



# SRC Ordinary Meeting

| 28 February 2023 | DSA Building | 17:30 |

## 1. Welcoming and Opening:

President welcomed and opened the meeting at 17:38

## 2. Attendance:

Njabulo Sibeko – President (Pres)

Neville Mupita – Deputy President (DP)

Phenyo Matabane – Secretary (SG) (Late with Apology)

Christo Pretorius – Deputy Secretary (DSG)

Lauren Thabethe – Treasurer (TG) (Late with apology)

Captain Shongwe – Facilities, Safety and Security (FSS)

Thokozane Zwane – Media, Marketing and Communications (MMC)

Mahlangu – Study Finance (SF)

Katlego Modise – Sport

Pule Nkadameng – RAG

Zeenat Patel – Academics 1

Sandile Manoni – Academics 2

Vhutshilo Muambadzi – Residences 1

Francois du Plessis – Residences 2

Karabo Lefete – Day Student and External Campus Affairs (Day Students)

Karabo Mogale – Societies



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**Student Representative Council 2023**  
Lynwood Road, Hillcrest, Pretoria, South Africa 0002

Sphesihle Makhanya – Transformation and Student Success (TSS)

## **2.2 Absent with apology:**

### **2.2.1 Absent with apology.**

Jay Glober – Culture

### **2.2.2 Absent without apology.**

(None)

## **3. Noting of Matters Arising:**

- Societies wants to discuss marketing week poster.

## **4. Demonstration:**

### **Accommodation task team debrief:**

**President:** “Gave debrief. Accommodation task team were discussing the idea of a demonstration and the planning for the protest. Accommodation met last week Thursday and made progress. Apologised for the last-minute release of communication in the group and noted that everyone in the task team contributed. On Sunday content was finished, and President edited it into its final draft. Was send to Prof. Mosia, and Prof. Kupe etc. Expect a response by 12pm Wednesday. The reason for the protest is because of students who are showing up with bags, looking for accommodation, and we don’t have space to place them. The problem comes when the seniors come, when we really can’t accommodate them. Private accommodation students are stuck in lease agreements, and the communication is sent to inquire about this and proposing solutions.”



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**President:** “We want to have the demonstration on Wednesday, by setting up in mattresses outside Duxbury 19 and spending the night.”

President handed the floor over to accommodation task team to give feedback.

**Residences 1:** Asked to clarify if the feedback is about the previous meeting? President said no, “about what we have been doing to organise the protest.”

**Residences 1:** “Accommodation task team had to go inquire about churches assisting us with resources. Other half went to investigate private accommodation, especially in Sunnyside. We have been promised 30 mattresses, and others still need to be communicated to inquire for more resources.”

**President:** “CRC will meet with the President at 1. They still need to meet with the board, but they are willing to assist.”

**Day Students and external campuses:** “We went to visit accredited like Hantra and the Reitz their facilities and they are not bad, however there are security concerns about the safety in the surrounding area.”

**President:** (Regarding the protest) “On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February we will sleep outside, Duxbury 19 however we don’t want to release communication to invite people, we depend on student leaders stand in solidarity with students. Would like to have the SRC to sleep on the first night, hopefully gain traction through social media and then others will join the second night. We are doing this to pressurise NSFAS to release the letter and assure TuksRes students don’t need to top up, but also pressure private accommodation to drop prices. Will have a greater impact, hopefully with faculty houses. We want faculty houses because they are the first people you call when things go wrong in your faculty. We are meeting them tomorrow 3 pm. We don’t want to pressure people to go. The meeting is to give everyone accurate information. We also need gazebos from faculty houses for rain cover.”

**Societies:** “Are we spending the whole night? Can we communicate TuksRes students because they are also the ones affected for them to join us?”



**President:** “SRC members are sleeping, students are welcome, but SRC and faculty willing people are sleeping over. Maybe we can include HC’s?”

**Residences 1:** “HCs are aware, but Tuks Res doesn’t engage in the same way as faculty houses and their constitutions, Lancey won’t agree with it. TuksRes is more of a residence than political entity. They are like management not activists.”

**President:** “At least try to get HC’s.”

**Residences 1:** “Will engage with HC’s.”

**Transformation and student success:** Enquired about security and protection for the demonstrators. **Facilities, Safety, and security** has considered it, and **Day students** noted we will have shifts.

**Academics 1:** “Communication to faculty houses needs to be done through the academics’ office because it is our sub-council, it is not proper to be done through the office of the secretariat. Academics officers are the ones who need to send the communication as heads of the academic sub council chairs. Please also be aware of faculty houses are occupied with their own agendas and can’t avail themselves in such short notice. For example, they all have training for 1nSync.”

President and DSG had a miscommunication regarding sending the invite to SRC chambers to meet with the faculty houses and apologised to Academics 1.

**Academics 1:** (Regarding the demonstration) We must be aware, outside of university grounds, we might still have an incident, and we need to consider that an incident might occur. The police will have the ability to break up the demonstration and we need to consider that.”

**President:** President apologised for DSG sending the email to soon. President agreed HC’s need to avail themselves like the EC of house committees because this is a TuksRes issue. We need to meet with the HC’s and engage with them directly to have that discussion. President suggested that residences communicate with HC’s and let the secretariat send formal communication to meet with them tomorrow, or maybe on





Wednesday. First day will possibly happen with SRC members only, second day more students will join. President reiterated his agreement with Academics 1. Issue of safety, the police won't shoot at us. Accommodation task team members will head to the police station if needs be. Perhaps we could speak to Hatfield CID. Executive management will find out regardless and we will do what we are going to do. President assured that we will be protected."

**Study Finance:** Inquired about the concern of management getting the communication to late because of classes staring on Monday.

**President** assured that the communication was send on Monday and we expect a response on Wednesday.

**TG:** Noted that engagement with the police needs to be 7 days ahead, and 1 day ahead in emergencies. The University will find a way to blame us or accuse us of something.

**President:** "Nothing will happen. We won't be suspended."

**TG:** "The plan does not seem solid enough and does not want to be involved because of fear of suspension."

**Academics 2:** The way management will consider it, if we involve the faculty houses, and residences HC's, would make a great impact, UP security will be there, CID will also be there in his experience, we will be protected. Proposed that in order to ensure that the protest equate an emergency, let it not invalidate what we are trying to do. Also proposed sleeping outside TuksRes instead of university gates.

**President:** "We are reliant on the media. If we have publicity about 18 students sleeping outside and looks bad for UP. The fight is with Mosia, Kupe and TuksRes. Things are happening and the University is not disaccrediting companies. DHET is not reacting. The fight is no student must not top up; the university must subsidize. The point is to gage attention from the University. If needs be we will book with media."



**President** asked to send another communication to faculty houses to meet with them again. **Academics 1** noted it needs to be done through their office.

**Societies** noted to share the message on TikTok because it is very effective regarding reaching students.

**Residences 1:** “I am concerned but in support, but if we cannot cover up loopholes, what guarantee is there that we won’t get suspended. We are not considering what comes next, after this we are only fighting for ourselves, if there are loopholes, we are at risk. The University will come for you because we are leaders of the University. The university will nit-pick and find problems. This is a real issue, and we must consider what happened to the SRC last year.”

**Academics 1:** “We don’t want the faculty houses to take responsibility, we also need to investigate what the university of Pretoria code of conduct states. Consequences might be a lot more for members who were suspended before. Our resources don’t accommodate for more student leaders than we already have, we need to think on that matter. To learn from last year, if the police confront us, we need to have a plan on how to continue if we are in difficult situations. has there already been media contact? Is there a plan to contact the media. What is the acceptable response from the university?”

**Deputy President:** “Have we looked at the statues of demonstrations. How will we control the students and other participants? Giving the picture of people who said they would attend past actions, but not everyone pitches. Can we get an understanding of who will be there? How can we prevent suspension? Members should know what they are being called upon.”

**Societies:** “We need to know how do we manage students who are out of control or start being disruptive? We are not trying to be disruptive, but we need to look out for ourselves, with caution”

**Academics1:** “Let us not neglect our other duties, when we consider the plan, let us not ignore the other responsibilities that members have. In terms of what societies has,



but we need to still consider the police because we have no capability to control people, the police have, and no one wants to be responsible legally.”

**President:** “Kom ons praat (Let’s talk)”

**To residences1:** “We must have a unified approach. The communication can be done with students we can enforce high discipline. We are not disruptive; the instruction should be not to put anyone into trouble. We need to work on effective communication with house ec’s, students and other stakeholders. Kelly must not be stopped from entering, our fight is not with Kelly. People who we are sleeping with are also afraid of suspension, not just us. The police will have adequate time to be informed. Constitution and the CSG allows us to demonstrate. If needs be we remove association with the SRC. We need to check names and student numbers of attendees for them to demonstrate, so as to make sure troublemakers are there. We enforce order and keep tabs of people who will be joining. We are sitting in one place; we are not being disruptive. We need conformation from members and confirm, that’s how we will have discipline. We enforce ground rules, and if they are broken, one will be kicked out of the demonstration. We need to avoid a moment where students are taken advantaged by security. The University will not kick us down, while we start. They are aware something will happen, it is proper for them to be scared, and fear that we are expecting a response.”

(Referred to past examples of protests)

**Academics 1:** “Clarified, let us put it down on paper what the proper planning is, so we find ourselves in the right position.”

**President to academics 1:** “The evening will be the most important part; people will still have time to do their duties during the day. Perhaps we can have shifts at the demonstrations. We will go to the police station tonight. Now that holes have been poked, we will fill the holes. The university will find a way to suspend us, there is no bulletproof plan. The university divides and conquers and will turn us against each



other. If we sort ourselves out, things will work out. We should try and prove the university wrong by proving points wrong that they use to accuse us. “

**Treasurer:** “What is the outcome and what do we want to accomplish?”

**President:** “The document we released will tell you what we are trying to achieve. UP must cough out money and subsidize students. Demanding top up for Tuks res. The document shows what are demands are, and president summarised what the document stated. The buildings and private accommodations are not providing the quality that they are complying with in the beginning of the year to be accredited. Accommodations that do not have the proper facilities should not be R60000+. NSFAS dropped their allowances. Private accommodations seek accreditations to house “poor students” but is not willing to drop their prices to house poor students. Dr. J has told us that there are discounts for students who accommodate students who can’t afford it. Private accommodations will.”

**Secretary:** “Was it suggested that accreditations need to be reconsidered?”

**President:** “Accreditations will need to be removed and considered with willingness to house poor students.”

**Societies:** “Is there a plan in motion for students who need to start academics soon? Suggested hybrid system of academics.”

**President:** “The university won’t go back to online. Buildings must unaccredited, and reviewed so we can solve these issues as soon as possible.”

**Secretary:** “Did president really meet management and what was accomplished?”

**President:** “I tried meeting with management, however, was turned down. Tawana Kupe suggested that putting the proposal into words. University has not got a plan and they are hoping for the exemption. Thus, we are putting everything into the communication and giving access to the google form.





**Secretary:** “Is the demonstration planned for this week and was the communication sent to Exec management? Is it possible to suggest a meeting with executive management in person?”

**President:** “Yes, communication was sent out at 12 today, and we have engaged enough with executive management and other stakeholders.”

**Secretary:** “Are SRC members registered yet, because if members are not registered, it might cause problems according to the CSG.”

**President:** “We had to take an oath without registering, so don’t let the lack of registration get in the way.”

**Secretary:** “Just to confirm, will it give any problems seeing that we are not registered? I just want to make sure we are noted as that we are students. Also, we are Ex-officio members of SAUS (SG and President), have we spoken to NSFAS through SAUS?”

**President:** “Who is we? I have tried to communicate with NSFAS, however to no success.”

**Residences 1:** Wanted clarity on the exemption if it is only this year? President responded that it is not the case and hence why we are doing something about it.

**Academics1:** “Suggested that another option is for legal minds in the SRC to think and should consider taking private accommodations to the competition court.”

**President:** “The University would not allow it and did consider it and going to the housing ombudsman, and get an evaluator from human settlements. However, it is something worth exploring.”

**President:** “During the week must leave for our SRC duties. During the day, if there is 18 of us 9 can stay for their duties.”

**Deputy President:** “If there are students who don't have accommodation who are sleeping outside. They don't have an option to. Meetings and all duties must stop. On



the first night it's just the SRC and doing from there is everyone. We are putting students under fire.”

**President:** “The accommodation thing is not the only thing we are facing, there are a lot of issues the SRC needs to be dealt with.”

**Treasurer:** “Please clarify, what is the plan if it does not work out.”

**President:** “I suggest we will reconvene and take it from there.”

**Deputy President:** “I cannot expect Kupe there tomorrow to get our point across, what guarantee do we have members in office. If we have shifts, it does not make sense. If all members need to be there, they all should be there.”

**Study Finance:** “The issue is when the sun sets, students have no place to stay. It is a nightmare to get students placed, so the reason for us all to be there at night, is complicated because other students need to be tended to. We can’t sacrifice other issues for the greater good.”

**Academics1:** “If we all are there during the day, we are showing students that other issues are less important and will create a bad perception for the SRC. We are doing this to get attention regardless of how many people will be there. The issues are not going away. If it does not work out, we might need to reconvene, even on the weekend if needs be.”

**Academics 2:** “Zeenat has covered most of what I wanted to say. We can’t stop everything; other issues will need to be attended to. We are only temporarily moving our residences, not moving their full time. During the day we do our duties, but at night Duxbury 19 is our residence, where we spent the night. We can’t afford to bring other activities to a standstill. It would not make sense for us to sacrifice our other duties for this one issue.”

**President:** “We can’t tell students to sit with us, 6 SRC members will be seen during the day, but at night we need all members need to be there. We will be cuddling each other to keep one another warm. Communicating with people who we are



demonstrating with, we can address criticism by saying other members are going to attend to other issues. We will take those steps.”

**TG:** “Inquired about people’s stuff and that we have to assure for people not to use the opportunity to steal from students?”

**President:** “We can have a storage system in DSA to keep students’ stuff safe or store it at Duxbury 90. Please provide solutions and don’t just poke holes. Don’t talk bad and provide solutions.”

**Societies:** “For security can we have proof of identifications or proof of log in?”

**Academics 1:** “Does not recommend that we keep ourselves legally responsible.”

**Facilities:** Reiterated what Academics1 said.

**Sport:** “It is not a good idea to take students phones, and then SRC becomes responsible for anything. Bring phones at own risk or store it somewhere safe.”

**Academics 2:** “Painted a picture of students who are not registered yet, we should not be hard on ourselves for taking responsibility of phones. Nature of the situation we will sleep, and our focus should be on the demonstration. They must come at their own risk.”

**Societies:** “If you come with your stuff, it is your stuff is your problem.”

**President:** “I agree, responsibility is on you, if you come.”

**President:** “Facilities and Security, can you get a team to be responsible for tracking of students and their stuff. We can figure out and analyse the UP rules for homework.”

**Facilities:** “Rather than separate can we all be at one gate because we are letting cars in?”

**President:** “We can’t confirm that we will not stop cars. Accommodation needs to get in touch with media.”

**SG:** “We should have a meeting on media training. DIA wants us to have training and suggests we get that training.”

**President:** “We are not going to talk bad about UP, but we will speak the truth, it is a matter of speaking the right words.”

**SG:** “Will we receive training from DIA?”

**President:** “No, we will do so later in the year.”

**Societies:** “If we fill the loopholes, we will know what to do right, so we can know.”

**TG:** “The University will find something to suspend you.”

**Academics 1:** “If we consult with the code of conduct, rather than looking for what was done wrong in the past. Create a POA so we can react under circumstances.”

**President:** “The accommodation task team will need to figure that out, but they don’t have enough time, but Academics 1 will draft said POA template.”

**Academics 1:** “Will draft outlines and enquire with people who are responsible.”

**Treasurer:** “Brought up that cost centres are not open yet.”

**Societies:** “We need to talk in the next meeting, school is starting what is the plan forward?”

**President:** “Plan A and B was dealt properly with accommodation team; plan c will be whole council when we get to that point.”

### **Other matters arising:**

**Societies:** Held off the poster for societies registration, poster to be released tomorrow, and applications open Monday. This is to give appropriate time for societies to register.





**Academics 2:** “Are the contents for Monday tomorrow? Can we not do it all on Monday.”

**Societies:** “We need to give people time ahead of time so societies will be aware.”

**Academics 1:** “We need to release society poster first, to avoid confusion with the other communications regarding the study aid fund.”

**MMC:** “Can we release on Friday to avoid confusion.”

**President:** Release society marketing week poster anytime tomorrow midday.

**Time of next meeting:**

Sunday 5:30 pm.

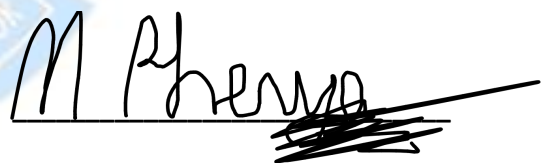
**President adjourned the meeting.**

*DSG and SG Took the minutes of the meeting.*

**I, “President and SG”, hereby declare that these minutes serve as a true reflection of what transpired during this particular SRC meeting.**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sibeko', written over a horizontal line.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Phema', written over a horizontal line.

