



# SRC Executive Meeting

22 February 2021 | Google Meets & SRC Boardroom |

## 1. Welcoming and Opening:

1.1 The President welcomes the executive members to the first SRC Meeting.

## 2. Attendance:

### 2.1 Present:

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| President         | Lerato Ndlovu          |
| Deputy President  | Rameeza Abdool Sattar  |
| Secretary General | Jaco van Jaarsveld     |
| Deputy Secretary  | Thandi Mabala          |
| Treasurer         | Jozias Mahube-Reinecke |

### 2.2 Absent with apology:

None.

### 2.3 Absent without apology:

None.

## 3. Portfolio-specific agenda points:

### 3.1 SRC Deputy President – Confidentiality:

3.1.1 Certain members spoke out about and regarding SRC matters. This conversation was conducted between an SRC member and culture leaders from residences. The point that should be discussed with the council is that everything that is being discussed amongst the SRC should remain confidential unless there are instructions to give out the information through to the sub councils in a timely matter.



### 3.1.2 Open for the Floor

3.1.3 Treasurer: Agrees that this could be problematic on the 'issue of trust' that should be brought up in the next meeting. But if a student asks you personally to elaborate would it still be a breach of confidentiality? President: In this regard, it could create panic if let's say a criterion is released only to some students.

Treasurer: So confirm something must be finalised then before we can give it through to the students? President affirms that this is correct.

3.1.4 DSG: We should only send feedback to the students that we are working on it. We do not need to give them a precise discussion if it is not yet finalised. We should not discuss anything outside the council unless it is made public by the office of the Secretary.

3.1.5 Treasurer: If after the minutes has been circulated, can you then speak about the matters with students or will it still be a breach of confidentiality? If students ask for clarity can we clarify? President: you can clarify what the minutes discussed.

3.1.6 Secretary: It is not yet publicised, how does it influence confidentiality? For instance, now that the website is still in the process of being upgraded. President: This should be done soon that this will not remain the case. DP: In the meantime, we can ask Mum Fundi to upload it for us.

3.1.7 DSG: What are the stakes from the disciplinary committee?. DP: I will hereafter create a breakdown for the SRC if it is a minor or major offence but it will be a verbal warning. The SRC will first be made aware that everything is confidential. I will speak to the disciplinary committee in this regard.

### 3.2 SRC Secretary – Statutory Structures Feedback:

3.2.1 SG: We received feedback from Michelle on the outcome of the statutory structure voting outcome. She made us aware that not all criteria's was met for different statutory structures. The Senate for Student Life and Teaching and Learning was effected. The Senate for Teaching and Learning requires only one representative of the office of the academic. We voted for two representatives meaning FSS must by default be removed. The Senate for Student Life requires DSECA and an Academics Officer and the other two seats must be 2 from the 4 representatives in the senate. This means Study Finance and Student Culture that were voted for must be removed and replaced by either the SG, DSG of Academics 1 or 2 Officer. The question is how do we go about in this regard as we are taking away from the procedural fairness behind the voting?

### 3.2.2 Open for the floor.



3.2.3 SG: The suggestion is that myself and the DSG sit on the senate for student success. Reason being if we give it to the offices of the academic we will overload them with structure sittings. Also, the office of Student Culture wanted this seat and this is why I do not want to take it away from anybody but unfortunately, the mistake has been made and I deeply apologise for this from my side as the new and previous criteria's where mixed up.

3.2.4 DP: Ask whether the statutory structure and its documents are confidential for only the members that sit on the structure or if it is open for all SRC members. President: previously it has been confidential for those that sit on the structure. However, student culture can then "intentionally" "unintentionally" sit on the committee.

3.2.5 DSG: I will sit on the council it must be. SG: If this is the case I also advise that myself in DSG remove ourselves from the institutional forum and in this regard, we could at least still give the office of MMC and FSS a sitting on one of the structures.

3.2.6 Treasurer: Communicate this to the SRC members that are influenced that they are not unaware of this matter when we announce it during the meeting on Wednesday.

3.2.7 SG: I will call each member after the meeting and hear what they have to say. If it is a problem then we will revert this to the executive.

### 3.3 SRC Treasurer - Ex-Officio Portfolios:

3.3.1.1 During the camp the ex-officio felt there is a differentiation between the SRC elect and the SRC ex-officio's. We discussed the matter and brought it forward to see how we can break this culture of division. The ex-officio's are to a large extent more strategic with students on the ground so we must break this culture of the past. They are going to pull out eventually if this continues whereas they bring a lot of value to the team.

3.3.1.2 Open for the floor.

3.3.1.3 DP: Agrees that it does not mean that they are brought up differently in the SRC but they should not be treated differently.

3.3.1.4 DSG: To resolve this we need to know what happened and how it made them feel then we can handle it. But I understand where they are coming from.

3.3.1.5 President: The way I see it is that your vote and my vote counts the same. Communication on the council should be amongst the whole council and should not be convening amongst smaller groups. Ex-officio members are also



separating themselves and that in it selves can cause problems and division. Like I notice they tend to sit at the same table at the camp. The culture of this should also be killed in it selves.

3.3.1.6 Treasurer: We must stop referring to them as ex-officio but to their office. Protect them in this sense. We cannot afford them to pull away because they are already 7 votes. The diction of their offices should avoid the word ex-officio that creates division in itself. They will feel better if the executive has a unified stance on this and to ensure that they are a part of the SRC just as the elect SRC members are a part of the SRC.

3.3.1.7 SG: I agree with everything that has been said. However, we need to be cautious seeing someone's preference to whom like to sit with at a table and it being division in nature.

3.3.1.8 President: There seems to be a consensus amongst the executive. Also, we should emphasize communication amongst the council. We must have respect for identity and how we relate to the council. Also, ask the question if there are preferences or a political play? Also, the white and black table that we all were aware of. We should address this but also uncertain about how to go about it.

3.3.1.9 Treasurer: It is a conversation that has to be done if members are uncomfortable or not. People should not be uncomfortable discussing this topic. We want brutal honesty in the council. We have to have a conversation on racial groups, culture and backgrounds to generate a holistic consensus.

3.3.1.10 President: Yes, and again some people hold views from their community and that is their standing. You have the mandate from your community but how can we respect each other but also relate with each other despite the differences? This is a topic that should be open for discussion amongst the council.

3.3.1.11 DP: we should have a Personal and Professional working ethic. Around the table, we can have discussions but also when we leave the door we should be able to still relate with each other.

3.3.1.12 Treasurer: We have different cultural groups in our council. We need to speak about who I am what my culture and background is. We need to engage in a cultural understanding.

3.3.1.13 President: When do we then address these matters?

3.3.1.14 DP: We can have a meeting after the photo session on Wednesday.



3.3.1.15 President: We should have this as a separate meeting so we can discuss it and have a mediator may be involved.

3.3.1.16 Treasurer: Also the executive must be stern. We must look out when people get very tense. Respect, dignity and kindness must be conveyed during this discussion.

3.3.1.17 DP: Let is then not make it a formal environment but something like a pizza.

3.3.1.18 President: In conclusion, this will be a separate discussion. The confidentiality will still however be addressed on Wednesday.

### 3.3.2 POA:

3.3.2.1 When must we submit the POA? And on the side, not the executive should get the same training for drafting fundraising proposals that we all know how to do it.

3.3.2.2 President: The POA must be submitted next week Monday. This gives the members of the council a week to finalize their POA. Treasure: Can I sit with each SRC Member with their POA to discuss how in debt we will go about with the allocation of their budget?

3.3.2.3 President: I will go through them and narrow it out and thereafter you can discuss it with them.

### 3.3.3 D.I.A / Study Aid Fund:

3.3.3.1 President: We need to finalise the study aid fund list by the end of this week already. We should then also ask for extra few extra days for these students to register.

3.3.3.2 Treasurer: The criteria for the list that we have so far, and I would like for more, are as follows:

- Household income that is less than R 150 000 a year,
- Orphans,
- Postgraduate loans.

3.3.3.3 President: We need to blow up the criteria on social media to reach as much as possible students. Also, I would like to add the criteria that you have to have applied for the up assist also before you can apply for this aid. And what do we think about prioritizing students that have been in contact with the SRC begging for registration fees?



3.3.3.4 Treasurer: It will be easier to filter out people that can pay for registration and rather give those who are unable to register the financial support.

3.3.3.5 DP: Agree with this notion, and those who already did ask shows they are serious about their academics. What about historical debt assistance?

3.3.3.6 T: We can assist with a historical debt of less than R 10 000 because they then only need to pay 40% of that but then what about the students that have a debt of R 150 000. Therefore I am against it because my heart is sensitive towards these people. Should we separate the fund because I would like to have funds available for the first years as well?

3.3.3.7 President: We can open it up for a few days and then again for a few days for the first years. And then you must have applied for financial aid to be within the criteria and for the historic debt you have to apply for up assists.

3.3.3.8 DSG: Want to ask if there is a cap for the amount that there will be to assist for financial registrations and academic historical debt.

3.3.3.9 President: there are no funds for historical debts and post-graduation fees are R 7800 and the graduates' registration fee is R 5000.

3.3.3.10 DP: Will International Students will have the same criteria? And who will sit with these applications?

3.3.3.11 Treasure: How will the team be picked? I would like to pick members that will understand the student's financial backgrounds.

3.3.3.12 President: The Financial Task team will be in charge of this but also with the time we have we will have to add members but no more than 6-7 council members. Remember to add a disclaimer that just because you applied does not guarantee funding or assistance.

3.3.3.13 Treasurer: Should we be transparent with the R 300 000 and can the criteria change during the year?

3.3.3.14 President: We should not make available that the aid will be R 300 000 but at the student forum you can make this clear. We can change the criteria during the year. The Criteria will be finalised tonight and we must launce it on Wednesday on social media.

#### 3.3.4 Nsfas pressing issue:

3.3.4.1 We need to be pro-active when they say that they will not fund certain degrees. How does the SRC respond in these circumstances?



3.3.4.2 Open for the floor.

3.3.4.3 Treasurer: We must be stern and vocal showing we care for what the student is feeling we cannot be silent. We should put proposals through even though I do not know if the SRC can oppose Higher Education.

3.3.4.4 President: I want the SRC to do more so if we say we oppose what do we do after? Our demands need to be the reality show that we can account for them.

3.3.4.5 Treasurer: Do we announce it to our university or do we make the statement towards Higher Education.

3.3.4.6 President: In this case, we will send it to management and SAUS. So we will draft a document to submit to SAUS and they give us a sitting with NSFAS.

3.3.4.7 Treasurer: Also how can varsity clubs have a village for all other universities but we do not have enough place to host our students? We must show students that we are vocal.

3.3.4.8 President: this is my point we must show that we have done something as well. For example, we submit this to this.

3.3.4.9 Treasurer: We as the SRC must be radical and go there on foot.  
President: We invite another institution showing we have exhausted all measures and it is not working.

3.3.4.10 President: we need input on what we are proposing for the SAUS document. This needs to be precise and to the point of what we want. We disagree that they are defunding certain degrees. They should lower the requirements and take responsibility for them when they are defunding students. They should provide alternatives for this. The SAUS document submission must be ready on 24 February 2021. When we submit documents to the Department of Higher Education it must state that: NSFAS must take responsibility to deal with the funds of students and to find another source for students to fund them. Fund all students for all degrees.

3.3.4.11 Treasurer: If we have a movement as the SRC it must happen this Friday.

3.3.4.12 President: We must first follow the route with SAUS if their response is unrealistic we can do that. We can put this up for discussion amongst the groups.

#### **4. Time and date of next meeting:**

4.1 Meeting must be by weekly/if there is a need.



**5. Closing:**

**6. Time and date of next meeting:**

6.1 Two week from now or earlier if need be.

**7. Closing:**

7.1 President close the meeting.

**I, Lerato Ndlovu and Jaco van Jaarsveld, hereby declare that these minutes serve as a true reflection of what transpired during this particular SRC meeting.**



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Lerato Ndlovu  
SRC President



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Jaco van Jaarsveld  
SRC Secretary

