

SRC Ordinary Meeting

9 February 2021 | Google Meets |

1. Welcoming and Opening:

1.1 The President welcomes everyone to the meeting.

2. Attendance:

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
Secretary General (SG)	Jaco van Jaarsveld
Deputy Secretary (DSG)	Thandi Mabala
Marketing, Media & Communications (MMC)	Chanel Brown
Study Finance (SF)	Melvin van Rooyen
Societies	Hannah le Roux
Transformation and Student Success (TSS)	Thuto Mashila
Academic Representatives Ex-officio (A2)	Stéfan Steenekamp
Residence Representatives Ex-officio (A1)	Chané Williamson
Residence Representatives Ex-officio (R2)	Wehan Viljoen
Sport Representative Ex-officio (Sport)	Tarik Lalla
RAG Representative Ex-officio (RAG)	Tshego Makhi
Stuku Representative Ex-officio (Stuku)	Thando Mtimkulu
Day Students & External Campus Affairs (DSECA)	Nothando Ngubeni

2.2 Absent with apology:

Deputy President (DP)	Rameeza Abdool Sattar
Academic Representatives Ex-officio (R1)	Uwaiza Abdool Sattar



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Student Representative Council 2021
Lynwood Road, Hillcrest, Pretoria, South Africa 0002

Treasurer
Postgraduate & International Student Affairs
(PISA)

Jozias Mahube-Reinecke
Thando Dhlamini

2.3 Absent without apology:

None

3. Acknowledgement of Other matters arising:

3.1 TSS Office - Accreditation of Accommodation that is not on the UP accreditation list

4. Acceptance of previous minutes and adoption of agenda:

4.1 Acceptance of previous Minutes

- 4.1.1 R2 amended the wording of “decrease of 50%” to decrease of up to 50%” and “the residence computer labs can be used to assist with online registration” was amended to “the residence computer labs can be used to assist first-year residence students with online registration”.

4.2 Adoption of agenda

- 4.2.1 None

5. Feedback from the Executive Committee:

5.1 Nothing Submitted.

6. Portfolio-specific agenda points:

6.1 SRC President: Varsity Vibe

6.1.1 Guest, Peter Matthew joined to update the SRC on Varsity Vibe – “Varsity Vibe is a reference code platform to negotiate a discount with brand shops across SA. The goal is to make students aware that such a platform exist and that they can accordingly get discounts. Approaching the SRC is a new initiative is to spread the word of Varsity Vibe and in return, it helps the SRC with fundraising. Varsity Vibe offers a membership package of R 200 were students then safe up to an average of R 2000 per year on exclusive brand deals. The Varsity Vibe premium membership we offer is thus a way to get students familiar with the offer and for them to see how it works. We are working with the SRC so that the SRC can refer this to students of the University of Pretoria. Previously when students signed up for Varsity Vibe the SRC received R 40 from the R 200 that the students paid to sign up. This year offers new challenges due to the



global pandemic. This year is something new and our goal is to grow the database for Varsity Vibe to draw in new and bigger brands and in return to help the SRC to raise funds. Each student that signs up with the reference code will be R 10 the SRC will receive to help students. UCT used for their 'student assist fund'. The SRC will refer students to sign up for something free and they can save on textbooks costing them no upfront payments. Varsity Vibe's database will thus grow in return."

6.1.1.1 The Floor is open for Questioning:

6.1.1.1.1 Societies Office – "Previously Varsity Vibe did not contribute much with activation on campus. How much does activation cost on campus in comparison with the R10?" Guest: "Activation cost about R 25 000 excluding the freebees and popcorn which is being handed out. However, the potential earning will be R 500 000 if all student signs up or 50% will be R 250 000. What we are potentially would spend is much more worth for the SRC. Varsity Vibe makes their money from the brands that grow with the database and not the students."

6.1.1.1.2 FSS Office – "Will advertisement on Social Media also include and extra fee for advertising or will it be included in the R 10?" Guest: "It is included in the R 10. If it is an advertisement that requires printing then Varsity Vibe will pay and we will back the way the SRC push it. FSS: "Will there be a discount for students signing up?" Guest: "At the moment no, but what we can do is to look into brands. The SRC can then ask to make a popular brand in the area apart of the deal that will include it in the Varsity Vibe SRC reference code deal."

6.1.1.1.3 Office of Sport – "Will the R 10 be a part of a referral code?" Guest – "the SRC will receive the R 10 if students sign up and they do not need to pay a signup fee. Should a student choose to upgrade then Varsity Vibe will also pay the difference. So if they upgrade to the R200 Varsity Vibe will pay the difference that is the R 40 but if a student just signs up with the referral code the SRC will still get the R10."

6.1.1.1.4 SF – "Will there be a way to work a 50/50% deal with the R40?" Guest: "We have an accusation cost that we have to stick to and anything beyond the R 10 will be tricky."

6.1.1.1.5 President – Thanks to the guest and say that we will be in touch with the Guest: The guest shows a one minute demo.

6.1.1.1.6 President – What does the council have to say?

6.1.1.1.7 Voting Options: (14 Members of the Council are present in the meeting. As per the CSG the President do not vote and only votes if there is a tie-breaker)

- | | | |
|----|------------|--------------------|
| 1. | For VV | - 13 Majority Vote |
| 2. | Against VV | - 0 |
| 3. | Unstained | - 0 |



NB - Closing with this agenda point the President request MMC Office to make a brief plan. This must already be presented in the next week's meeting of how we will move forward and how it will be conducted.

6.2 Update of Registration and Helpdesk

Firstly, it has been approved that registration will be fully online. The SRC will accordingly be operating from the Student Services Building, previously known as the Roosmaryn building, and will be on a rotation schedule. This schedule has been forwarded via email to the council members.

NB – President requests the SG to make a list indicating which SRC Members:

1. Need early accommodation to stay in during this registration period.
2. SRC Members that have already been placed in a Residence.
3. SRC Members that stay in Pretoria and that are settled with other accommodation arrangements

Open for the floor to discuss registration that has been moved to being online:

6.2.1.1 MMC Office – “we need to open a spot on LC even if it is two members that LC to provide students with alternatives.”

6.2.1.2 Sports Office – “We need to have some sort of presence at LC even if it is two SRC Members to walk them through the registration process online and to assist students who do not have the required resources with so to say, laptops.”

6.2.1.3 TSS Office – “ We should have a tent to still include student and be visible and present.”

6.2.1.4 FSS Office – “ Online registration is exclusionary. It will be beneficial to have a station at LC to meet the student's needs.”

6.2.1.5 Societies – “We need to get better in offering a service online and that includes the SRC. People with a lack of resources is not a valuable enough excuse. The reasons being, that transportation costs might be even more. Everything that is need is accessible on and over the portal. We should create a document with all the current issues that students are facing with a step for step walkthrough that can make themselves the best resource for assistance. If people come to campus, what happens if they require accommodations? For these reasons we need to be more mobile online.”

6.2.1.6 President – “There is still the possibility that we might get back to campus. Our POA's must still be for both online and if we return to campus.”



6.2.1.7 Office of Stuku – “Suggestion to the council: to be more proactive and be compliant with Covid-19 regulations. We can make an appointment system for students that need to come to LC.”

6.2.1.8 Office of Sport – “Respond to the office of Societies response, that it might be exclusionary to be all online registration. We must not make it exclusively online even though I understand the argument. Being on LC might still be beneficial for some students.”

6.2.1.9 DSG – Seconds the opinion of the appointment base system for consultation on LC.

6.2.1.10 MMC – “ I agree 50% with the Office of Societies and that there a step by step document can work. But the LC spot must also be reserved. The appointment system needs to be planned properly.”

6.2.1.11 A2 - “In favour of being on LC because there are too many students that are unable to register and they are in remote areas. However, if the students find out that the SRC will be on LC it might add to the logistical issues as the MMC mentioned when she made the statement that the system needs to be planned properly.”

6.2.1.12 President – “The consensus that we have been reaching so far is that the council agree that being fully online for registration is problematic. Second, there must be some sort of SRC presence at LC. Thirdly making an appointment is difficult if it is on campus because only 66% of people are allowed and then students going in and out of the building is issues and students also will need permits. We will not advertise that the SRC have a station at LC. This will only be for students that contact the SRC and then we will assist and refer them from there. The station might then be better if we assist students on LC.”

Discussion is Open for the floor:

6.2.1.13 A2 – “Assisting students on campus can be problematic and we should rather have our physical presence on LC. Stations can be set out several meters apart if it is on the sporting fields. We can thus still abide by the Covid-19 regulations.”

6.2.1.14 Office of Stuku - “Reiterate what A2 said. The appointment system will be for students that contact us and we will then referrer them to LC. Can we also not reach out to security to assist us with order and controllable crowds.”

6.2.1.15 R1 – “What happens if students do not have laptops? Will we be able to do something? President: There are no definite answers yet. R1: Can we prioritise senior students in this regard.



6.2.1.16 R2 – “Is the goal of the university not to make registration fully online? Does being on LC not set us back in this regard? If students ask us to meet with us physically via email or social media does this not confirms then that they have internet access? A suggestion might be that only students that call must be considered and referred for physical assistance on LC. President: “It is the goal but we should also acknowledge the reality of inequality. If you communicate via email must still be handled on a case to case basis. Then pose a question: What are we saying, the students that do not have resources should they pause their registration process?”

6.2.1.17 DP – “Reminds the council that in the executive meeting it was decided not to have face to face registration and, not to say, the University might be held liable if someone gets infected with Corvid. The university can thus use this as a reason for not having us at LC for registration. I know other universities have indemnity forms to fill in before entering campus. So we must also keep this in mind. I am however in favour of having a station at LC to assist students.”

6.2.2 Voting on this Matter:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| 1. Online helpdesk | - 0 | |
| 2. Online helpdesk and presence at LC | | - Majority of vote |

6.3 Transportation - Collen Kwarla

6.3.1.1 Transportation company that is available for service at a reasonable price.

6.3.1.2 R1 – “The email is all that was received and was forwarded to get the go-ahead.”

6.3.1.3 Secretary – “ I will then forward the document after the meeting and then we will discuss this matter again next week.”

6.4 SRC Ex-Officio Sport: UP SRC Study Fund Query.

Just to get more clarity with regards to the SRC study fund. In previous years there was a study aid fund. Will there be a plan for a study fund this year and is the SRC willing to work towards something like this?

6.4.1 President - “The 2020 SRC donated money to the 2021 SRC. We do not have a budget yet. That money will however constitute the study found. We can have a study fund this year out of that fund. It is still a small amount and the criteria have not been drafted yet. The Office of SF and the Treasurer are working on these criteria. There will and should be a Study Fund this year and the criteria should still be made. Note that: The office of SF and the Treasurer is absent from the meeting due to load shedding.



6.4.2 DSG – “This is a question if we will market the Study Fund? The majority of students that are struggling financially does not know if this will be finalised. Currently, the university will respond with a 50% payment plan. Students can still not pay this amount. We should thus let it be known that the SRC are busy making a plan in this regard. Those students that are struggling should come to the front in the meantime and they should know that it is not all hopeless and that we are reaching out for student like this.”

“The study fund will be advertised for students to apply with the criteria. Then at the student forum, the SRC will announce the number of students that we have assisted. Will be also advertised this after Office of SF and the Treasure receive the SRC the budget and when the criteria are set.”

6.5 SRC Media Marketing and Communications: Advertising on Social Media Platforms.

We need to decide if advertising on our social media is allowed or not? A student contacted the MMC to advertise his business. If we advertise we indirectly bind ourselves to the advertisement. A suggestion is to make a separate SRC advertisement page stating we will not be bound by the advertisement. Open for discussion.

6.5.1 President - How do we go about supporting student business? The new page on the other hand will not have so much publicity as the official SRC social media pages such as Twitter that has 12 k followers. A suggestion could thus be a Mini Market place.

6.5.2 Stuku Office – “Can we not put such a disclaimer on the current social media pages. Because we cannot just say we cannot advertise. We can and still should be able to advertise certain things that are still in our and our students best interest.”

6.5.3 FSS – “It is necessary to advertise these kinds of things but also to prioritise student and mainly promote the students of the University of Pretoria. Another page will not make sense because it will not have the same number. The reason this student s are asking is because of the numbers that the current SRC Social media pages have.”

6.5.4 Office of Sport – “There is a necessity for student business to advertise. But we also do not want to get too involved. The suggestion such as the Mini Market can be a registered society along these lines that can market the society and the platform to benefit such student while it still protects our interest.”

6.5.5 MMC – “There is a reason we should have a yes or a no. For example, a girl is selling her textbook and wants us to advertise it. What will the reason then be for us not to do it? If we choose to advertise it on the other hand we should have the set criteria and an agreement with the relevant person such as the driving school. But if it random advertisement all of the time I am concern that the SRC Social media pages



will only be an advertisement site and not a page communicating important information to the students and they might get irritated with such posts and loose interest.”

6.5.6 President – The consensus currently is thus not to advertise, advertise via criteria or have a separate page that allows the student to advertise with the disclaimer.

6.5.7 FSS – “Criteria is not going to work and should be at the discretion of the MMC Office.”

6.5.8 President – “That will open the MMC to a lot of scrutinise.”

6.5.9 Stuku Office – “We should have a criteria that will protect the MMC. The council should also further be aware that advertisement societies have previously fallen flat and that I do not know if we want to subject ourselves to such an outcome.”

6.5.10 R1 – “Considering the textbook matter it should be advertisement according to the portfolio. Academics will then be in charge of the textbook advertisement so to speak.”

6.5.11 DESECA – “We should have a separate page that other services such as a textbook and transport and more information regarding this be available and accessible to students. This post can then always be reshared and retweeted on the other social media pages.”

In closing this agenda point the President request the MMC Office to have all these options available for next week’s meeting.

7. Other matters arising: 18:45 – 19:00

7.1 Accreditation of Accommodation that is not on the UP accreditation list
Is there a possibility that students accredited accommodations can be opened again?

7.1.1 President - “Nsfas is only paying for accredited accommodation. It closed last year because the process is lengthy. If we say our stance as the SRC is that this should be opened again. Accreditation will only be done in June. If the accommodation the apply it also does not mean that you will be accredited. If it is not accredited then we send students to those places that are not accredited. The outcome will then only be in May with a new problem on our hands.”

7.1.2 FSS – “The issue is important because the criteria of the accredited list are expensive. It does not give a student with a poor background a variety of options that will suit their basic needs.”

7.1.3 President - Nsfas caps their accommodation fees. So whatever amount is left over the students are expected to pay and liable to pay the amount that is over the cap. The university has its criteria and Nsfas has its own criteria guidelines that are



very strict. However, some accommodations take Nsfas students. Let us also refer these students to those accommodations as soon as possible.

8. Time and date of next meeting:

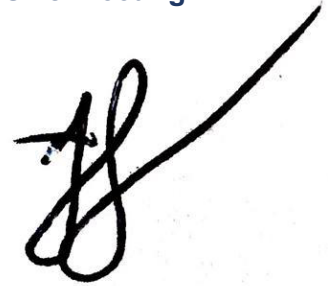
8.1 Wednesday

9. Closing:

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

