted by the SRC. Viwe and her committee is planning it. It will happen somewhere in September and she would like to invite all members to join. Xola and Kira will be consulted to get it as compulsory as possible for both SRC incoming and outgoing for the handover process. The handover process will include a sit-down talk about what the outgoing SRC Transformation portfolio holder was able to do transformation wise. They will then have a conversation with the incoming SRC on where to continue and build onto the transformation portfolio. The Indaba will help with getting a clear image on what’s needed and what the themes are on campus with regards to transformation. She also shared the good news that a task team has been formed under the direction of the rectorate, that is going to create a transformation policy. The transformation plan isn’t enough, there is going to be a transformation policy which will be released by June next year. Then there is going to be an operational transformational plan, a guideline of how the policy will be implemented in the different spaces of campus. That is going to be accepted by rectorate in august 2022. The Indaba will take place on the 7th or 8th of September and they still need a theme and subtopics, which will be discussed. All members were requested to send any ideas to Viwe. The Indaba will be about 3 hours max.

# Disability Indaba

Luigia invited everyone to the Disability Indaba taking place on the 1st of September via MS Teams and members can email specialneeds@sun.ac.za.

# Inauguration of the next SRC

Leoné and Almé sits on the task team for the SRC Inauguration. They were requested to get a guest speaker and theme for the event. It was mentioned that the speaker must be a previous SRC member. Members can give suggestions, feedback or ideas.

* + It was also mentioned that there will be a networking opportunity after the inauguration where members can connect. They will ask if it can be in person but that task team will work hard to have a proper inauguration.

# General Commentaries

Almé mentioned that the wrap up video will take place on the 3rd of September. Everyone should have gotten an email about the Rectorate SRC photo which will take place on the 12th of October. If you have not gotten the email, what’s app Almé for details.

Ayesha also requested that the SRC maybe have a small vaccination awareness program, even if it is infographics and an information session, just to get encouragement going.

The terms of office ends on the 26th of September and the very last activity taking place, is the 12th of October at 08:00, which is the photo with the Rectorate at the stairs of Admin B.

# Closing

Xola thanked all members and attendees who attended and adjourned the meeting.