

Student Parliament

*Accountability, Transparency and Consultative Governance*

UNIVERSITEIT iYUNIVESITHI STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

**MINUTES OF STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY’S STUDENT PARLIAMENT:**

**TREASURERS FORUM**

**HELD ON** Wednesday 31 July **IN THE** SRC Boardroom **AT** 16h00

**ATTENDANCE:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

N MKHIZE Deputy Speaker Internal (Accountability Chair)

T SELAHLE Deputy Speaker External (Secretary General)

P SHONGWE Student Parliament Treasurer

M MARE Societies Council Treasurer

D STRYDOM Tygerberg Student Parliament Treasurer

L STEPHENSON Student Representative Council Treasurer

**ABSENT WITH EXCUSE:**

K LEBESA Speaker of Student Parliament

R BOTHA Tygerberg Student Representative Treasurer

K SHARPLEY Prim committee Treasurer

N MAKAMO Tygerberg Post Graduate Student Council

**ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE:**

A DE WAAL Academic Affairs Treasurer

N DLAMINI Military Academy Treasurer

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**AGENDA:**

1. Welcoming Philasande Shongwe
2. Attendance Thatego Selahle
3. Order of Proceedings Philasande Shongwe
4. Feedback from Treasurer (or their delegate):
5. Prim Committee Excused
6. Societies Council
7. Academic Affairs Council
8. Tygerberg Student Parliament
9. Military Academy Societies Council
10. Tygerberg Societies Council
11. Tygerberg Post Graduate Council Excused
12. Student Representative Council
13. General points and feedback Philasande Shongwe
14. Next Meeting Thatego Selahle
15. Closing Philasande Shongwe

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**Discussion:**

1. **WELCOMING:**

The meeting was convened at 16h06. The Treasurer of Student Parliament begins by thanking all the members for attending the first treasurer’s forum. This is the first in the past couple of years. Each member is asked to introduce themselves and to state their vision for their position for the current year.

# ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

The meeting will proceed in terms of Addendum B.

# FEEDBACK FROM TREASURERS:

There is nothing much from Parliaments side. This is the second meeting sine the committee has returned. Parliament is still being kept in the dark regarding finances. So much so that all bookings have to go through Sharine in the finance office.

Suggestion: There is a new man working in the finance office- tell him that the treasurer is in need of treasures training and all information will be made available. He is more helpful than the previous. The system is old and outdated so this should help. The training will also enable you to get your actuals so you can track balances.

## Prim Committee

Excused.

Feedback provided by Student Parliament Treasurer.

Not much update except a few residences that committed to build the fund mentioned in the previous meetings have committed.

## Societies Council

Biggest issue is that Societies Council faces is that doesn’t have a Policy Officer. Recommend that the council gets a Policy Officer because about 10 of the societies get audited by Deloit (this year) each year but a new policy should probably be implemented to aid this. If a society doesn’t receive funds from their members in time, then they cannot recover it and so they lose up to R10 000. There is a meeting next week where he will discuss that all treasures should audit themselves cos there is no way to manage funds.

Point: On Student Parliament record, there is a Policy Officer for the Societies Council. He is advised to sit and discuss the matter with his policy officer.

The system is being updated currently. He has also approached Anele regarding the updating of the cost system because its so outdated. The system takes too long to process funds because the systems takes a while to move the funds to the respective accounts, so they end up not being able to function because they do not have financing.

Question: Suggestion of societies auditing themselves, I think we should explore what that means because there is a reason that we prefer external auditors. Should we not maybe look into getting external auditors.

Response: Good point, but there is over 70 societies and most of them doesn’t even keep track of their expenditure. It would be easy to have money go missing.

There is an underlying issue with finances. The fact that finances aren’t being tracked is the reason that the system is failing.

Point: It is not the policy officer’s role to create policy. The individual manager writes up the policy and then the officer just ensures that its in line with the constitution and that it is adapted accordingly. Perhaps draft up policy and get it through proper channels.

Response: Most treasures are BACC students and they need to be followed very closely, but its unreasonable to require that of a treasurer to do that because there are other facets of his life to maintain. Furthermore, there is no foundation for how to develop policy. We shouldn’t be naïve to trust students because they have to be followed.

Point: I don’t think it’s a good enough excuse not to adapt policy because there is always a way to access inform

Point: As a medical students, we can admit we also know nothing about policy, so it would be helpful to have persons who can help you. Not all students are competent and diligent enough to be able to develop policy like you do. If you cannot balance the other tasks, there is no point if at the end of it all, we fail.

Response: Auditing it would be a good decision to check up by the treasurers of societies are not fulfilling their responsibilities. As treasures, there has to be some sort of collection/ meeting within them to keep them accountable. When treasurers are aware of their duties (which is beyond processing payments), then each society can sit as a group and keep each other accountable. They cannot be accountable if they don’t know what they are accounting for. He is advised to sit and discuss the matter with his policy officer.

## Academic Affairs Council

Absent.

1. Tygerberg Student Parliament

The Student Parliament Committee has a budget but no money in their account. The committee is reliant of student governance for transport.

The Committee has spent money on badges but that is about a

Spoke to Anele several times and he will speak to management and that they cannot transfer money from their cost point to theirs. The transport has been coming from the TSR transport budget.

## Military Academy Societies Council

Absent.

## Tygerberg Societies Council

Absent.

## Tygerberg Post Graduate Council

Excused.

## Student Representative Council

Only changes that could be made this semester is due to peoples plans changing or new visions change but then the budget tends to be inflexible. What the SRC have agreed with is the process of adjusting the budget. You can adjust your budget, but you can adjust how you spend that amount. The exec receives an email with a proposed update for the budget and substantiate their change and then the executive will approve it, this helps flexibility as you work through the year. She intends to draw up a policy on how to make this system more efficient because it makes SRC members accountable for how they spend according to their budget. A guideline exists, but making policy is more binding so preferable.

A financial report must be released with each term, but because the finance system is so outdated, its difficult and complex to get all the figures. She intends to work through the cost centres to work out how the system is displaying all the figures. Suggestion to succeeding policy officers is to amend the provision to be every two terms, not every term rather because the system is so complicated.

Mostly just administration work to ensure that the next treasurer who takes over can work more efficiently. She is also trying to work out the reserve funds and make sure that the SRC use that money otherwise the budget will be reduced. The plan is to put money aside for long term sustainability projects such as perhaps a bursary project.

# GENERAL POINTS AND FEEDBACK:

Just a reminder, the budgets should be uploaded to the forum by 3pmmthe day before the forum so that the Treasurer on Student Parliament can look through and address queries during the meeting.

1. **NEXT MEETING:**

A link will be sent out with possible dates and the treasurers can vote on a date. It is preferable they all treasurers are joined by their successors in title.

1. **CLOSING REMARKS:**

The members are all thanked for availing themselves. A request is made to the members to please provide feedback and an evaluation to the Treasurer of Student Parliament via email.

The Treasurers Forum is adjourned at 16h47.