

SRC Ordinary Meeting

4 February 2021 | Google Meets |

1. Welcoming and Opening:

1.1 President Welcomes everyone to the meeting.

2. Attendance: SRC Secretary

2.1 **Present:** (Abbreviations of each portfolio will be used for minute taking e.g. Office of Secretary will be SG Office.)

President	Lerato Ndlovu
Deputy President (DP)	Rameeza Abdool Sattar
Secretary General (SG)	Jaco van Jaarsveld
Deputy Secretary (DSG)	Thandi Mabala
Treasurer	Jozias Mahube-Reinecke
Facilities Safety and Security (FSS)	Njabulo Sibeko
Marketing, Media & Communications (MMC)	Chanel Brown
Study Finance (SF)	Melvin van Rooyen
Postgraduate & International Student Affairs (PI)	Thando Dhlamini
Day Students & External Campus Affairs (DSECA)	Nothando Ngubeni
Societies	Hannah le Roux
Academic Representatives Ex-officio (A1)	Uwaiza Abdool Sattar
Academic Representatives Ex-officio (A2)	Stéfan Steenekamp
Residence Representatives Ex-officio (R1)	Chané Williamson
Residence Representatives Ex-officio (R2)	Wehan Viljoen
Sport Representative Ex-officio (Sport)	Tarik Lalla
RAG Representative Ex-officio (RAG)	Tshegofatso Makhi
Stuku Representative Ex-officio (STUKU)	Thando Mtimkulu
Transformation and Student Success (TSS)	Thuto Mashila

2.2 Absent with apology:



No Member

2.3 Absent without apology:

No Members

3. Acceptance of previous minutes and adoption of agenda:

3.1 Acceptance of previous Minutes – NA For 4 Feb 2021

3.2 Adoption of agenda – NA for 4 Feb 2021

4. Feedback from the Executive Committee:

4.1 Management Meeting Feedback.

The 2021 SRC President updated the Committee on the executive meeting that took place on 29 January 2021. An important matter that was discussed amongst other things are the following:

- Academic Proposal with regards to academic exclusions. “Management is being lenient to students. However, we are still waiting for feedback to determine which exact faculties will be online and which ones will return to campus. Again we still waiting on a final and complete response”.
- Academic registration. Physical registration that was held on LC in previous years will not be happening this year. However, we are still waiting for final confirmation and information in this regard.
- Financial exclusions. The reason that Management gave for financial exclusions is that not all student are the same. They argue that if there are no financial exclusions they will not receive any money. NSFAS students with financial difficulties due to the pandemic and loss of bursaries must apply for assistance via UP Assist on the UP portal. This is without any guarantee that these students will receive financial assistance.
- Financial arrangements. For financial assistance students’ will have to pay 50% of their historical debt and only then will they make financial arrangements to assist with the 50% outstanding fees. We plead with them to understand the circumstance that our students are facing. The feedback we then received was that they will lower the 50% to 45%. They also said that they will extend the period of these payments until next year where in previous years it was in JUNE (within 6 months).
- They requested that the SRC be very vocal about students registering. A lot of students have not yet registered and we should encourage students to register and not leave it till the last moment.
- List for Student in need. Another point of discussion was that the SRC should draft a list regarding students in extreme cases that are struggling with financial



and historical difficulty. This will then be forwarded to Management to be considered if such student will receive financial assistance.

The floor is now open for discussion on this agenda point:

4.2 The Ex-officio Office of Sport asked if Nsfas student will be guaranteed financial assistance with the UP assist applications. The President responded that this will not be guaranteed.

4.3 The Societies Office acknowledged that SRC members themselves are facing financial difficulties. She urged them to also place some priority over their finances and to ask for support.

4.4 The Ex-Officio Office of Residences - (R2) He stated that there has been a decrease in the first years registering since communication 'as to when residences will reopen' is taking too long. The President reverted a question about whether Tuksres students have not already been placed?. (R2) then replied that most senior students have been placed, but that the reserved places for first years and the current incoming first years are up to 50% less than what they should be. This is a matter of concern that should be taken note of. (R1) also mentioned that First years are being placed on a waiting list still. She will do a follow-up with TuksRes in this regard.

4.5 The FSS Office asked about the list of the student with historical debts that are being drafted. Are we as the SRC going to open the list to everyone? Or will it only be the students that approach the SRC that will be on this list? The President responded that list is exclusively for students in extreme cases that approach the SRC. The (FSS) asked about students who did not approach the SRC? The President said that the list still does not guarantee that students will be helped but that the list is exclusively for students that exhausted all measures such as approaching the SRC as a final plea for help.

4.6 The Ex-officio Office of Sport made a statement that: the financial exclusions are concerning as it does not guarantee to help the students financially. Financial exclusions being the reason for not receiving money in these times is a false narrative. He further asked if there will thus be a criterion for the list? The President responded that the criteria will be up to finances but that if you have exhausted all the measures it will constitute an extreme case.

4.7 Ex-officio Office Stuku made a good point when he asked if a list of other obstacles will also be drafted? Or will it only apply to financial difficulties? The President's response to this is also a request that the different task teams must make a criterion for other extreme obstacles so that a list for these obstacles can be drafted.

4.8 The Ex-officio Academics (A2) mentions that the NAS faculty extend the appeal date by 10 days to assist students that wrote late exams. This is so that if their



appeal has been readmitted or dismissed that they and can appeal again. He predicts that a lot of students are going to submit their appeals to late. Does the request if it is possible for the Senate to extend the appeal date for all faculties to avoid exclusions? Notice of this request has been taken. (A1) asked when will the senate council take place? The president responded that the SRC voting will take place to decide which members of the SRC will the representatives.

4.9 The Office of Study Finances asked if there will be a specific plan with the two lists? He mentioned the UP Assist list and the No Resorts list. Does he ask if we must include unfunded students within the lists? The President responded by saying that we must continue giving Management an updated list of students with extreme cases for the UP Assist. Unfunded students must be kept on a list of their own. We do however need to be persistent with this weekly showing that there are a lot of students that cannot register due to the lack of funding.

4.10 The Postgraduate (PI) Office notify the concern that international students have holds on their portal due to the lack of bursaries, medical aid certificate hold and expire Visas. UP personal does not respond to emails which are making it difficult to lift these holds. The Medical Aid Scheme that is needed must also be of such a nature that it is recognised within South African legislation and must be valid for 12 months. She raised that this is a concern. How can it be 12 months even though we only start in March? This cannot be fair. This further creates an obstacle for registration because of the holds such as medical aid. Another concern that is being raised is that of the border regulations due to the lockdown. Again the support and responses of the University are not helping. She acknowledges that the Department of Home Affairs doesn't have feedback concerning police clearance. Yet the University must assist the students accordingly. (R1) also makes a stamen on this issue that communication is a problem. She further requests that International Students must get new updates and feedback to know when to book flights. It cannot be expected for these students to come back to campus at the Universities request. Communication of such arrangements must be made well in advance. The Office of Stuku mentions that permit block must only apply to students that will need to be back on campus. If you stay at home for online classes admin must adjust that such a hold, in this case, is not necessary. The President requested that the Office of Postgraduates and International Student Affairs must draft a document stating these challenges and finding solutions that should be open for discussion amongst the SRC members.

5. Portfolio-specific agenda points:

5.1 SRC President

5.1.1 Workplace Safety Committee Feedback.

The President mentions that the committee was made last year dealing directly with Covid-19 and ensuring the safety of institutions. Parties that are involved in



this are the unions, registrar, executive (CEO), SRC and security. This is to ensure that institutions comply with Covid-19 regulations. Feedback on the agenda points are as follows:

- the Academic year 2021 – Faculties submitted their plans and are still waiting for approval to know how we will go about it. It seems that some of the courses might be online for the whole year and some courses will require students to return to campus. There is also a prioritisation for first years and students that require faculties on campus to return. However, the majority of senior students will be online.
- Registration period – The plan was to have an 80/20 % registration plan. However, the plan changes to 100% online registration. Therefore, registrations on LC de Villiers will not take place. The matter of issuing students cards will be paused for now while waiting for final approval. Students that are really in need of assistance will be allowed on to LC by direct and personal communication only.
- Call Centres are being increased. More staff will also assist with emails but this also was not yet approved and we are waiting for approval that should be given to us by next week. The majority of students will receive apology letters for the student that used to work at LC during the registration period.
The floor is now open for discussion on this agenda point:

1. The Treasurer Office ask with regards to the increase of call centre and email responding personnel and the possibility that those positions be occupied by students. In this case, they can work off their debt or registration fees. The president confirmed that those students are being employed for these positions.
2. The office of residence (R2) suggests the possibility that all residences have computer and internet facilities that could be used to assist with online registrations of first-year residence students in these labs to lessen the registration burden.
3. The Office of the Deputy Secretary ask how the registration plan of 100% online registration will influence the SRC. This is because the SRC is expected to help at LC during the registration period. The President responded by saying the SRC will not be at LC but members will still be rotated and will operate from their offices. This will be in rotation in the Student Affairs Building and we might have LC rotations as well.
4. The FSS Office ask if early accommodation from 15 February 2021 will still be available for SRC members. The President confirms that this is still the case.

5.1.2 TuksRes Rugby Charity Drive.

The President informs everybody that TuksRugby approaches the SRC and want to have a charity drive with the SRC. The idea is to have a monthly goal to receive can food and store it till the end of the year. December it will be given to a charity



for people in need of food. The president did mention that if the SRC is involved that the input must also be to assist our students that need food.

The floor is now open for discussion on this agenda point:

1. The Ex-officio offices of Stuku, Sport and Academics mention that this initiative overlaps with the Plan of Action (POA) of their respective offices having similar initiatives.
2. The MMC Office mentions that marketing-wise we can assist in this initiative. She also mentions that we should take note of the different time frames. Although the initiative might be similar we can support all of them depending on the timeframes.
3. The Offices of the Treasures suggest that If we work with TuksRugby on this initiative we can register our society for such drive working with Tuksrugby to ensure it can benefit the students that need food as well. The Deputy President agrees that we can help them and ask if we can use some of the charity donations for our students.
4. The Office of Sport mentions his office already posted a similar project and how it will work. We should therefore advocate for the one that has already been posted. Does he also ask in what capacity did TuksRugby approach the SRC? He asks this because of the logical structure that can be followed where TuksRugby being a sport should rather have approached the sports office in this regard. The President pose a question back as to whether the mention of the above matter will undermine his office? The Office of Sport responded that if we only market the project is not undermining the committee but when they contact the SRC it should be through the committee of his office.

Voting on the way forward in this regard:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 1. Fully supporting | - 0 |
| 2. Supporting/Shoutout advertising | - 10 |
| 3. Not engaging at all | - 6 |

Closing this point. The way forward will be to assist the initiative by supporting them by advertising the charity fund.

5.1.3 Varsity Vibe.

The President explains that this is an SRC initiative that is running in different institutions. It is a referral system. As the SRC, the more students we get to sign up the more money we get. Each student we bring will be R 10.

The floor is now open for discussion on this agenda point:

1. The Office of Sport is asking where does the money go. The President explains that the money will be sent to our Varsity Vibe Account to the University with our reference and call centre that we can use.



2. The MMC office says the SRC can advertise this.
 3. The Ex-Officio Office of Stuku is asking if their committee assist in promoting their own office, capacity and initiatives if they will be entitled to certain of the funds we receive?
 4. The Office of Societies make a very valid point: How will we get access to money and the stats of the number of students that will sign-up? Also, we as the SRC must first understand the terms & conditions. She also commented that there should be no separation of ex-officio SRC members and SRC elect members. We therefore should also not split the money.
 5. The Office of Residences (R2) also mention that we should make sure we know where the money is going and for what the R 10 will be used. Money coming to the SRC must go to the SRC and must not be split. We should also communicate and advertise to the student what we will be using the money for.
 6. The President mention that Varsity Vibe will provide us with all the advertising material and the cost thereof.
 7. The FSS Office mention that Varsity Vibe is a big deal and that we should get paid for being advertisement and when students share it also. Money does not need to be divided.
 8. The Office of Stuku ask if we can postpone the vote because we have not read through the fine print and that we must first understand this before we can move on.
 9. The Office of the Treasurer also say that we should enquire about how the funding system will work? And if the R 10 can be raised, as it is not a realistic amount to make a big impact. We should also ask if food counts as a form of advertising to get students to sign up.
- The President closes the floor for this agenda point. She concludes by saying that we will vote next week before making a further decision until we understand the T&C's. We will also invite a Varsity Vibe representative to join us in next week's meeting.

5.1.4 Newsletter.

The President informs us that the purpose of the newsletter should be beyond news but rather keeping students in the know about what is going on. This must include solutions we are currently busy with, what is happening, what is the proposal and what are we doing with the feedback that we are receiving from management.

The floor is now open for discussion on this agenda point:



1. The FSS office raises the concern that the SRC Members do not necessarily know what is going on in other portfolios and Task Teams. The President responded to this emphasising the importance of a weekly meeting with updates from the different task teams. The different Task teams should also share new matters arising and important challenges and updates over the official SRC group.

5.2 SRC Secretary - New POA Format.

The Secretary calls that all members of the SRC must vote for the possible adoption of a new POA Format. If there is a 50% plus one vote the current POA format will be amended accordingly.

The vote was in majority for a new and amended POA format to be drafted. The submission date of the POA's of the newly drafted format will be communicated via the SRC official WhatsApp group. The New POA format will be sent out ASAP and will have the operation of the SRC's newly adopted POA format with immediate effect.

5.3 SRC Ex-Officio STUKU

5.3.1 Organised Student Life.

The Ex-Officio Office of Stuku requests to know what the organised plan for student life will be like in 2021 because currently there is no direction given. Will campus be open? The President responded by saying that the faculties are also still in the dark. As matters stand it seems like the first quarter will almost definitely be online. Some courses will be back on campus and first-years will receive priority to return. We should be ready for both and have a plan for both. This is to know how student culture will look like online but also how it will be if we return to campus.

The floor is now open for discussion on this agenda point:

1. The Ex-Office of Residences (R2) request that we add pressure to get information regarding this because it takes time to organize certain events. We need to give the students the necessary time for preparation.
2. The Office of the Treasurer also mention that he has not yet received the budget for the SRC. This is a concern that we should take note of.

5.4 SRC Academics - Academics Sub council Report.

1. Academic chairpersons meeting that took place, feedback based on the queries and approach when assisting students such that it can be dealt with at a faculty level if not, directed to SRC
2. Academic concerns mainly towards the EMS Faculty as no response to emails.
3. Improvement and academic concerns from faculties have been noted down and we do intend on eliminating these corners through meetings with the faculty as it has been added to our POAs



4. To ensure that there is a bridge of communication between all faculties and SRC we have developed a weekly report summary that guides us regarding the common struggles that each faculty deals with.
5. Meetings will be held at least once a month to emphasize communication amongst all chairpersons and faculties.
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5 Other matters arising:

6.1 None

6 Time and date of next meeting:

6.4 To be discussed

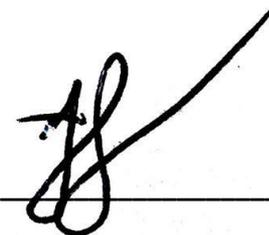
7 Closing:

7.4 President thanks everyone and meeting is dismissed.

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.



Lerato Ndlovu
SRC President



Jaco van Jaarsveld
SRC Secretary

