**MINUTES OF**

**STUDENT PARLIAMENT ORDINARY SITTING**

**HELD ON** Thursday 5 September **IN** Library Auditorium **AT** 18h00

**IN ATTENDANCE**

KEITUMETSE LEBESA (SPEAKER OF STUDENT PARLIAMENT)

NHLAKANIPHO SIYANDA MKHIZE (DEPUTY SPEAKER INTERNAL)

TSHENOLO NTWAGAE (SPC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER)

PHILASANDE SHONGWE (SPC TREASURER)

**ABSENT**

THATEGO SELAHLE (DEPUTY SPEAKER EXTERNAL)

REGAN FRANCENSIE (SPEAKER OF TSP)

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**AGENDA**

1. Voting the CRC mandate
2. Speaker Elections
3. Ordinary Sitting
4. A.O.B
5. Officiating new Secretary General role
6. Closing

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1. **OPENING**

Started 18:12.

Speaker’s opening speech highlights the ongoing events of Gender Based Violence.

He mentions that leaders need to ensure that a safe Matie environment is created. Men are seen as perpetrators instead of protectors, brothers, fathers and uncles. Leaders should not shy away from being the structures of help. Speaker request that men in leadership start speaking up for womxn and start to take a stand against these unjust actions happen within society.

If there are any people guilty who were found guilty in front of student court and still enabled to take on leadership structures, it is the role of the speaker to make sure that necessary investigations take place and that the individuals are kept accountable for their actions.

Gathering at 18:30 and 20:30, speaker encourages leaders to attend.

Speaker mentions Addendum F

1. **ATTENDENCE**

All members of the Student Parliament Committee (SPC) were present. This is with the exception of Miss Selahle and Mr Francensie who both submitted excuses for their absence before the meeting.

A registration list was handed out for all other members of parliament, who were present, to sign.

1. **AGENDA POINTS**
2. **Constitutional Review Committee**

Own mandate by CRC. Request.

Comm officer to read the mandate in order to have a vote.

The voting process did not take place as the members of parliament requested the speaker to email all voting members the mandate in order for them to get a better understanding through reading it for themselves. The voting process is to take place at a later stage.

**Additional Remarks:**

A question was raised in relation to a declaratory order which the SPC sent to court on 28 August 2019 to provide a correct interpretation of Section 57 of the Student Constitution.

The response that was given by Student Court is that the Bodies mentioned in section 57 compose of Student Parliament but, the numbers presented do not denote quorum. The Bodies are named in order for them to attend SPC meetings in *nominee officio* in order to facilitate accountability and transparency.

**Question:** Will the SPC be strict with all leadership bodies mentioned in section 57 to attend meetings as stipulated, not only with the SRC?

**Response:** Yes, the SPC will be following up on all other structures and not only emphasise the attendance of the SRC. The provision is now in effect. Emails will be required from all structures putting forth the members who will be attending sittings furthermore, excuses will be required from absent members.

**Question:** Will you follow you follow up with structures if one of the members are missing?

**Response:** Yes, we will.

**Question:** Would there be a central place that the mandate will be placed?

**Response:** Yes, this will be the Student Parliament website.

As by section 14 of the Student Constitution, all members who are affected by this provision have been notified. The provision has been well communicated to all structures and therefore failure to comply will result in necessary action.

POINTS OF DEPARTURE:

* The mandate will be sent to all leadership Bodies in order for them to critically analyse the mandate in order to have a clearer understanding of it and to therefore facilitate a fair voting process. The voting will take place at an extraordinary meeting.
* SPC will require all Bodies mention in section 57 of the Student Parliament to attend sittings in *nominee officio manner.* Where there fails to be compliance, SPC will follow up with the necessary structures.

1. **LLL Village Feedback**

There has been a decision taken by management that the LLL Village will no longer form part of the programme to which it currently belongs to. This is due to the decision to turn LLL into a senior residence. This decision was opposed by students affected. The SPC received a request to look into the matter.

The Speaker then opens to floor to discussion.

**Question:** Mr Klopper has been engaging with people living with people living in LLL, have you invited the people that they have been engaging with?

**Response:** Yes. There has been engagement with Mr Klopper in terms of an official document but there has not been a response.

**Proposition:** Speaker, I can give you information of what I have but, I don’t think it is my place to do so. The people who have currently been engaging with management would be the suitable candidates to pass on the information. Prior to the announcement that LLL will be converted to a senior residence, engagement that took place with management was through LLL interns rather than the residents. This then highlighted a problem in which communication is taking place. Therefore, there was a postponement put into place and in the process, requirements were changed such as not having HEMIS be a disqualifying factor.

This agenda point had very little engagement as the house has agreed that the necessary people to engage with were not present/invited to the sitting. Members who were present knew of the incident but not in full depth.

**Additional Remarks:**

LLL Village is an independent body which communicates directly with management. SRC and the Prim Committee have no jurisdiction over LLL. There are LLL representatives in which the SPC can possible engage with.

POINT OF DEPARTURE:

* SPC will look into the matter as to why the residents of LLL have no formal representation.
* SPC will engage with the necessary structures who are well informed of the current situation taking place.

1. **SPC Feedback of Portfolios (Accountability Committee)**

The Accountability Committee is a structure formed in terms of Addendum F of the Student Parliament Constitution. Under Addendum F, the committee is mandated to provide feedback to the house at least once per year.

This year, the committee has received five complaints from students. The committee is not able to investigate matters that deal with students unless, by formal complaint which are in line with the SP constitution.

Below are the complaints:

1. Language Policy in Monica Residence

The speaker addressed the residence on this matter. He reiterated that the University language policy is clear in that it stipulates that the language of communication must be of which the majority understands.

1. Register All Policy

The complaint was based on a lack of information of the policy at the time. Students were unaware of the state of the policy. The registration period had come to an end and so had the period for final payments. The concern that was raised was that at this time, there were no payments made as promised by the policyholders.

The SRC was asked to give feedback on the matter. The SRC responded in terms of section 14 at an SRC meeting at the Launch Lab

1. Stellenbosch University International Portfolio Budget within the SRC

The structure had not received a budget and therefore could not operate. Upon investigation, it was found that had been allocated to their correspondent but there was no information as to how to access it. Furthermore, the necessary steps were taken to obtain this information.

1. Language Policy in Dagbreek

The complaint dealt with the language policy which Dagbreek uses on Football Fridays. This occurs on Friday lunchtime where they address the house for a big match. The problem was that the language at use by the speakers was predominantly Afrikaans and English was very seldomly used. This resulted in the exclusion of members who did not understand Afrikaans. The committee addressed the Dagbreek prim and the conclusion was to introduce speakers who can engage in languages to include all.

1. Huis Visser HK elections

The problem that had occurred at Huis Visser was that the elections were done electronically. The students were inquiring on the security behind this process.

* How was it ensured that students did not voting twice?
* How was it ensured that students of Huis Visser are exclusively voting?
* What allows them to vote electronically?

The Huis Visser prim responded, in a statement, that the Huis Visser constitution does allow for electronic voting. The link that was sent out ensured that as students entered their student number, each student number was checked to ensure they were residents of Huis Visser and no student is voting more than once. This matter was responded to in terms of section 14 of the Student Constitution.

1. **SPC Feedback of Portfolios (Policy Officer)**

Due to the absence of the policy officer, the communications officer read a statement in which the policy officer handed in.

This statement is attached under this document on the Student Parliament Website.

**Additional Remarks:**

Speaker requested that leadership bodies appoint policy officers within their structures which will form part of the Policy Unit run by the SPC Policy Officer.

1. **SPC Feedback of Portfolios (Treasurers Forum)**

The treasurer mentioned how his term as treasurer had been challenging. The treasurer established the Treasurer’s Forum which is a space where all treasurers meet and discuss certain matters at hand with their respective budgets. Due to it only existing in his time in office, his work has been difficult as there is no constitutional reference to conducting meetings. Additional to presenting their budgets, a learning space is established within the forum where the treasurers share knowledge on how draw up budgets.

Another challenge faced is the budget, of R5000, in which the SP has been given to work with for the year. This then meant that the budget needed to be focussed on necessary meetings which are the four mandatory ordinary sittings and anything else which may follow in priority.

Treasurer opened the floor to suggestions to improve the work of his portfolio.

**Proposition:** There was a discussion amongst the members of the SRC to cut down their budget in order to provide the SP with that portion. This reduction is to take place before the SRC receives their budget due to respect provisions of separation of powers.

**Proposition:** There could be other methods to raise money for the SP. Ideally, if all registered students were to donate R1, that would already be R30 000 raised. Members of parliament should ideally finance the structure to keep in functioning.

**Suggestion:** The sub-bodies of the treasurer’s forum should have their own treasurer’s forum so that they can engage with all the treasures of their structure. This will ensure better financial management within the bigger system.

Treasurer asked for suggestions to increase student participation. A method in which the budgets are at easy access for them to view. There is a working website but, students are not fully aware of it.

**Suggestion:** work through the existing leadership structures. Some of them have direct interaction with students and thus serve as a good network. SP should engage with those structures and work on having a larger campus presence by requesting to be at certain meetings of these structures.

Third treasurer’s forum was not able to take place due to the different handovers taking place in leadership structures. Conducting a forum will be easier once all handover processes have taken place. This forum will make sure that the new treasurers know of the processes of the forum.

**The Speaker’s feedback**

The speaker is mandated to host four sittings in his time as speaker. He is to be impartial at all times and ensures the running of the parliament house. The speaker and his deputies sit on all aforementioned forums and they provide oversight. The speaker is also the chairperson of the Constitutional Review Committee and also sits on the evaluation panel of the SRC.

The challenges the speaker has faced are with communication. The mandate of the SPC and SP as a whole is not fully known and therefore users have limited it to an accountability structure alone. Constitutionally, the SP is there to encourage robust critical engagement, ensure mediation between students and student leaders and act as an accountability structure by ensuring that all constitutional bodies live up to their constitutions. It is important that the SP be informed where any of the following functions are needed by students or else the SP cannot perform these functions.

Additional Remarks:

No remarks.

1. **CLOSING**

Meeting adjourned 19:19